

Torque Recommendations

J E Custom

The question has been asked on several occasions what the torque for bedding screws and scope bases should be so I thought this might be helpful.

"NOTE" These are based on full engagement of threads.

Wood, Fiberglass or Synthetic stock without bedding pillars-
40 inch-lbs.

Wood, Fiberglass or Synthetic stock with bedding pillars -
up to 65 inch-lbs.

Hard-use service-type rifles in synthetic with pillars-
up to 65 inch-lbs.

Law enforcement & military rifles are 65 inch-lbs on each
of the guard screws.

On rifles with three guard screws the middle screw should
be only slightly tightened.

Scope base screws 30 inch-lbs "MAX"

Windage screws 30-40 inch-lbs "MAX"

Scope ring screws (Aluminum Rings) 10-15 inch-lbs "MAX"

Scope ring screws (Steel Rings) 15-20 inch-lbs "MAX"

Note! If scope base and ring Screws have less than 5 threads
of engagement they should be replaced with longer ones.

Barrel to receiver Torque 35 ft/lbs minimum to 95 ft/lbs Max.

If an anti seize compound is used instead of a light oil use 65
ft/lbs max to prevent over torquing.

I hope this will help

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I always change out the screws if they are not allen or torx
head screws to get proper torque values on the screws.

With either the torx or allen wrenches (L shaped) you can only apply about 20 to 30 inch/lbs to 1/4-28 bedding screws. and with 6/40 to 8/32 screws about 15 to 20 inch/lbs with out bending the wrench.

Inch/pound torque wrenches are a must if you take your rifle out of the stock for cleaning or other reasons,if you want it to return to or near the same zero.

Brownells sells torque wrenches fairly cheep.

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I start by making up the action screws by hand (Snug) front screw first then the rear next.

Then with the torque wrench I start the front at 20 inch/lbs and then the rear.

If it is the first time fired after bedding I go up in 10 inch/lb increments to 35 to 40 inch/lbs and let it set for several days before shooting.

At the range I will fire a 5 shot group and let cool and clean, then raise the torque in five inch pound increments and shoot 5 more rounds and continue the procedure (Shoot,clean and torque) untill there is no improvement in the group size.

This allows the bedding to be seated in properly, but no more than nessary.

Once the optimum torque is reached the in/lbs goes in the load data for that rifle for future reference.

On rifles that have heavy recoil I have had to work all the way up to 65 inch/lbs.

"NOTE" This procedure will work on all stocks but dont exceed the max recomended torque for the type of stock and bedding system your using. Also I like to wait 4 or 5 days after bedding to start this process even though the bedding manufacture may say 24 hours is enough time.

This is the way I do it and even though it may seem like overkill it works well for me and is very consistent (repeatable) each time the barreled action is removed from the stock.

Good Luck and I hope this helps.

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