

TIP SHEET

Print Head Doctor v2

Spectra® - Konica® - Xaar®

Here are some tips we have received after working with some of our customers

LEARNING THE PROCESS

1. Don't forget to read the entire manual before starting to recover printheads.
2. Start with 1 or two printheads and learn the process before recovering more.

ABOUT OUR SOLUTIONS

Your recovery kit comes with a number of our solutions. We select these solutions based on the most popular Solvent, Eco-Solvent, Water Based and UV ink formulations. However, some ink formulations are more difficult to recover than others. Government agencies in certain jurisdictions may ban the use of chemicals normally found in your ink. Manufacturers' usually provide an alternative ink for your area. The result can be that one of our stock solutions doesn't work with your ink. It's important to the recovery process that not only the machine be effective, but that the solution does its job. Luckily, we have over 15 different solutions we can provide you to recover your printhead. Just let us know if you are having problems.

DX4 PRINTHEADS

Make sure the printhead nozzle plate is submerged in the solution and that the mounting bracket isn't. Submerging the mounting bracket can increase the ultrasonic pulses to a dangerous level which may damage the printhead.

PRESOAKING PRINTHEAD

You can soak a dried printhead for up to 1 hour at 35 degrees celsius (30 degrees for DX4 & DX5) prior to starting the recovery process.

HOW LONG TO RECOVER A PRINTHEAD?

Most printheads should be fully recovered after 2-3 recovery cycles. That's about 1-1.5 hours. That means your printhead should be partially recovered after the first cycle. If you notice no change or the printhead gets worse, consider doing the following.

1. Increasing the temperature as explained in the 'Bath Temperature' Section. (Not on DX4 or DX5)
2. Switching Solutions. Test one of the other solutions for effectiveness and try a few cleaning cycles to see how it works.
3. If you can't get the solutions to work, contact us so we can provide you with an alternative solution.

BATH TEMPERATURE (Not on DX4 or DX5)

The recommended temperature for the solvent bath is 35 degrees celsius. You should always start your recovery at the recommended temperature. If you run into problems and want to increase the temperature, try 40 degrees first and finally 45 degrees maximum. You should never increase the bath temperature to more than 45 degrees celsius. While the printhead can stand more than that, with the added ultrasonic energy, the resulting temperature may be much higher. Setting a maximum of 45 degrees insures that the final temperature will not damage the printhead.

SOAKING WARNING

The solutions provided in this kit are not soaking solutions. While you can presoak the printhead up to an hour before starting the process. You should never soak the printhead any longer. Soaking the printhead longer than that may cause permanent damage. These Solutions can weaken materials and coatings inside the head. Once the recovery process is started, the materials and coatings can fail.

Solutions on Electronics

Try not to get any solution on the electronic components of the printhead. For small areas you can use isopropyl alcohol to clean off residue left behind. If you end up splashing the electronics or inside a connector, use the following process.

Note: Wear Goggles & Gloves - Make sure the bath is clean and dry - Make sure bath power is off

1. Place wire basket into the bath.
2. Place printhead piezos (Spectra) or entire printhead into the basket.
3. Fill bath with 90%-100% Isopropyl Alcohol until it just covers the component.
4. Turn on Bath and make sure that temperature is turned to around 20 degrees Celsius.
5. Run a 3-5 minute ultrasonic cycle to clean component.
6. Once done, remove the component and use canned air to air dry the component.
7. Let it sit for several hours or overnight before reinstalling it into the printer.

WHEN REINSTALLING A PRINTHEAD INTO THE PRINTER

1. The printhead should be clean and dry before reinstalling it into the printer. Also, you may want to spray a little canned air into the cable connector to dry it out too. Make sure the cable is clean and dry also. You can use isopropyl alcohol to clean the cable contacts. Just make sure they are dry before connecting the printhead to the printer.
2. Once your printer is up and running, make sure that all printheads are functioning properly, not just the one(s) you recovered. Even though printheads fire independently, they still share electrical connections. If you notice the printer acting strangely, you may have an electrical short caused by this printhead or another one. You could get firing problems, continuous firing, problems with the printer starting up, front panel problems, etc.

WHAT TO CHECK

1. Printhead
2. Blown Fuses
3. Ribbon Cables (Make sure the contacts are still in good condition)
4. Daughter / Slider Board
5. Motherboard
6. Power Supply
7. Power Conditioning

Try not to change everything at once to diagnose the problem. Change one thing at a time. If that doesn't help, start changing combinations of two things at a time until you see what the problem or problems are.

If you come upon any helpful tips, please email us so we can add it to our tip sheet.