Congratulations! You have just purchased what many people regard as the finest headset in the world. Since 1976 Chris King has been supplying serious cyclists with the best made, most reliable headsets you can buy. With proper installation and maintenance you can expect to enjoy the many years of the legendary quality and performance built into each and every component we make.

Installation

Please Note: To ensure proper installation, adapter kits are recommended. Sizes are available to fit all popular headset pressing and setting tools. Our press adapters help to correctly align the cups with the head tube and prevent damage to the bearings by directing pressure evenly and over the cups. The contact area is much greater so it is easier to protect the contact bearing surfaces and prevent any bearing damage.

Preparation of Head Tube and Installation of Bearing Cups

Proper preparation of the head tube is essential for best headset performance. Racing and face the head tube ends are oval and parallel to each other and the bore diameter is the same (tapered). Each of the bearings is best faced parallel to the greater diameter. The bearing cups fit into the head tube and the bearings apply pressure evenly over the cups to the head tube. The crown race creates a seal at the base plate and prevents any metal from the cups from entering the bearing area.

Preparation of Fork and Installation of Base Plate

Proper preparation of the fork is also important for best headset performance. Ream and face the crown race seat as necessary to ensure that the face is square to the steer tube and the press diameter is the proper dimensions (see chart below). Clean to remove any chips, shavings, and/or cutting oil. The proper press fit should be with no more than .1mm (.004") of interference. Install the fork using a headset installation press with our adapters. Place the base plate, conical side up, onto the steerer tube. With the beveled side of the base plate against the steerer tube, use a crown race setting tool to set the base plate.

Final Assembly and Adjustment

Once the GripNut™ is securely on the steerer (about 4-5 turns and at least 1/8" prior to contacting the bearing), tighten the lock ring into the adjusting ring until it feels as though the entire GripNut™ assembly is dragging as it turns on the threads.

Maintenance

CHRIS KING HEADSETS are designed to provide the maximum life of any headset with a minimum of maintenance. Besides an occasional adjustment, the only service necessary is an occasional cleaning and regreasing of the bearings. Riding conditions will dictate how often to perform this maintenance.
Lock ring
Adjusting ring
Base plate

Bearing cups
Thread collet

Service of Bearings
Our sealed bearings have removable snap rings holding the seals in place. Snap rings may also be used to gain access to the bearings. Flush with soiled head tube, then re-bridge with a waterproof grease and reassemble. Reuse rings and snap rings as much as possible. Consult your headset manual or drop by or call Chris King Precision Components for further assistance.

PLEASE NOTE: Water is the most common cause of problems with any sealed bearing. When water enters the frame through breather or other holes it can eventually work its way to the head tube and into the headset bearings. High pressure spray wash, transporting or riding the bicycle in the rain, or submersion in water while riding can quickly lead to this condition. Although the stainless steel bearings will resist corrosion, the grease will eventually deteriorate. Avoid these situations if possible or service as if in wet conditions.

Removal and Reinstallation
• Remove cups from head tube with a standard tool removing tool bearing well below the bearing edge at the cup, not the bearing.
• To remove base plate from fork, we recommend using a 1/4” or 3/8” drift punch alternating strikes on either side of the base plate to lessen the possibility of warping or bending the base plate.
• After removing base plate from fork, carefully inspect for damage. Some warpage may flatten upon reinstallation. If not, or if bearing contact surface has become damaged, replace.

Warranty
Chris King Precision Components warrants its bicycle bearings to be free from defects in materials or workmanship for a period of 10 years from the original date of purchase. Any Chris King product that is found by Chris King Precision Components to be defective in materials or workmanship will be repaired or replaced at the sole discretion of Chris King Precision Components providing it is returned to the factory freight prepaid. This warranty does not cover damage or failure resulting from misuse, abuse, alteration, neglect, normal and reasonable wear and tear, crash or impact, failure to perform routine maintenance as instructed, or use other than that for which the product was intended.

If a defect is found, our liability and your sole remedy shall be, at our option, free repair or replacement. Chris King Precision Components shall not be held liable for any indirect, special, or consequential damages. The warranty does not cover any representation or warranty made by dealers beyond the provisions of this warranty. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary state to state.

Lock ring
Thread collet
Adjusting ring
Bearing cups

Basic parts

Thank you for your purchase!

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