

**Adding a
Digital Readout
To a
Table Mounted Router**



My multi-purpose router cabinet is homemade (the plans are on our website). The table top and router lift came from Rockler.



Close up views of the Rockler router lift.

Inserts for different sizes of different bits.

Insert crank to raise and lower the bit.



It fits the Porter-Cable 690 or other $1\frac{3}{4}$ horsepower routers.



Wixey Remote Digital Readout Model WR525

Rockler - On sale for \$59.95

Amazon - \$52.00 (newer model with an improved display and display mount).

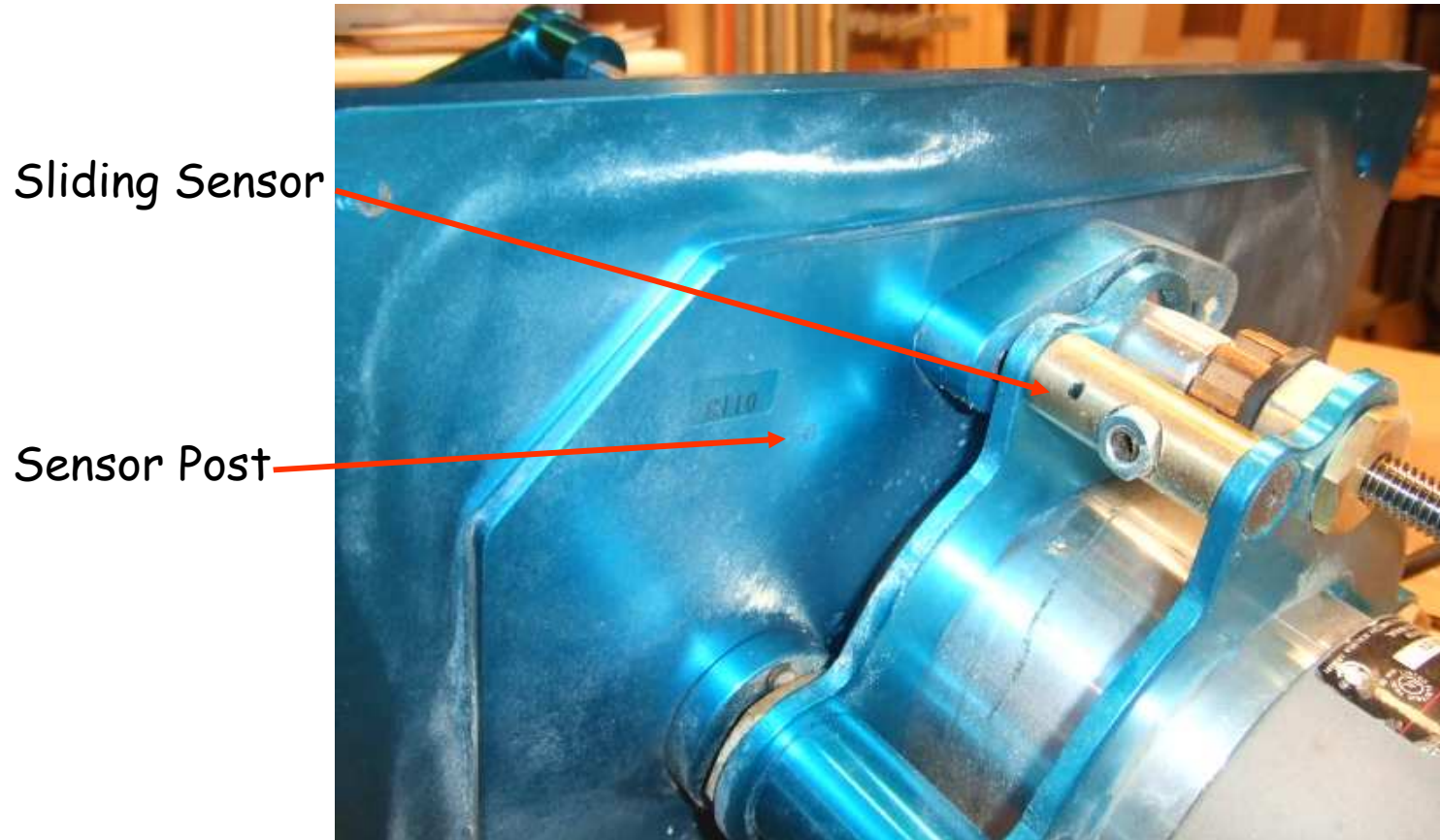


Note: They provide a drill bit and self tapping screws to mount the parts. Don't use them - the threads aren't deep enough to effectively hold the sensor parts. More on that later.

Use lock washers on all attachment screws (not provided in the kit).



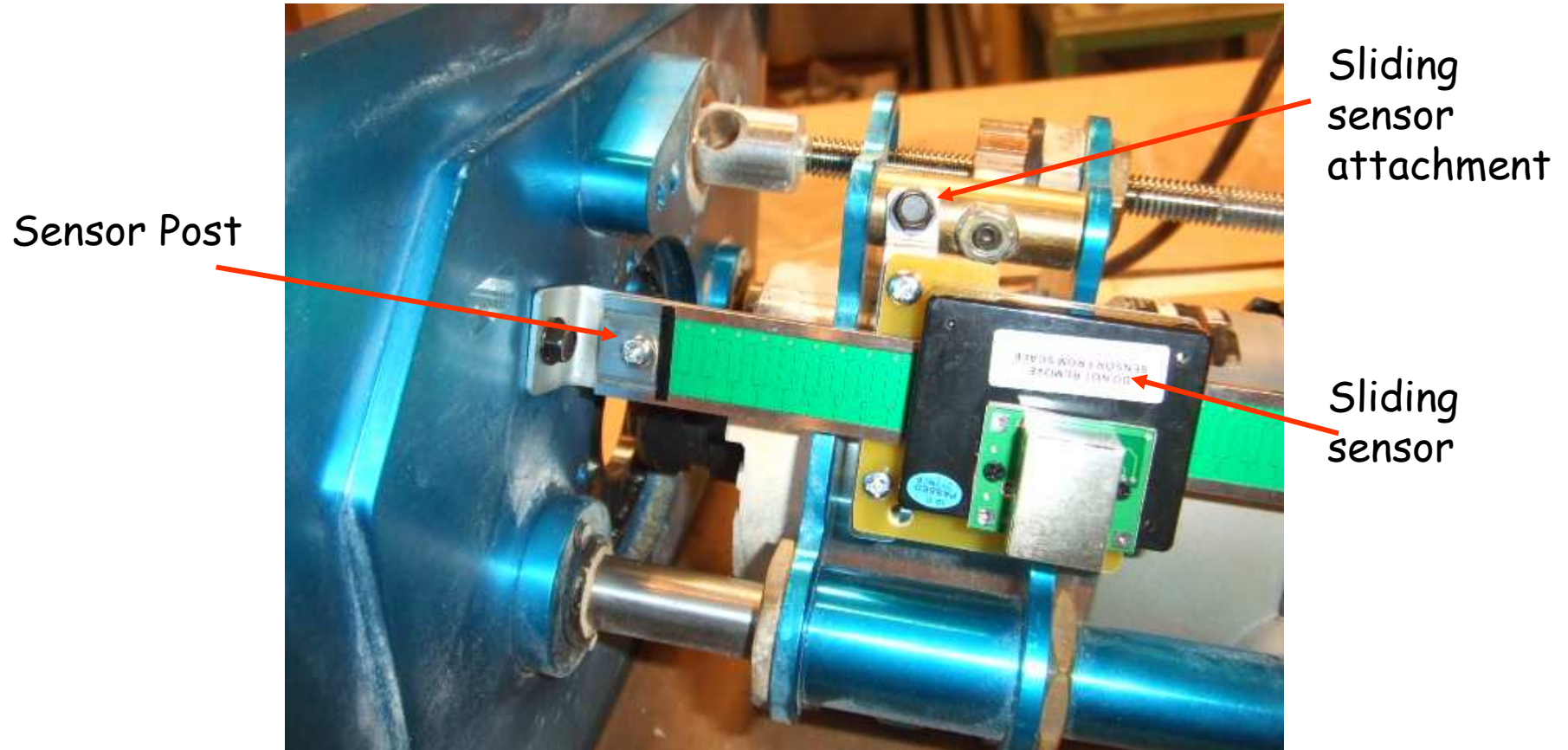
Step One: raise the router as high in the lift as possible.



Step Two: Locate the best place to mount the sensor parts and mark the mounting hole locations.



Step Three: Drill the holes and mount the parts with the self tapping screws.



Step Four: Attach the sensor post and the sliding sensor using the provided hardware.



Step Five: Put the router lift back in place, hook up the cable and mount the readout (after you install the batteries) in a convenient location.

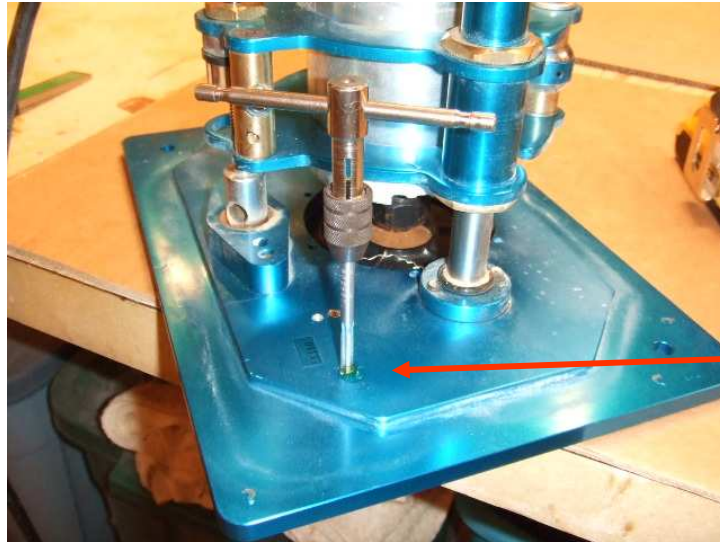


Well, even though I followed the instructions, I really wasn't satisfied with the overall installation and operation of the readout.

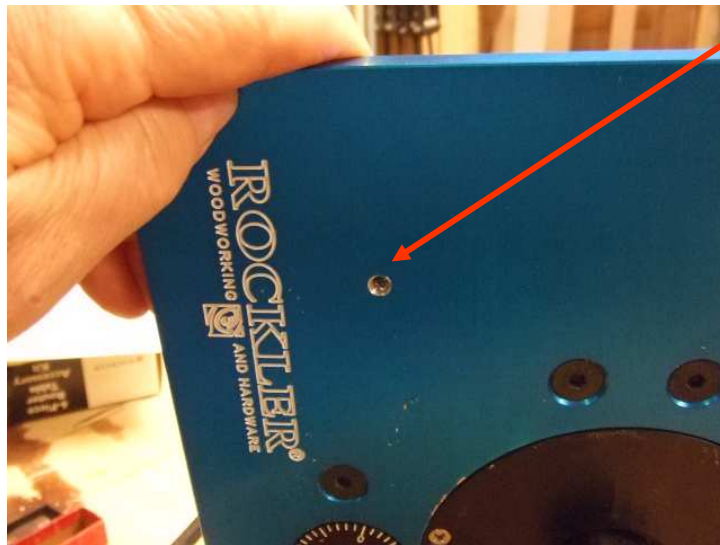
- The self tapping screws didn't hold the post or sliding sensor well enough
- The location of the sensor on the lift caused the cable to be in the way
- The readout was in a vulnerable location

So, I reinstalled the system and I'm much happier with the overall installation and operation.

Here's what I did:



Step One: I found a better location and marked the position for the sensor post mount. Then I drilled (#25 bit) and tapped (10 x 32) the hole. The hole goes all the way through the lift plate, so be sure to smooth the exit of the hole.

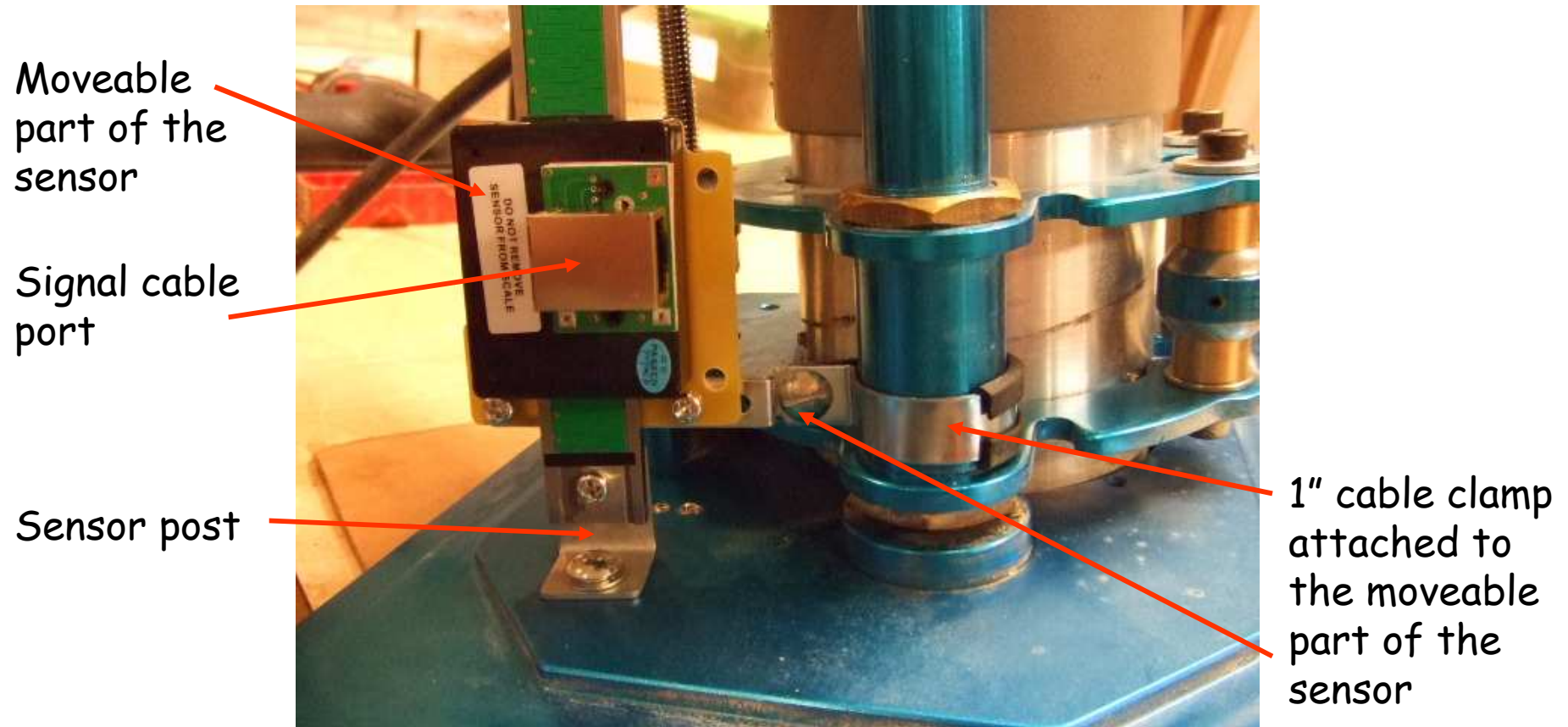




Removed part
of the rubber

1" cable
clamp

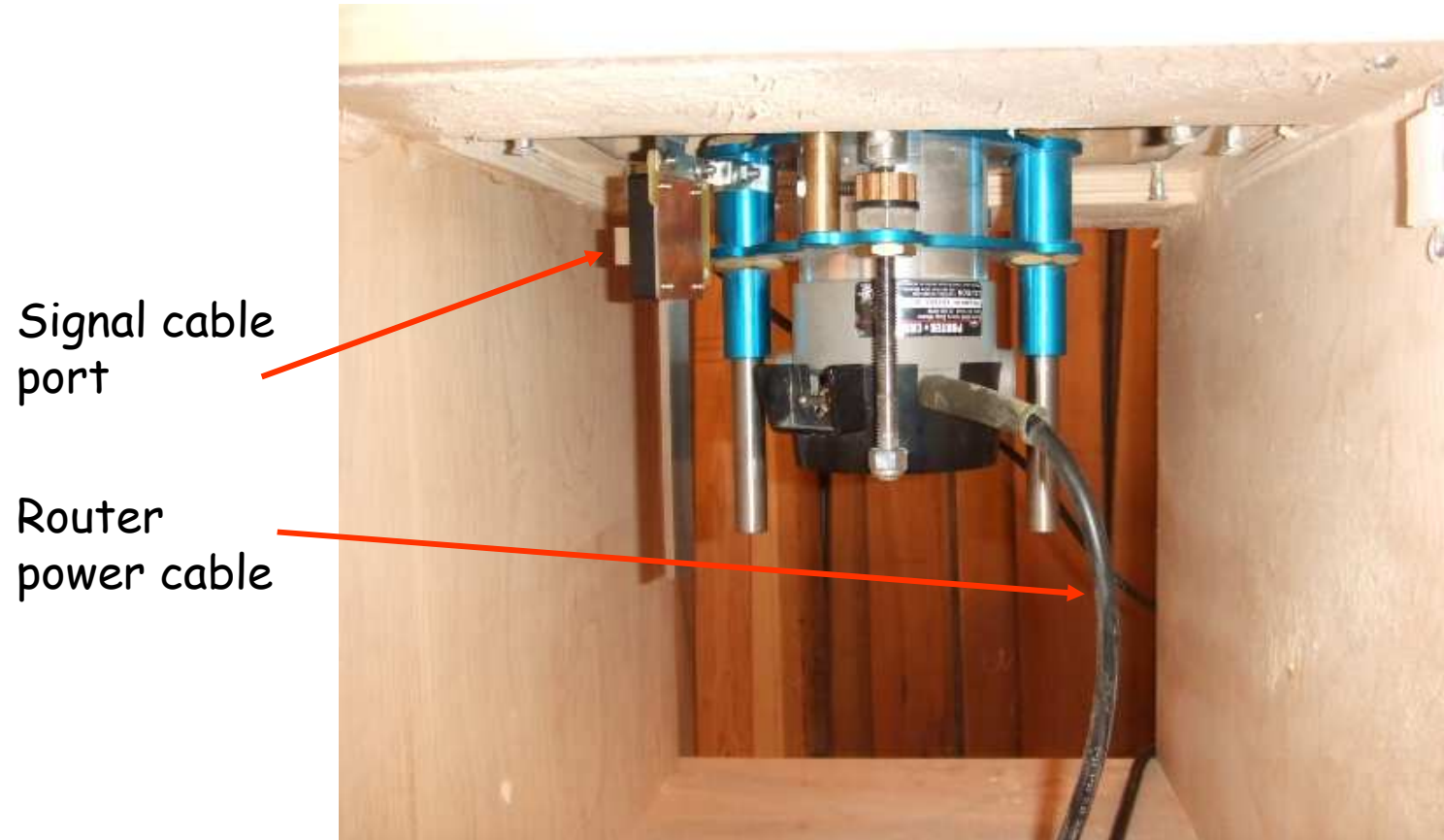
Step Two: I Bought a 1", rubber protected, cable clamp (it was slightly undersize for the post so I removed part of the rubber).



Step Three: Mount sensor post to the lift plate and the moveable sensor to the part of the lift that holds the router.



Step Three: Rear view after installing the sensor parts.



Step Four: Put the router lift back in the cabinet and connect the signal cable to the port.



Step Five: Mount the readout display unit. I move my router cabinet all over the shop and I won't use the readout all the time, so to protect the display as much as possible, I put it on a pivoting mount.

Out of harm's way



Swing it out to use the display.

Press to turn
On and Off

Decimal/
Metric
And
Fraction
Readout

Press to
Change from
metric to
decimal

Press to
set Zero



The display in use.