BROTHER Standard Gauge RIBBERS

The Brother KR830 and KR850 are almost identical. The major difference is in the carriages, but they are interchangeable between the two ribbers.

There are three adjustments available, height, alignment and on the 830, distance. In each case you do not need to remove any of the nuts or screws, just loosening them is sufficient.

Height is the commonest problem. Set the ribber at H5 and draw out a few main bed needles at each end. There should be a small gap between the needles and the sinker posts of the ribber. Brother’s recommendation is just over 1mm. That is about the thickness of a c.d.

To alter height, lower the ribber and use the spanner provided with the ribber or an 8mm open ended spanner to loosen nut ‘A’. Lift the ribber into normal working position. The lever ‘B’ can then be moved to change the height of the bed relative to the brackets. Check on both ends of the bed that you can just pass a c.d. between the needles and the ribber sinker posts. I usually tighten the nut from the side, not moving the ribber until it is fixed. The nut needs to be secure, but excessive force is not required to hold it.

The needles of both beds should align perfectly when the ribber is set to P5. There is a small amount of play in the fixings, so during setup you can check that the needles are ‘nose to nose’ before tightening the screws and clamps. If you find that there is more adjustment required there are two screws on the front of the ribber, just below the racking number indicator. When these are loosened the racking mechanism can be moved relative to the machine bed by moving the handle slightly. When tightening the screws do not use excessive force.

The third adjustment is uncommon. Clearance of 0.6mm between the ribber needles when pushed up and the sinker posts of the main bed is recommended. Try sliding a punchcard or sheet of quality writing paper down between them to judge if they are too close (it won’t fit), and a c.d. to see if they are too far apart. If the carriages do not seem to want to connect, or there is obviously pressure on the connector, then this might cure it.

The bracket can be removed entirely from the ribber by moving it into the dropped position and when turned so the levers are at the bottom, it will lift off. This will enable you to loosen the locking nuts. It may be easier to remove the bracket, adjust the spacing, then replace it and try the ribber again rather than to have the ribber on the machine. When you can see that the carriages are now connecting easily and running smoothly across the beds, retighten the locking nuts.

This only needs adjustment when the spacing has been changed from that set in the factory.