Thor Bag Shaker

Introduction (Updated 4/30/26)

The bag shaker was designed to provide a solution to shaking bags after inoculation that is simpler, takes less physical energy, and takes less space than a bag tumbler, and more ready-to-go than converting an old clothes dryer. After experimenting with numerous shaking methods, motions, and speeds, we found that an orbital motion is most efficient at turning material over inside a sealed bag.

The bag tray is deep enough to keep various bag sizes inside, with the rubber mat providing protection for the bags from rubbing on the bottom of the tray while also providing a small amount of friction to move the bag and its' contents. Finally, the bump guard on the outer rim is there to protect the user if you get bumped..

Different materials require some adjustment to the speed, so we went with motors that are a little over powered for your average farm, so most people will want to adjust the speed down a bit from max. The speed dial is on the lower right of the bullnose on the front, just beside the connector for the foot switch. Also, your specific mix and size bag may take more or less time to mix than average, so we included an adjustable timer that can be set to the best time for your workflow. The default setting is 15 seconds. If that doesn't get the job done, increase the time (instructions below). If you see that your bags are mixed well before the time is up, lower the time and shorten your lab cycle.

An important consideration is that the bag shaker really shakes! You should consider how to effectively transfer the forces down to the ground. The shaker must be secured to a work surface, and you need to plan on that surface shaking a bit. If you put it on your lab table, it will shake. You may want to consider setting up a small, sturdy table or tall bench specifically for the shaker, and either anchor it to the floor or place substantial weight on the table to counteract the motion of the shaker.

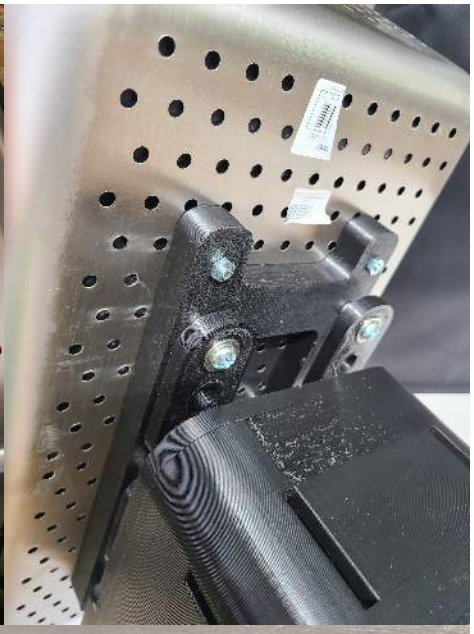
Set-Up:

You will want to mount the shaker to the work surface before attaching the bag tray. The bag shaker has four holes in the corners of the base.

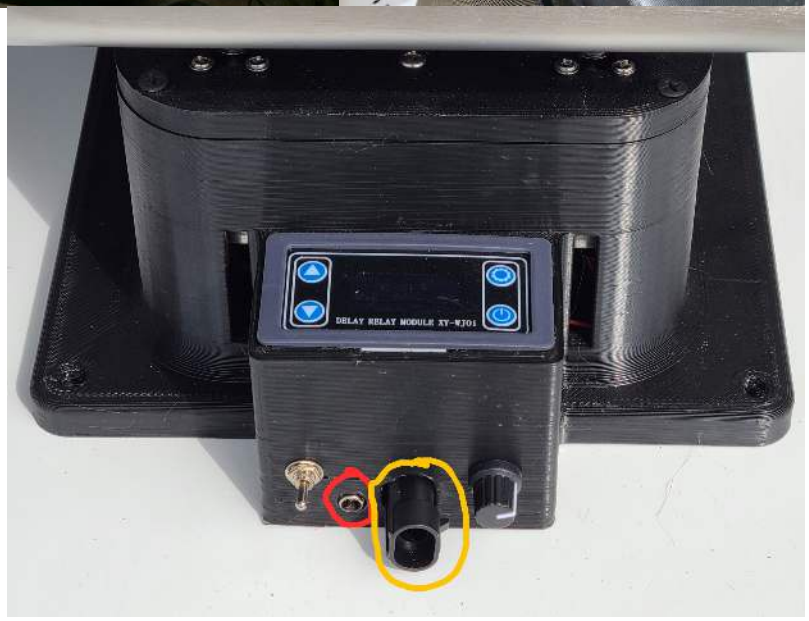
These are four screws or bolts to provide a permanent mounting option. Use washers to protect the plastic of the base of the shaker.

Alternatively, clamps may be used to secure it. In testing, we used 3 clamps on the corners of the shaker that were accessible when we lined the base up with the corner of our work table.

Once the shaker is securely mounted, we'll attach the bag tray: Raise the rubber mat and locate the marked holes. This is where the bolts will attach. Use the smaller 4 bolts and washers included (#10 size) and secure the tray to the H-mount.



Next, plug in the power supply and the foot switch. The ports for both are located on the bullnose under the timer. In this picture, the red circle is over the power, the yellow is the foot switch port. Once you have these plugged in, you're all set and ready to go.



Instructions For Use:

After a bag has been inoculated and sealed, break up the substrate a bit first, then place the bag in the tray laying flat oriented in the same way as the tray. Then, once your hands are clear, push the foot switch to start the shaker. The speed can be adjusted using the dial on the lower right of the bullnose, but again, be sure to keep your hands clear of the tray. Though you may be tempted to just set it to max and go, that's generally not the most effective way. Generally about 75-80% is ideal, but watch the bag and see what your substrate is doing. You want it to go fast enough to get the material in the bag to turn over, but not so fast that the whole bag is just being tossed around.

Once you have the sweet spot for speed, dial in the time. If the default is not getting it done, increase the time using the directions below. If the bag seems finished before the time is up, lower the time. Once you have your settings worked out for your workflow, the process becomes as simple as placing the bag, starting the shaker, then removing the bag and getting the next ready.

Settings:

To change the time, hold the “Set” button until the “P0” starts flashing. Press “Set” again so that the numbers at the top are flashing. Now press the up and down arrows until you reach the desired time. Now hold “Set” again until the display stops flashing. **Note that the decimal should not be visible. If the shaker is going too long or two short, check to see if there’s a decimal. Its position is changed the same as the time, but press the lower right button instead of the arrows and it will cycle through positions.**

Once you’ve reached the desired time, the settings won’t save until you go back into settings one more time, and then exit. This final step will ensure that your time settings will be restored after power off.

FAQ will be added to manowarinnovations.com as questions are asked. If you run into issues, please go to the Find Out More section at the bottom of the home page to ask any questions or provide any feedback.