

### **Refitting the bed stone hackle plate.**

The goal is to prevent grain falling into the bed stone bearing. This is achieved by sandwiching the leather sheet between the brass hackle plate and the steel hackle plate.

The brass plate goes on first. It covers all the gaps between the bearing blocks and provides a flat surface for the leather sheet to sit on. The leather sheet goes on next followed by the steel hackle plate. The bolts can now be pushed up from the floor below and the nuts refitted.

Currently (February 2023) the leather sheet is slightly worn and it was decided to use a cloth grommet, sitting on the hackle plate to help seal the bearing. A good way to make the grommet is to cut a piece of cloth about 18" x 6" and roll it around a piece of cord (about 30" long) so that the cloth is centred along the cord. See pictures. This combination is then twisted until tight and coated in grease. Tie this around the protruding shaft. The cloth should extend about one and a half times round the shaft and the cord more than twice. Pull the cord ends as tight as possible, tie them in a knot and cut off the loose ends. Smear more grease on the grommet and replace the mace.

