

Helping With Problems Using Comb Attachments

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There are some problems associated with using comb attachments that can be prevented if you know what to look for. Its not always the blade, most of the problems are the comb, the clipper, the blade, and how you use it. When hair jams between the blade and comb, that usually something other than the blade not cutting. Most times its something loose in the cutting system, any movement at all with the hinge, blade, or the comb itself will cause this.



If you use combs a lot, especially on an Andis clipper, the hinge screws can loosen. This is because of the pull and vibration of the comb through coat. The screws loosen because they are screwed into plastic threads in the clipper housing, not metal. These screws should be checked weekly, and if they turn even a tiny bit could mean a lot of looseness in the system. You may see cornrows in the coat with or without a comb. Hair can jam on the comb also.

The blade itself can have issues. The socket ears that stick up have to be straight up and down, not tilted outwards to each side. This will cause “blade rattle”, again the blade is loose on the clipper causing movement that can create cornrows and hair jamming between the comb and blade. A worn out blade drive causes the same thing. Using combs most of the time reduces the life of the blade drive.



The comb can have issues as well you don't pay attention to. The deck plate that holds the blade can get bent from you putting blades on and off it. Pulling back on the spring can bend the riser at the rear, and this causes the blade not to seat snug on the comb. As your pushing the comb through coat, the blade is moving around on the comb causing hair to snag between the comb and blade. Make sure your plate looks like the picture. If it doesn't, get some pliers and bend it back into shape.

One misconception is that you HAVE to use a #30 blade on a comb, that's false. You can use any blade that will fit on your comb. If hair doesn't feed into the comb, the hair has to go someplace. It's either cut, goes under the comb, or gets jammed between the blade and comb. Try a #9 blade. It's a flatter blade and has more space between the teeth and the hair feeds 100% better. The #9 works better on ANY coat.



Suggestion: When you get a new blade, or a blade back from the sharpener do this. Try the blade on the dog someplace (belly) before putting the comb on it. If it cuts hair without a comb, and doesn't with the comb, the problem isn't the blade. You need to start looking for something that's loose in your system.