

***This “Tip Sheet” can help prevent problems using freshly sharpened blades. [www.northerntails.com](http://www.northerntails.com).***

- Steel Blades** - Lubricate with blade oil before using, then let run 5 seconds on clipper before groom or they may not cut. Oil vibrates off in transit. PLEASE DON'T USE SPRAY COOLANTS, REM OIL, or WD-40 AS LUBRICANTS. Poor blade lubrication and care will result in blades cutting only a few weeks rather than months. We have videos on the disk that will show you how to properly oil without getting any on the coat, takes very little oil.  
NOTE: Test a blade someplace BEFORE using it on a comb. Sometimes the comb is the reason it doesn't cut and snags hair.
- Ceramic Blades** - Lubricate with blade oil before using. Oil vibrates off in transit. Run blade 60 sec on clipper by itself before using, this seats the cutter, if you don't, the blade may just snag or drag. Use ceramic blades on clean combed out dogs only or you can fragment the cutter making it un-repairable. Ceramic cutters cost \$10+ to replace. Ceramic cutters may dull the bottom blade if not oiled properly, then the blade will snag or drag.  
NOTE: Test a blade someplace BEFORE using it on a comb. Sometimes the comb is the reason it doesn't cut and snags hair.
- Shears** (beveled or convex) – They have been adjusted and tested on hair to assure they cut all along the blade. Tension determines how a shear cuts. Too loose can cause shears to fold at the tips especially 10" shears. Loose tension can also cause thinners and convex shears to catch 1" from the pivot. The adjustment screw/wheel is for adjusting the cut, not to adjust the shear for scissoring convenience. Shears with ball-bearings cut easy at any tension setting. Clean and lube shears a couple times daily with shear lube only, you can get it a beauty supply stores everywhere. Never put blade oil on a shear, it will cause problems in time.

IMPORTANT

Clippers are 50% of your cutting system, if they are not functioning properly, newly sharpened blades will not cut properly. If there is any free play in your clippers drive assembly your blades will drag. *Passing them around the shop to see if they cut on another clipper is not good.* That clipper may have problems as well causing the same symptoms. *Just don't assume that your clipper is OK because blades were cutting on it before they were sharpened.* General clipper maintenance is very easy and your responsibility. All groomers should learn simple mechanics of their clipper. On Andis clippers, change the blade drive monthly if you're doing 8+ dogs a day. I proved this grooming in my own shop.

On any brand of clipper, worn blade drives, levers, or hinges may cause 7's and 10's to corn-row or drag. Change the hinge or blade drive/lever and the symptoms go away. Test your hinge by closing the lip you put the blade on, if you can open it ANY DISTANCE with just your fingers the spring is broke on the inside and the bottom will move back and forth. Also check the screws holding the hinge on the clipper but don't over tighten. Using comb attachments all the time can loosen hinge screws and then the blades rattle. Freshly sharpened blades that have the proper tension will bring out clipper problems that the dull blades covered up because they had higher tension caused by dirt and buildup. Corn rowing is generally a clipper problem, means something is loose. Clippers may get hot for this reason: Using coolant, or not using enough blade oil for proper lube. Un-oiled blades, or dirty blades with buildup, with tighten the tension which makes the clipper work harder to move the cutter. This makes the carbons spark hotter which makes the clipper hot.

There are hinge variances between different brands of clippers. Wahl, Oster, & Laube all use basically the same width in their hinge, Andis has a wider hinge (seems 6/1000ths wider because it's not chamfered). If you put a blade on an Andis clipper it will spread the socket ears of your blade to fit their hinge which is OK. If you take the blade from the Andis and use it on any other brand of clipper, it may rattle slightly, may get louder, and may cause the blades to corn row or drag.

If you're having trouble getting freshly sharpened blades to latch on an Andis clipper there is a reason. The Andis hinge is not chamfered (rounded), it has squared sides. After the socket is adjusted, it may not go on if you're trying to "slap" the blade on without pushing the latch up. When this happens, push the latch up to put the blade on the first time. This will enable the socket ears to adjust to the sides of the Andis hinge. There is a video on the CD-ROM and on the website called "How to put a blade on an Andis Clipper", please watch it for help.

\*\*\* You can test every blade on a short haired dog. On website, see article "HOW TO CHECK EVERY BLADE ON ONE DOG"