Robust Independence Overview

Independence is a new lathe developed by Robust Tools. It is designed exclusively for the seated turner.

To accommodate a variety of seated conditions and turning styles, the height is adjustable, as is the angle of the lathe. Many seated turners tip their lathe forward to get a better view of the work and to get an arm action more like that of a standing turner who is leaning forward.

In speaking with seated turners and taking some measurements, the best fit seems to be when the turner can get the spindle both over the knees and low enough to use without shoulder discomfort.

To help get the spindle over the knees, the main bed section has been moved to the back, while the ways extend towards the front. With the height adjusted all the way down, and the lathe bed tipped forward, the front of the ways is only 23" from the floor, which is about the top of the knees of a normal sized person when seated in a regular chair.

The bed can be angled to suit the turner anywhere from 0 to 30 degrees.

The angle is adjustable by turning a bolt on the front of the headstock leg upright.

Optional jacks can be fitted to raise and lower the lathe. The jacks are connected to work together, raising both ends at the same time. They are accessible on the headstock end of the lathe, and can be adjusted with a wrench or socket.

Please note the tool rack shown on this prototype machine is not offered on the production model.

The bed angle can easily be adjusted between 0 and 30 degrees using a 9/16 wrench.
The left leg is splayed out so that the seated turner can get to the back side of the work when the headstock is all the way to the left.

The headstock slides, and will get all the way to the end of the lathe. This lets the turner work from the end of the lathe as shown in the bottom picture.

The controls will be on a corded pendant with magnetic back just like our other lathes. They can be mounted on the headstock using the magnets, set on the tool rack, or along the bed frame. We also think a convenient place may be in the turners lap.

The motor drive (VFD) with digital RPM read out is mounted behind the lathe in full view of the turner.

Extra-long handles on the headstock, banjo and tailstock have been provided to improve leverage from the seated position.

Working from the end of the lathe with full access to the work. Please note the position of the tailstock.
**TILT-AWAY:** The Independence tailstock weighs 35 lbs. To accommodate getting it out of the way, a Tilt-Away is standard and built into the lathe. The pivot point is low to improve leverage. This makes it easy to use when seated.
Standard lathe is equipped with a 1.5HP 110 volt motor.

Options include:
- 2HP – 220 volt upgrade
- Vacuum Adapter
- Ruler in Tailstock Quill
- Auxiliary 110 volt outlet

**Specifications:**
- 1.5 HP (110 or 220) or 2.0 HP (220v)
- Adjustable height
- Bed tips forward 0 – 30 degrees
- 16” swing, 28” between centers
- Built in Tilt-Away
- Seven year mechanical parts warranty

- Standard stainless steel ways
- Sliding Headstock
- 48 position indexing
- US made Leeson variable speed motor & drive
- Digital RPM Readout
- Magnetic back controls
- Spindle lock also disconnects controls

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