

# REBECCA BEATER INSTRUCTIONS.

*These are reminders, use the beater only if you have received instructions*

**The Reina/Rebecca beater holds 2 lbs. (Dry weight) of fiber.**

**1. Cook and soak your fiber**

**2. Turn gauge to “30”. Never go below “0”, it can be taken as low as “2”**

**3. Use the hose to fill the beater with water** up to the fill line (the duct tape on the outside of the beater)

**4. While beater is running, slowly add fiber.** The beater will let you know the pace it can take (i.e. Abaca can probably all be put in at once while rag might need to be fed slowly)

**5. Raise the gauge to “30” when adding fiber.** Sometimes add 1/2 the fiber, lower the gauge until you hear cutting sound (between 20-14) for 1/2 an hour or so. Raise the gauge, add more fiber, lower the gauge and repeat as needed until all fiber is added

**6. When finished beating drain the fiber** into buckets or a laundry basket with screening.

**7. Run fresh water through the beater to clean it.** Run the beater with water, drain again. Wipe it clean inside and out. Remove all standing water and clean the floors!

**8. Lift Lid to make sure all fiber has been cleared** from the beater roll. Use a knife or long tool to remove any fiber wrapped around the shaft.

# VALLEY BEATER INSTRUCTIONS

*These are reminders, use the beater only if you have received instructions*

- 1. Fill with water until 1/2" below the "swinging gates"**
- 2. Turn on electric switch**
- 3. Add Fiber**

**LINTER:** Tear into small pieces and wet/soak it first

**FABRIC:** Cut into one inch squares (remove seams, zippers, buttons)

Soaking the fabric beforehand swells the fibers and makes defibrillation easier.

New fabric should be washed **WITHOUT** soap to get rid of sizing (which foams), old fabrics should be washed without soap to remove excess soap.

Use only Cellulose fibers like: Cotton, linen, rayon, silk, ramie, burlap, etc. **NO** wool, synthetics, or blends (if you are unsure do not use it) Perform a burn test, if it ashes, it is cellulose, if it beads and melts it is synthetic.

Tough fabric may be cooked in a caustic solution (lye, tri-sodium phosphate or soda ash) to partially break it down. Rinse thoroughly before hydrating.

## **4. Circulate with weights**

Linters circulate without weights until defibrillated. Add weights to later part of beating (for coarse pulp casting at least a total of 20 minutes)

The heavier the weights, the shorter (and weaker) the finished fiber. Longer beating without weights produces a stronger paper. Abaca may need no weights at all.

**CLOTH:** Add cloth slowly, beat 1/2 lb., then add the rest. **ADD WEIGHTS SLOWLY SO THERE IS NO UNRULY BUMPING AND THUMPING.** Several adjustments can be made to add weight to the arm:

- > Weight arm with weight adjustment holder
- > Move block out on weight arm
- > Attach a bucket to weight arm and slowly add water (This is good for your pulp and much better for the machine than adding the heavy weight too soon)
- > Add heavy weight to holder, only if necessary and only if you followed the above steps first OR begin with heavy weight to break down fiber and then circulate without it to hydrate fiber.

### **5. Test Fiber for Hydration -**

Add small amounts of beaten fiber to a clear glass of water, stir. If it is cloudy, it is OK. If you see strings beat it more. There is no best amount of time. It depends on the age of fiber, type of fiber, and growing conditions.

### **6. Turn off electricity AFTER removing weights**

**7. Put basket with screening draped in it underneath the beater and remove the plug**

**8. Drain and spray with hose to remove excess pulp**

**9. Put in plug. Fill with water, turn on electricity and circulate. Push weight arm up and down to dislodge fiber. Spray into beater wheel and top of inside cover.**

**10. Stop Motor and repeat if needed**

**11. Wipe inside and outside of beater with a sponge**

**12. REMOVE STANDING WATER and clean the floor**



# Operating Instructions for the Reina Beater

1. Plug in the power cords of the beater and washer. Make sure to plug the cords into separate outlets so the breakers don't get overloaded.



2. Add water to the beater making sure that the washer is entering the water.



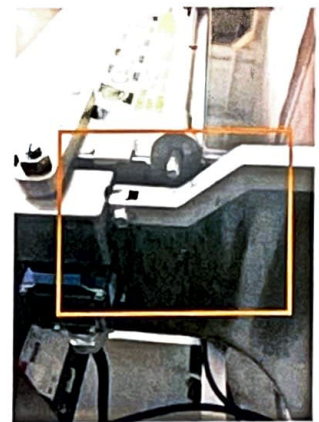
The washer is very fragile - Please do not touch! Ask Paper Studio staff for assistance if needed.

3. Lead the black drain hose to the floor drain. Make sure to keep an eye on the drain while the beater is running - you may need to clean out the trap.



4. Turn on beater

Make sure the plexi lid of the beater is on and the metal latch engaged or the beater will not start. The latch is a safety precaution so that the plexi cover is always on when the beater is being used.



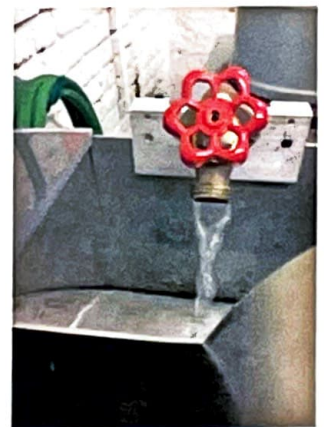
5. Turn on the washer.



The on/off switch for the washer is different from the on/off switch for the beater. It is located on the beater by the washer.

6. Slowly begin to add your fiber.

When pulp is in the beater and the washer is removing water from the moving pulp turn the faucet on anywhere from a tiny stream to a medium stream depending on how deep you have the washer entering the pulp and how much water it is scooping out. Try it and experiment a little. To a great degree it self regulates because the higher the pulp level the more the washer will scoop out.



When you are done beating your fiber turn the washer off and then the beater. Make sure to clean the beater!!!