

## Printer Feed Roller Cleaning Procedure

This procedure was developed to assist the user in cleaning the rollers that feed the paper into your inkjet printer.

Our experience has been that some printers occasionally exhibit sheet feeding problems. One reason for this has been identified as the reduction of gripping power of the feed rollers caused by an accumulation of lint, dust, fuzz, fibers, or hairs. When you press print, the roller comes in contact with the paper in the tray to initiate the feed process into the printer. It appears that different printers have rollers made from various materials such as rubbers or plastics. Some roller materials seem more or less prone to the accumulation of debris that reduces sheet feeding performance. At our print lab, here at Crane & Co., we regularly perform preventative maintenance such as roller cleaning to keep our printers running trouble free.

The material you will need to clean your printer can be either a cleaning brush that may have come with your printer (See fig. A), a paper towel folded in quarters, or a disposable foam brush that you can purchase in any paint or hardware store. We recommend cutting off the slanted tip of the foam brush to make it square, otherwise the brush could get pulled into the printer when cleaning.



Figure A

Depending on what type of printer you are using, the roller could be located in different places in your printer. The following describes how to clean the feed roll from three different types of printers. The basic cleaning procedure is valid for all types of inkjet printers.

### Example 1: Epson Stylus Photo R2400

This type of printer has one feed roll. When facing the back of the printer and looking from the top down into the printer, the feeder roll is to the left. Most commonly the roll is grey or black in color. (See fig. B). To clean the roller using the cleaning brush or disposable foam brush, lightly dampen the brush with water (damp, not dripping wet) and place the brush against the roller applying slight pressure (See fig. C). If you do not have a cleaning brush or disposable foam brush, you can use a lightly dampened paper towel folded in quarters and hold against the roller applying slight pressure (See fig. D). Press the paper advance button (the one that flashes when you have a misfeed) for two or three cycles. This should be sufficient to clean the roller. Now you should be ready to start printing.



Figure B



Figure C



Figure D

## Example 2: Epson Stylus Photo 2200

This type of printer has two feed rollers. When looking down the paper slot from the back of the printer, one roller is on the paper tray slider side of the printer (which moves as you adjust for different size sheets of paper) and the other is stationary on the left side of the printer (See fig. E). This type of printer has plastic tabs covering the rollers. To clean the rollers, you may follow the same method as above for the Epson 2400, however you have to lift the plastic tab and place the cleaning tool against the roller using slight pressure (See fig. F). If using a paper towel, we suggest that you wrap it around something rigid (such as a ruler) to hold it in place as it is difficult to get your hand under the plastic tabs. Press the paper advance button for two or three cycles as with the Epson 2400.

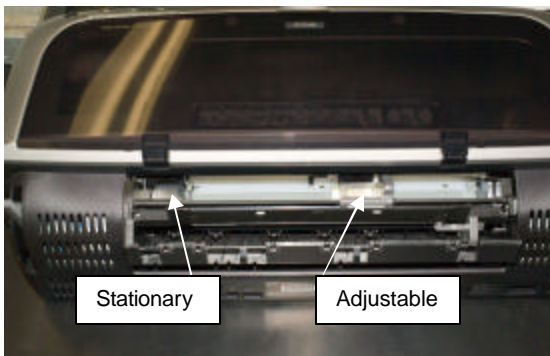


Figure E



Figure F

## Example 3: Epson Stylus Pro 4000 or 4800

This type of printer has two larger feed rollers. First, remove the paper tray. When looking into the printer from the front, you will see one roller on the right edge of the tray compartment and one on the paper tray slider side. The top of these rollers is covered with a hard plastic shield but you can still see the lower section of the rollers that will contact the paper (See fig. G). These rollers are connected by a metal shaft. When you spin one roller, the other spins at the same time. Hold the brush or paper towel against one roller while you spin the other roller with your other hand. Wipe the brush or paper towel back and forth on the roller due to its wider width (see fig H). Be sure to spin the roller several revolutions to be sure the entire circumference has been cleaned. Next, switch hands and repeat the process for the other roller. Once cleaned, reinstall the paper tray and you are ready to begin printing.



Figure G

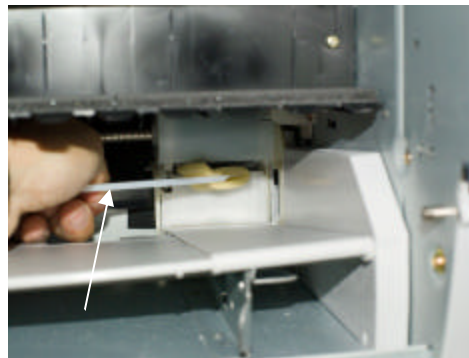


Figure H

**Other helpful tips:**

Please note that some printers require the heaviest fine art papers to be fed in a manual slot instead of the paper tray. Please follow your printer manufacturer's instructions in both the operating manual and on the printer message screen.

Also, when working with the thickest papers, some printers can only accommodate a single sheet being fed at a time.

When opening a new package of paper and loading it into your printer, it is also a good idea to fan the paper in case the edges are a little stuck together from the converting or shipping processes.

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