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Boss

Clay  
Boss  
by Speedball.

Boss  
Elite SQ

## OWNER'S MANUAL



**FOR ALL SPEEDBALL® BOSS SERIES POTTER'S WHEELS**

Updated November 2017

# Thank you!

Thank you for your purchase of a Speedball® Boss Series Wheel. Representing the new industry standard, Boss Series Wheels offer artists ***the same high quality performance at an unmatched value***. To ensure that you enjoy your Boss Series Wheel to the fullest, we encourage you to read this Owner's Manual immediately. It explains all of the features, controls and performance characteristics of your wheel and it also provides important instructions, troubleshooting and safety information.

***Please remember to complete your warranty registration within 30 days of purchase.*** To do so, simply visit [http://speedballart.com/warranty\\_form.php](http://speedballart.com/warranty_form.php) and complete all included fields. ***Once submitted, please print a confirmation of the Registration Form's submittal for your records.*** If you prefer, you are also welcome to contact our Customer Service Department at 800.898.7224 to complete the warranty registration process.

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# PLEASE READ ALL SAFETY TIPS PRIOR TO USE

## Safety Tips

- If you experience any malfunctions with your Boss Series Wheel, discontinue use immediately. Contact Speedball Customer Service to assist in troubleshooting before conducting any repair or modification to your Boss Series Wheel. See “Boss Series Warranty/Repair Procedure” for more details.
- Immediately discontinue operation of your Boss Series Wheel if you see or smell smoke or if the wheel begins to make unusual noises. If this occurs, turn off the power, unplug the power cord from the wall outlet and contact Speedball Customer Service for assistance.
- Unplug your Boss Series Wheel before attempting any adjustment or inspection of the wheel or its parts.
- Do not overload the wheel head with clay (clay weight should not exceed recommended weight for your Boss Series Wheel) or force it to stop. Doing so may shorten the life of the motor.
- Plug electrical power cord directly into electrical wall outlet and do not run cord under carpets or cover cord with rug or runners. Unplug the power cord from wall outlet during electrical storms to prevent accidental damage.
- Do not leave wheel running unattended and keep out of the reach of small children.
- Use caution when operating the wheel to not get long hair, jewelry or loose clothing caught in the moving wheel head.
- Do not attempt to move or hold the wheel during use.
- Always turn off your Boss Series Wheel prior to cleaning. To clean your wheel, hand wash with water or clean with air hose only. Do not hose off or pressure wash your wheel as this may result in the damage of wheel motor and/or bearings.
- Do not use your Boss Series Wheel outdoors.
- Do not let the wheel stand in water.
- Boss Series recommended use with 15 amp circuit. NOTE: 20 amp circuit is recommended for use near or at stated wheel capacity.
  - Clay Boss Capacity: 100lbs.
  - Big Boss Capacity: 175 lbs.
  - Big Boss Elite Capacity: 175 lbs.
- Boss Series Voltage: 110V or 220V



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## Unpacking Your Boss Series Wheel

**NOTE:** Do not attempt to lift or move your Boss Series Wheel by yourself. Equipment should be lifted with at least one other individual to avoid injury.

- If you received your Boss Series Wheel in a carton that was damaged during shipment, be sure to make a full description of the breakage and/or damage as soon as possible. Contact the delivery company immediately and make arrangements for an inspection or return of the entire wheel to their claims department.
- If possible, save all shipping containers in case you should ever have to return the wheel for service.
- Be sure to complete your Boss Series warranty registration within 30 days of receipt.

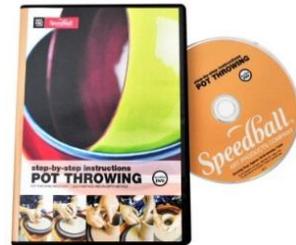
## PACKAGE CONTENTS:



**Boss Series Wheel  
Foot Pedal**



**(2) Bats (B75, B12)**



**Instructional DVD**



**Utility Shelf (Boss Elite Model only)**



**Bat Pins**

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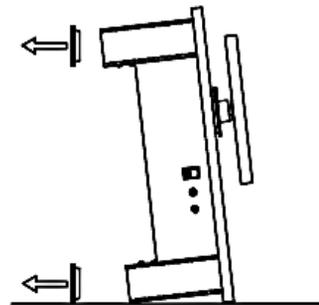
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## Wheel Installation—Leg Installation (Clay Boss Model only)

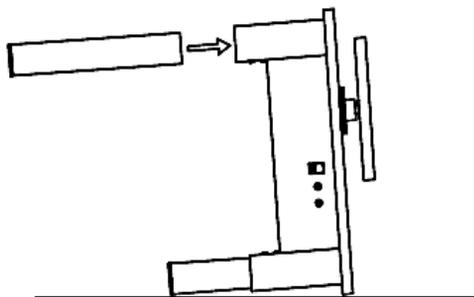
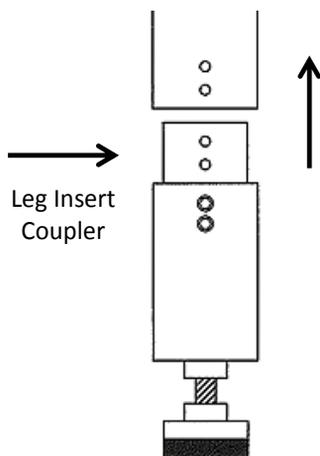
1. Begin by opening carton and carefully removing your Boss Series Wheel.
2. Next, turn the wheel so that it is positioned on its back edge so that the underside of the wheel is now facing you.

**NOTE:** Exercise caution when positioning the wheel on its edge so as not to cause the wheel to tip over completely. **Tipping the wheel over onto its wheel head may result in damaging the wheel head assembly.**

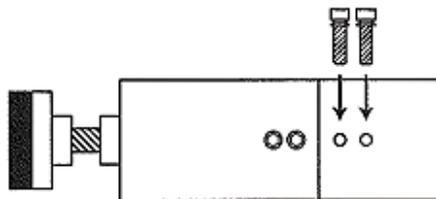


3. Remove both loose bolts in the first leg insert's coupler (narrow portion of the leg insert). Slide the leg insert into the pottery wheel frame.

**Need help?** See how to install your Boss Series Wheel's legs by visiting the Speedball Art Products' YouTube Channel or by selecting the YouTube icon below. (*downloadable pdf. Manual Users only*)



1. Line up the two holes in the leg with the two holes of the leg insert coupler. Once the holes are aligned, place a washer and bolt into each of the holes and tighten with an Allen Wrench. **NOTE: Do not over-tighten bolts.**



5. Repeat this procedure for the remaining two leg inserts. Once all bolts have been tightened into place, return your Boss Series Wheel to an upright position.

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## Wheel Installation—Leg Length Adjustment

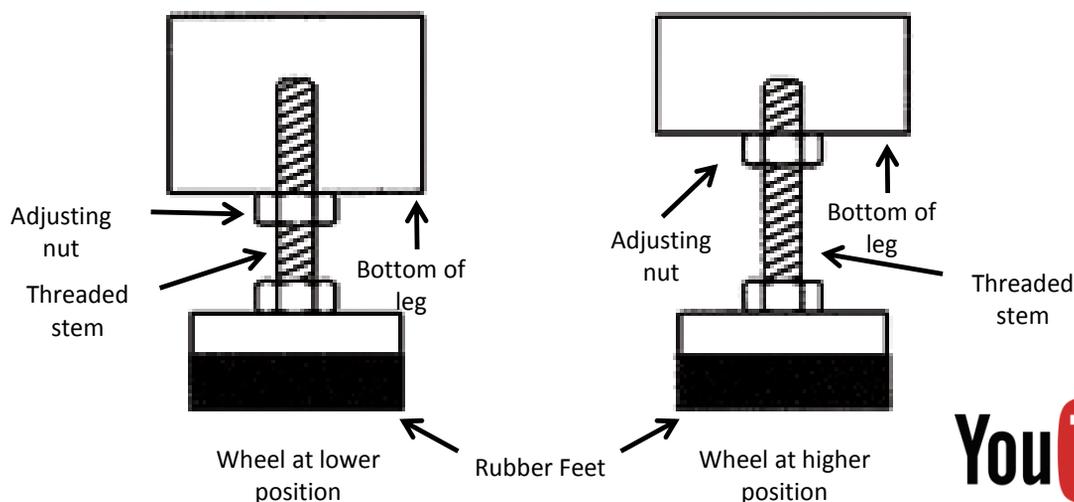
The length of each of your Boss Series Wheel's legs may be adjusted to allow for changes in wheel height or for leveling on uneven floors. To adjust height, do the following:

1. Loosen the adjusting nut by twisting in a counter-clockwise direction.
2. Once loosened, twist the foot slightly (inwards to lower the leg's height; outwards to raise the leg's height) until the desired height is reached.
3. Retighten the adjusting nut by twisting in a clockwise direction. To ensure maximum stability, tighten all nuts to a completely secure position.

**NOTE: Black rubber foot can be pulled out in order to use the head of the threaded stem to tighten all of the nuts securely.**

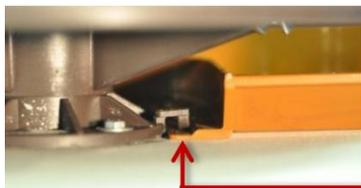
**Need help?** See how to adjust your Boss Series Wheel's leg length by visiting the Speedball Art Products' YouTube Channel or by selecting the YouTube icon below.

*(downloadable pdf. Manual Users only)*

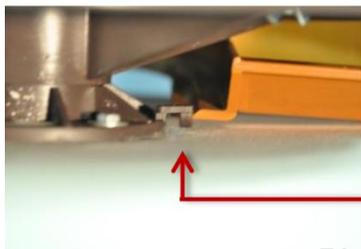


## Splash Pan Installation/Replacement

1. Sit in front of your wheel.
2. Insert the flange under the wing.



**CORRECT**



**INCORRECT**

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## Splash Pan Installation/Replacement (cont.)



Push pan down until it is flat on the tabletop, then slide forward



Pull the clasps of the second piece out slightly and slide towards you



Continue to slide the second piece towards you (keeping it flat on the tabletop) until both pieces are joined together and you hear a slight snapping of the clasps.

## Utility Shelf Installation (Big Boss & Big Boss Elite SQ Models)

**NOTE: A crescent wrench is required to install Utility Shelf.**

1. Attach both metal brackets to the Utility Shelf using hardware included.
  - Align holes of Utility Shelf with holes of brackets, with "V" of the brackets away from the potter.
  - Insert (1) carriage bolt through each hole of the Utility Shelf and into bracket.
  - Place washer over bolt, followed by a nut.
  - Tighten each nut until bolt is securely fastened.
2. Remove each of the (4) carriage bolts from the tabletop of your Boss Series Wheel (located near the back legs of the wheel) by first removing the (4) nuts located on the underside of the tabletop.
3. Place Utility Shelf onto the tabletop of the wheel and align the holes of the brackets with the holes of the tabletop.

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## Utility Shelf Installation *(cont.)*

4. Insert the (4) carriage bolts (removed in Step 2) down through each of the brackets, through the tabletop and out through the underside of the metal frame.
5. Place washer over each bolt, followed by a nut.
6. Tighten each nut until bolt is securely fastened.

## Wheel Operation

### Using your Boss Series Wheel

Once your Boss Series wheel is unpacked and assembled, you may begin using your wheel by plugging the wheel's power cord into a nearby power source. Your wheel has been electrically-grounded for your protection, however, you must complete the grounding at the outlet. If you are plugging the wheel into a three-holed outlet, your wheel will be grounded automatically. If you have a two-hole outlet, you will need to plug the wheel into a three-holed adapter.

**NOTE:** to protect the electronics in your wheel from power surges, the use of a surge protector is recommended.

### Using the Foot Pedal

To start the spinning of the wheel head, press down on the foot pedal. The foot pedal controls the speed with which the wheel head turns, and can be increased by pressing further down on the front (thick end) of the pedal. To decrease wheel head speed, simply press on the back (thin end) of the pedal. The pedal is not spring-loaded, allowing the speed to be maintained even after your foot has been removed from the pedal.

### Reversing Wheel Head Direction

Each Boss Series Wheel has reversing wheel head capabilities for left- or right-handed operation. To reverse the wheel head rotation:

1. Turn power off and unplug the power cord from the outlet.
2. Unplug the motor cord at the connector and rotate 180 degrees.
3. Plug the motor cord back at the connector.
4. Plug wheel's power cord back into outlet.
5. Wheel will now rotate in the opposite direction.

**NOTE:** Never attempt to change the direction of the wheel head while the power to the wheel is on or the wheel head is moving.

### Heavy Loads

Your wheel is equipped with a sophisticated load-sensing control system that maintains wheel head speed under changing loads.



## Wheel Maintenance

### Cleaning your Boss Series Wheel

To clean your wheel, hand wash with water. Do not hose off or pressure wash your wheel as this could force water into the motor and/or bearings and could cause damage. You may also clean your wheel with an air hose.

**NOTE: Never spray water up under your wheel. This could cause severe damage to the motor and/or electronics.**

### Control Box

The control box houses the “On/Off” switch for your wheel along with the wheel’s electronic components. NEVER take the cover plate off of the control box without first removing the plug from the outlet. The switch on your control box should only be turned on with the foot pedal at the “zero speed” position. Your wheel is equipped with a circuit breaker in the switch. If your unit shuts itself off, simply turn the power switch to the “Reset” position.

### Belt

Your Boss Series Wheel Belt has been adjusted at the factory to the correct tension. If the belt slips while in use, an additional adjustment in the tension might be necessary. To increase the tension of the wheel’s belt:

1. Turn power off and unplug the power cord from the outlet.
2. Next, turn the wheel so that it is positioned on its back edge so that the underside of the wheel is now facing you.
3. Using a standard Phillips Head Screwdriver, remove each of the four screws attaching the Belt Guard to your Boss Series Wheel and set aside.
4. Verify that the Belt is positioned at the center of the Wheel Head Pulley prior to adjusting tension. If the Belt is centered on the Pulley, go to the next step. If not, adjust accordingly.
5. If you would like to increase the Belt’s tension, begin by rotating the nut positioned on the bottom of the plate in a clockwise direction (using a 10mm wrench).
6. Once in the desired position, begin rotating the lock nut on top of the wheel’s plate by turning the nut clockwise until tight.

**NOTE: To decrease the tension of the Wheel Belt, follow steps 1-4. Next, loosen the nut positioned on the top of the plate using a 10mm wrench by rotating it counterclockwise. Then repeat this step for the nut located on the underside of the plate until tight.**

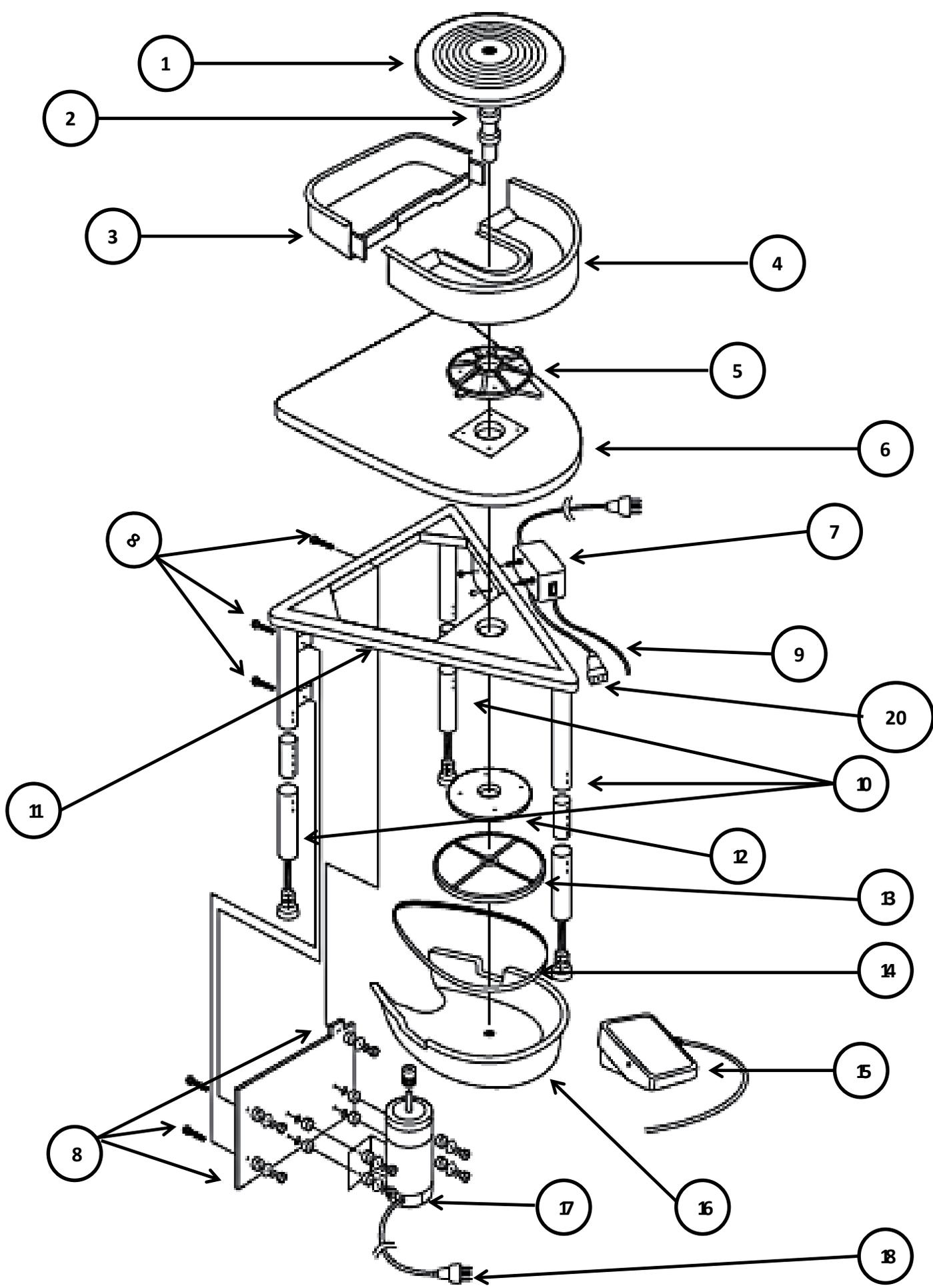
**Need help?** See how to adjust the belt tension on your Boss Series’ Wheel by visiting the Speedball Art Products’ YouTube Channel or by selecting the YouTube icon below. (*downloadable pdf. Manual Users only*)



### Bearings

Your motor and wheel head bearings are permanently lubricated and sealed and should not require service.



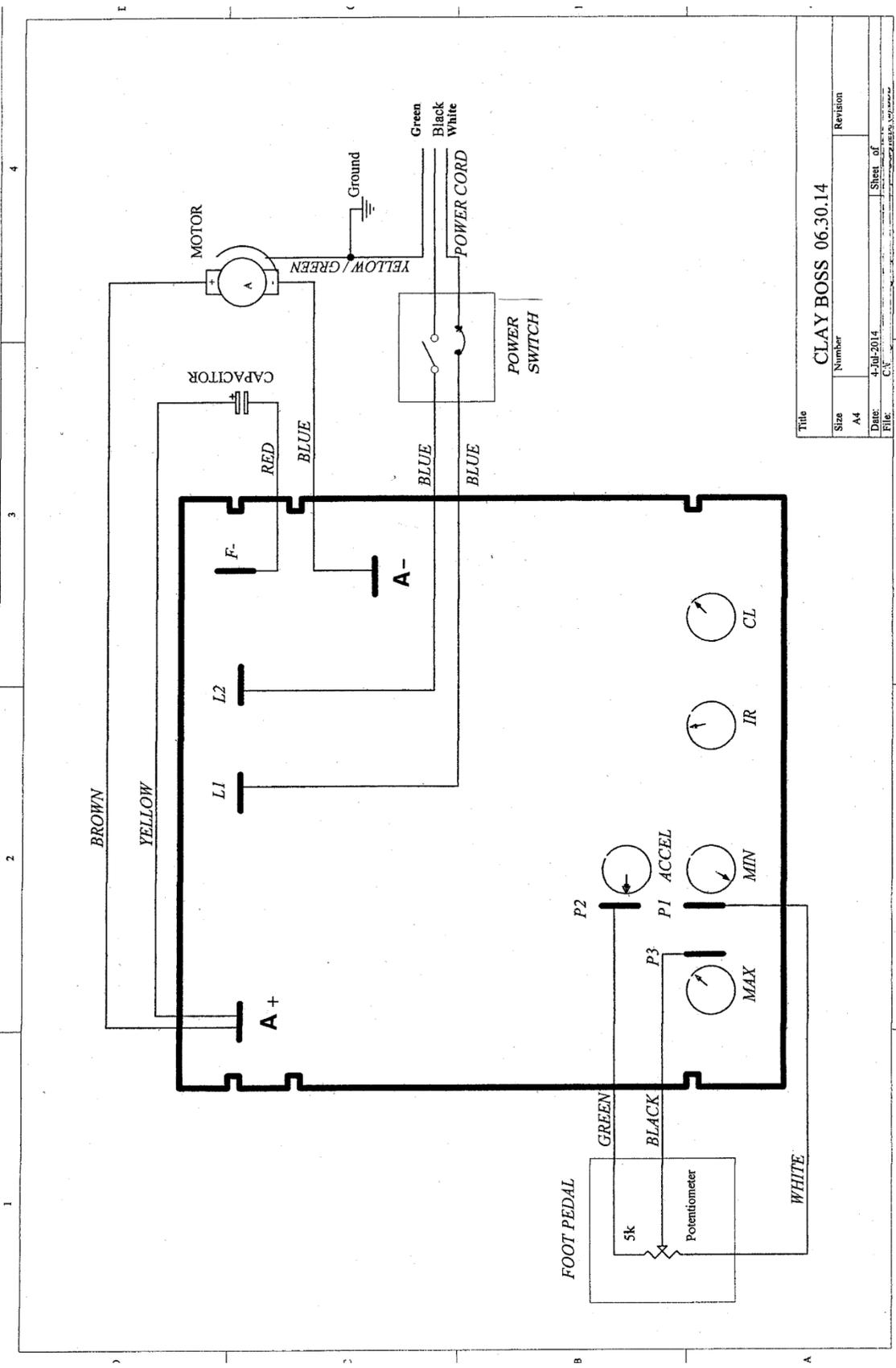


# BOSS SERIES DIAGRAM LEGEND

1. Wheel Head
2. Wheel Head Shaft & Bearing
3. Splash Pan (Back)
4. Splash Pan (Front)
5. Bearing Retainer Top
6. Table Top (Plastic)
7. Control Box
8. Motor Mounting Plate, Nuts & Bolts
9. Control Board Power Cord
10. Legs/Leg Attachments
11. Wheel Frame
12. Bearing Retainer Bottom
13. Wheel Head Pulley
14. Belt
15. Foot Pedal
16. Belt Guard
17. Motor
18. Motor Power Cord
19. Female Reverse Plug
20. Power Cord

**See pages 11 for full Boss Series Parts List.**





Title		CLAY BOSS 06.30.14	
Size	Number	Revision	
A4			
Date:	4-Jul-2014	Sheet of	
File:	C:\		



## Parts List

For questions or help ordering any of the parts listed below, contact Speedball Customer Service at **800.898.7224, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm EST (closed Saturdays and Sundays).**

<b>MOTORS</b>	
<b>Part #</b>	<b>Part Description (corresponding model noted in italics)</b>
1W436	Motor with Bracket and Pulley ( <i>Clay Boss</i> )
1W435	Motor pulley ( <i>Clay Boss</i> )
1W437D	Motor ( <i>Clay Boss</i> )
1W401N	Motor with Bracket and Pulley ( <i>Big Boss/Boss Elite</i> )
1W404	10-Groove Motor Pulley ( <i>Big Boss/Boss Elite</i> )
1W406	Male Reverse Plug w/ 10" cord attached ( <i>Boss Series</i> )
1W407	Boss Female Reverse Plug ( <i>Boss Series</i> )
<b>CONTROLLERS</b>	
2W375	Control update ( <i>Clay Boss</i> )
1W375	Control update ( <i>Big Boss/Boss Elite</i> )
2W310	Control board ( <i>Clay Boss</i> )
<b>FOOT PEDALS</b>	
1W340A	Foot pedal ( <i>Boss Series</i> )
1W342	Rheostat/Potentiometer ( <i>Boss Series</i> )
<b>WHEEL HEADS</b>	
1W201A	Complete wheel head assembly (head + bearing)
1W230	Bearing top
1W231	Bearing bottom
1W570A	Bearing retainer - top
1w570B	Bearing retainer - bottom
1W250	Wheel head pulley
<b>SPLASH PANS</b>	
<b>Part #</b>	<b>Part Description (corresponding model noted in italics)</b>
SPLASHPAN_CAP	Splash Pan-orange
<b>BELTS</b>	
2W446	BELT 485J4 ( <i>Clay Boss</i> )
1W595	10-Groove Belt ( <i>Big Boss, Boss Elite</i> )
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
2W107	Leg Coupler ( <i>Boss Series</i> )
2W108	Screws for Leg Coupler ( <i>Boss Series</i> )
1A402	Switch ( <i>Boss Series</i> )
1W315	Power Cord ( <i>Boss Series</i> )



## Boss Series Warranty Overview

Your Boss Series Wheel comes complete with a **10-YEAR WARRANTY** (100% parts & labor when labor performed at Speedball Factory). Speedball Art Products Company warrants this Speedball pottery wheel to be free from defects in materials and workmanship under normal use and service, that would affect its operation for a period of 10 (ten) years from the date of purchase.

**This wheel must be registered within 30 (thirty) days of the date of purchase to make the warranty effective.**

Registration can be performed either online at [http://speedballart.com/warranty\\_form.php](http://speedballart.com/warranty_form.php) or by contacting our Customer Service Department at 800.898.7224. The obligation of this warranty shall be limited to repairing or replacing any part of the wheel which, **at the discretion of the Company**, shall be proven defective in materials or workmanship under normal use and service during the time period commencing with the date of purchase. Full wheel replacement will be at the discretion of the Company and will only be considered for claims initiated within 30 (thirty) days of purchase.

This warranty does not apply to: (a) damage caused by accident, abuse, mishandling or dropping; (b) units which have been subject to unauthorized repair; (c) units not used in accordance with direction; (d) damage exceeding the cost of the product; (e) damage by flood, lightning or natural disaster, war declared or undeclared.

In no case shall the Company be liable for any incidental or consequential damages for breach of this or any other warranty, express or implied, whatsoever.

The limit of this warranty includes the product only and not any loss of work time or contract due to inability to use the wheel.

Parts in need of repair shall be returned by the customer, shipping prepaid, to:

**Speedball Art Products  
Repairs Department  
2301 Speedball Road  
Statesville, NC 28677**

After any repair or replacement, Speedball Art Products Company will return under normal working schedule and by UPS/FedEx Ground Service (for customers in the Continental United States). Rush repair orders are accepted by purchase order and credit card payment or COD charges. Shipping charges for rush returns other than UPS/FedEx Ground Service must be prepaid via credit card or COD. No U.S. Postal returns. Be sure to wrap the product or parts securely when shipping to avoid shipping damage.

Policy Statement for Speedball Potter's Wheel Warranties:

1. Warranty card must be on file at Speedball Art Products Company
2. Customer must contact Speedball Art Products Company for Return Authorization Number prior to returning the wheel. Please write the number clearly on the outside of the box.
3. Parts for warranty repair must be shipped prepaid to Speedball Art Products Company.
4. Send entire system as a unit control box, motor, foot pedal and all power with no cut cords. Experience has shown that by sending the entire system, repairs are made the first time, made correctly and with less time and trouble for all parties concerned. Full wheel shipments for repair or replacement must be shipped in original packaging.
5. Enclose a brief description of the problem, along with your name, UPS address, phone number, email address and personal address.
6. Speedball Art Products Company will pay UPS/FedEx Ground Service shipping back to customer.
7. Any extra charges due to a request by the customer to rush shipment are to be paid by the customer.
8. For your convenience, troubleshooting can also be conducted by phone with one of our trained Customer Service Representatives at 800.898.7224, Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm EST.

## Additional Ceramics Products by Speedball® Art Products

At Speedball® Art Products, we're about more than *just* manufacturing high quality pottery wheels at a value—we're about offering a full range of professional grade ceramics glazes, tools & accessories at an unbeatable price!

### Speedball® Glazes & Underglazes

Used exclusively by a range of internationally renowned and emerging artists alike, Speedball's Earthenware and Underglaze lines offer the same high quality experience of the top glazes on the market at an unmatched value. Ideal for any studio or classroom,

Speedball® Glazes & Underglazes:

- Work well on a wide range of surfaces and across techniques;
- Are lead-free and carry the AP Seal (all colors);
- Create reliable and consistently stunning results;

In addition, our high quality lines offer artists an unprecedented value. When compared to other popular brands of glazes & underglazes:

- Speedball® Earthenware Glazes will save artists and teachers an average of nearly 45%
- Speedball® Underglazes save artists and teachers an average of nearly 30%



Works by Kevin Snipes (left),  
Jessica Putnam Phillips (right), & Theo Uliano (bottom)  
Created with Speedball Speedball® Glazes & Underglazes

## Additional Ceramics Products by Speedball® Art Products

At Speedball® Art Products, we're about more than *just* manufacturing high quality pottery wheels at a value—we're about offering a full range of professional grade ceramics glazes, tools & accessories at an unbeatable price!

### Speedball® Plastic Bats

**You won't believe what your studio's been missing!** Offering artists the ultimate in performance, organization and convenience, our multi-colored plastic bats are a must-have for any potter's studio. **Available in three sizes** (7.5" square, 12" round and 14" round) across five colors (Red, Orange, Blue, Green, Brown), Speedball® Bats suit a wide range of projects and their universal bat pin spacing ensures a solid fit, no matter the wheel. **Speedball® Bats' "Easy Lift Rim™" allows them to be removed from the wheel head in one fluid, slip-free motion**, keeping your artwork undisturbed. A heavy-duty plastic construction **eliminates warping, wearing and molding**, and the unique ribbed design **increases strength**. In addition, the line's multiple colors allows artist and educators to keep like-clay bodies organized to avoid firing mishaps while affording maximum space efficiency in storage.



### Speedball® Wooden Bats

Using the same formula combining high quality with value, Speedball is proud to offer a new line of **Masonite® & Medex® bats**. **Masonite® Bats** offer the most affordable alternative to other types of bats (e.g. plaster & bisque) while still allowing artists to easily remove projects from the wheel head and after drying. (All sizes shown below are 1/4" thick). **Medex® Bats** offer the greatest durability of all wooden bats with very limited warping or chipping. This bat is an ideal alternative for potters who prefer to work on wooden bats, but who enjoy the longevity offered by plastic bat alternatives. (All sizes shown below are 3/8" thick)

Masonite™  
available in  
12", 14" and  
15" round



Medex™  
available in  
12", 14" and  
16" round



## Also by Speedball® Art Products

Wanting to expand your techniques beyond “traditional” ceramics? Speedball® Art Products also manufactures a range of screen printing, block printing and metal leaf products ideally-suited to enhance any project.

### Speedball® Screen Printing and Block Printing Tools & Accessories

A proud part of our heritage, Speedball® has been manufacturing high-quality printmaking inks and tools since 1937. Whether you prefer to add complex patterns and images to your work with screen printing techniques or to utilize our linoleum cutters to carve intricate designs into your ceramic works, Speedball® has the high-quality product solutions for you.



*“Ride to Live”* by Israel Davis  
Created with Speedball® Screen Printing  
tools & mediums and Speedball®  
Underglazes

**Want to Learn More?** See how to screen print using Speedball’s Screen Printing tools, accessories and Underglazes by visiting the Speedball® Art Products’ YouTube Channel or by selecting the YouTube icon below.  
*(downloadable pdf. Manual Users only)*



### Mona Lisa Metal Leaf

Embellish and enhance your artwork with touches of gold, silver, copper or variegated Metal Leaf. Applied to ceramic pieces *after* firing, Metal Leaf can add a unique form of visual interest and create stunning effects.

**Want to Learn More?** See how to incorporate Metal Leaf into your ceramic pieces post-fire by visiting the Speedball® Art Products’ YouTube Channel or by selecting the YouTube icon below. *(downloadable pdf. Manual Users only)*



### Also on YouTube

See how Speedball® Working Artist, Jeff Blandford, puts our Big Boss Elite to the test by throwing 175lbs of clay. Visit the Speedball® Art Products’ YouTube Channel or by selecting the YouTube icon below. *(downloadable pdf. Manual Users only)*



*“Dancer”* by Judith Birtman  
Created with Speedball®’s Mona Lisa™ line  
of Metal Leaf

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[www.SpeedballArt.com](http://www.SpeedballArt.com)