

Star nut Compression system installation instructions

Installing a star nut properly is not easy. It requires a special tool and is best left to an experienced mechanic at a bike shop. If you want to do it yourself, please follow the instructions below .

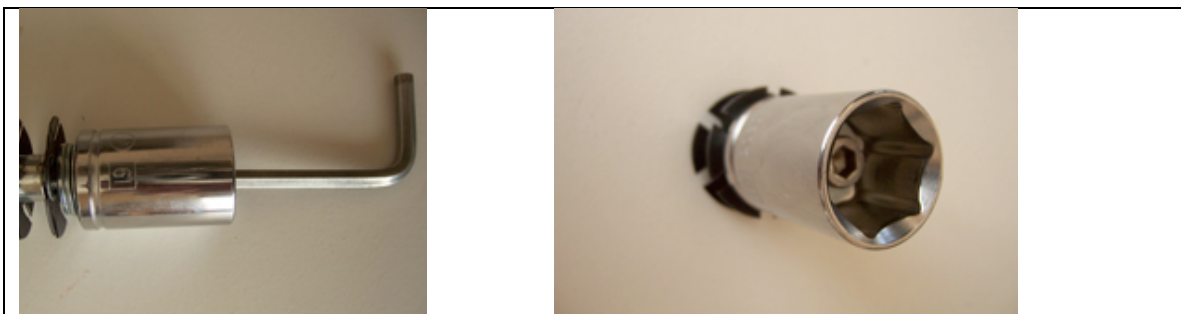
Here is a simple way to create your own tool. Go to Home Depot and buy a Husky metric 21 socket with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch drive (about \$ 5). You can use a smaller socket like metric 19 or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, but the closer the socket fits into your bar tube, the better. Also, get three $\frac{1}{4}$ inch washers. You also need an allen wrench and the original allen bolt that came with your threadless headset.



Take the socket, put one of the washers on the allen bolt, and insert the bolt and washer into the socket so that the bolt sticks out the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch square drive side of the socket. Then take the other 3 washers and put them over the thread.



Then screw on the star nut with the bended edges pointing towards the socket and tighten with the allen wrench.! Make sure the socket is centered over the star nut.



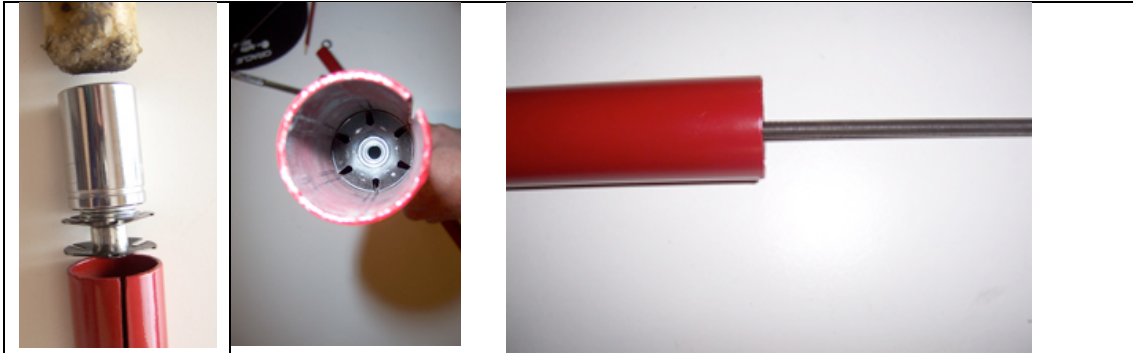
Take your bars and put them upside down on a solid surface. Now take a mallet and center the star nut over the bottom hole of your bars. Hold the socket (not the star nut!) with one hand. I recommend you wear a glove.



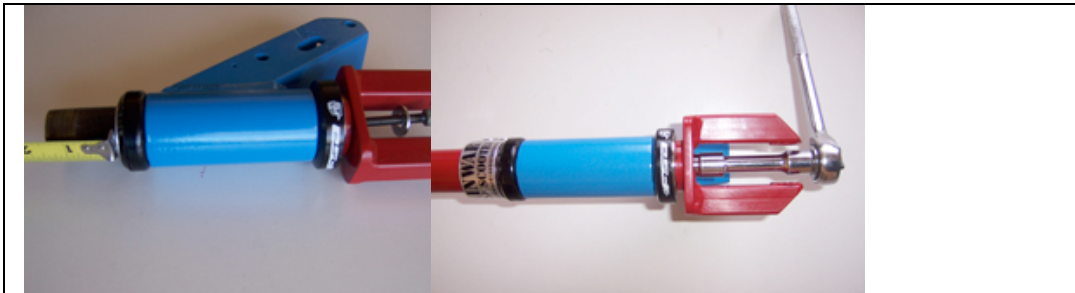
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Then hit the socket with the mallet and the star nut will slide into the bars. Keep the socket centered in the tube. With most bars, it is enough to slide it in just past the slid in the bars. To be sure, measure how far the steerer tube of your fork sticks out above the top of the centering sleeve of the headset. Add about a quarter inch and that is how deep the star nut should go.



Before you slide it in that last $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, unscrew the allen bolt and remove the socket and washers. **Take the compression bolt and screw it into the star nut.** If the compression bolt is in there nice and centered, the star nut is in OK. If the bolt tilts to one side, the star nut is not in correct and you need to carefully tap it in on the side that sticks up until it is in there correctly. You can do that with a flathead screwdriver or a punch.



Push and twist the bar down until it hits the top of the headset and the headset has no play (install your clamp, but **do NOT tighten it yet.**) Stick the compression bolt with washer up through the bottom of the fork and find the center of the star nut. Turn the bolt clockwise until you feel resistance. **Do not use force.** Just make sure there is no play on the headset any more. Center your bars and tighten the clamp! Put the front wheel on and go ride!

If there is a little play after you ride for a while, **loosen the clamp!** Push and twist down your bars, remove the front wheel, and tighten the compression bolt just a bit. **Do not use force.** Then tighten the clamp and install the wheel.

DO NOT USE THE COMPRESSION SYSTEM TO PULL DOWN THE BARS IF THE BARS DO NOT TOUCH THE TOP OF THE HEADSET!

NEVER TIGHTEN THE COMPRESSION BOLT WITHOUT LOOSENING THE CLAMP!