

Tools of the Trade

How To Fix Rattling Blades and other Clipper Issues

Jeff Andrews



Rattling blades is a common annoyance to groomers. It occurs because the ears of the socket are spread apart too far.

Even if a sharpener has adjusted the blade, it can still start to rattle after the blade has been put on the clipper only a few times.

When looking at the back of the blade, the ears of the socket can easily be inspected. They should be completely upright, but it is common for them to move too far outward.

This happens for one of two reasons: the metal has become so fatigued from removing and attaching the blade that it will no longer stay straight, or the blade was used on a clipper with a larger hinge without rattling only to begin rattling on a different set of clippers.

To fix this problem, set a pair of pliers to a wide grip. Then, very gently squeeze the two ears together as shown in the picture. Be careful to not squeeze too hard. The ears only need to be moved a very little bit.

Applying too much pressure with the pliers causes the ears to become positioned too close together. This prevents the blade from fitting on the clippers. To fix socket ears that are too close, put one side of the pliers on the outside edge of the pliers and the other side against the socket ear. Gently apply pressure to bend the ear until it is perfectly vertical. Do the same to the other ear.

Another common blade socket problem occurs when the piece that rests over the clipper hinge bends near the top, tipping it inward on the bottom. This is usually caused by forcing a blade onto clippers, which bends the socket. A twisted hinge can be responsible for dragging with 10 and 7 blades.

To fix this problem, use the pliers to grip the socket and the blade at the same time from the rear end of the blade. Gently apply pressure until the socket is parallel to the bottom of the blade as pictured.



Blade Ears in correct position.



Blade Ears bent too far inward.



Blade Ears bent too far outward.



Using pliers to push the ears farther apart.



Using pliers to push the ears closer together.



Bending the socket until it is parallel with the bottom of the blade.