

MAINTENANCE ITEMS FOR YOUR ANDIS CLIPPER

ALL clippers need some kind of maintenance, there are no maintenance free clippers out there. Parts wear out, and the user has to be able to recognize them when they do. Whether you choose to do the maintenance yourself, or a service technician, its best you know more about your clipper than it cuts hair. Knowing how to maintain your clipper will prevent failures that can happen in the middle of the work day when you depend on your clipper the most. This goes unsaid for ALL clippers, but this article will approach the Andis clipper, because it's the most popular clipper for American groomers, vets, and trainers.



Andis clippers, no matter what model, are very straight forward as far as maintenance. There is no such thing as a “tune up”, there are parts that need checked, parts that need changed, and general cleaning of the clipper. The majority of these items are to be done by the user. Not doing them can lead to the performance of the clipper to be significantly reduced.

The first place to look at is the head of the clipper. You will check to see if the latch has a hook on it. Next you check the hinge screws, if they are loose even a ¼ turn, this can cause drag and cornrows in the cut. Hinges can loosen from using comb attachments all the time. Next we look at the black part of the blade drive, is it chewed up from being in the blades? If so, this causes a loose fit in the top blade of your blade set, which can also cause drag and corn rows. This may even cause blades to snag with a comb attachment on the blade.

The Blade Drive. This is the most misunderstood part of the Andis clipper., it is also the heart of it. When the blade drive is bad or weak the clipper does not perform correctly. The blade drive is made of plastic with scored plastic ribs that connect to the tip which inserts into the top of your blade. Plastics fail with continued use and becomes soft. The blade drive in the picture is 4 weeks old, and its completely worn out. This drive is discolored from coolants being sprayed on blades running on the clipper, and the metal bar across the front is lifting off the drive its self at the ends.



When a blade drive is worn out completely like this one, your clipper will not perform. The reason is simple, the plastic of the scored ribs is so soft, that when the drive bearing pushes the blade drive to one side of the clipper, it hesitates before the drive bearing can pull it back the other direction. Thus you can have drag, cornrows, hair sticking in the blade if its on a comb, ect. Change the blade drive and all these symptoms seem to go away. It is the users job to change the blade drive routinely, it states that in your clipper instructions. A bad blade drive will shut you down and you won't be able to work. That's how important it is. Have extras.



Hair. Hair is the enemy of any clipper, because it causes problems in the cutting system when its not cleaned away.

A big problem with hair affecting the performance of an Andis clipper, is when its impacted around the drive bearing where it fits into the back of the blade drive. This can shorten the back and forth stroke of the blade considerably, which may cause performance problems in really thick coat or with a comb on. When you change your blade drive and you see hair impacted like this, dig it out with something. Get it all out from around the drive bearing and clear down behind the hinge. If there is hair impacted behind the hinge blade wont lock on tight and you get problems in the cut like drag when you lay the blade on the coat.

Here is how your Andis clipper breathes, by a hole that completely goes around the drive bearing. This airflow, even though its small, keeps the armature on the inside cool, and provides a way for carbon dust from the brushes to get away from the commutator where the brushes spark against. Its extremely important to keep impacted hair from inside your blade drive so it can breath. If you don't keep this area free from hair your clipper can get warm, the copper windings of the armature can start to burn, and this will shorten the life of the clipper.

Because this is the only way for air to flow through your clipper, another bad thing to do is spray coolants on a blade that running on your clipper. Your clipper instructions tell you not to do this under the DANGER heading #7.

Coolants are nothing more than alcohol and propane gas ,that pushes the alcohol out in a mist. They cool by evaporation only , and your clipper instructions say not to use it for lubrication because there isn't any lube in it. It lubes while its wet on the blade only, and doesn't cool but only the surface of the blade. That's why blades heat up so fast when you use it. Coolants have health issues associated with them as well, that's why they tell you to wear a safety mask when using it. The MSDS says it can work on some organs and your respiratory system. It can make you feel tired and give you headaches with constant use without wearing the appropriate safety gear.



Andis clippers, like so many others, use the two body halves to hold the cord at the back of the clipper. As you walk around the table, bending that cord in different directions, those body halves can bite down on that cord and start it to short out over time. You can help prevent this from happening with a simple "ziptie". Ziptie your cord to the hanger as shown. This will make the cord bend out away from the clipper and not cause all the shorting. Ultra Edge users will have to straighten the bend in the hanger out with pliers first in order to ziptie the cord to it.