

PermaJet – Clever Clogs Kit

The information provided in this document is optional and if performed should be used in conjunction with the award winning PermaJet Clever Clogs kit. This can be used to clean under the print head & capping station on many inkjet printers.

Tip 1: Cleaning the bottom of the print head. *(This tip should only be used if excess ink and black lines are being transferred onto the edge of your prints) in conjunction with PermaJet Clever Clogs.*

Use this procedure to clean the bottom of the print head, where the nozzles are located. This process will need you to move the print head back and forth over a folded, wet paper/kitchen towel.

This procedure will remove a buildup of dirt, paper fiber's and other residues that may not be removed by print head cleaning cycles. This procedure must be carried out as per our instructions as failure to do so can damage the print head if performed incorrectly. If used carefully it can be a very effective cleaning technique, particularly on older printers, perhaps one that has never been cleaned before, or one that has sat idle for a long period of time without use.

1. Get several kitchen towels and the ***PermaJet Clever Clogs cleaning kit***.
2. Push the appropriate button(s) to move the print head to the ink change position. Once the print head has moved, pull the printer power cable out from the back of the printer. Push the print head carriage to the far left hand side of the printer.
3. Fold a kitchen towel in half until the strip is about 1" wide, by 8 inches long approx.
4. Push the folded kitchen towel strip into the black plastic central channel between the rollers where the print head travels back and forth when printing.
5. Now get the ***PermaJet Clever Clogs cleaning kit*** and syringe and draw some cleaning fluid from the bottle and moisten the left hand side approx 1" inch of the kitchen towel. Manually slide the print head over the left edge of the kitchen towel, trying not to slide or drag the towel as you do so.
6. As soon as you can see a small portion of the kitchen towel on the left hand side of the print head, draw some more ***Clever Clogs*** cleaning fluid from the bottle with the syringe and place a few drops along the length of the kitchen towel, let the cleaning solution spread. The kitchen towel should be completely dampened, but not oversaturated with ***Clever Clogs*** cleaning fluid.
7. Now gently slide the print head back and forth over the kitchen towel, making sure to be careful not to shift or tear the towel as you do this. As you slide the print head you will see the kitchen towel turn black and pick up excess ink. This is dried ink that has transferred from the nozzle plate, and ink pulled out of the nozzles by capillary action.

8. After two or three passes over the kitchen towel, slide the print head to the far left hand side, remove the kitchen towel, and replace it with a new one, repeat and follow steps 3-7 above. Two kitchen towels are generally enough to remove the majority of the excess ink from the bottom of the print head. Additional towels will continue to turn black, but this is mainly due to ink from inside the print head.

9. When you have finished cleaning the print head, remove the kitchen towel, and use a clean, dry kitchen towel to clean up any liquid remaining in the black central plastic channel.

10. Plug the power cable back into the back of the printer, run a nozzle check, you may need to perform a couple of head cleans to remove any remaining ink or paper fibers from the bottom of the print head. Please ensure you perform nozzle checks in between each clean. You should end up with a perfect nozzle check pattern ready for printing.

Tip 2: Cleaning the capping station.

This tip is easy to perform and often highly effective in fixing not only missing nozzles, but also any residue ink that you may see in a print shortly after installing a set of third party inks in a printer for the first time. This tip is especially helpful if you see a nozzle check pattern become worse after running more and more cleaning cycles.

The capping station is a rectangular flat sponge surrounded by a raised gasket. When the print head is in the "park position," at the right side of the printer carriage, the gasket of the cap presses against the print head, sealing it. One purpose of this is to keep the print head from drying out due to air exposure. The second reason is that the cap is used as part of cleaning cycles: the sponge in the cap is porous, connected to a small vacuum pump underneath. During cleaning cycles, ink is pulled or printed out of the print head, and the ink drains into the sponge, with help from the cap. The ink is then deposited on an absorbent waste pad inside the printer. Sometimes the sponge will clog up, due to dried ink, or due to paper fiber in the sponge, and this keeps the ink from draining out properly. The excess ink will then make contact with the print head, and transfer onto the print head's nozzle surface. This can cause blocked nozzles, or can even cause the printer to print the wrong colour, if leftover colour ink is pulled back into the nozzles and printed out again.

Cleaning off the sponge and gasket of the capping station allows the print head to stay clean. This can often make an inkjet problem disappear instantly. The steps for cleaning the capping station are listed below. Please note that certain printer models have two caps (and two print heads).

1. In order to access the cap: Move the print head off the cap in order to inspect and clean it.

Desktop printers: push/press the "ink change" button to move the print head off the cap. Now unplug the printer power cable from the back of the printer only when the print head has rested in the ink change position.

Large format Epson printers: use/select initiate a "cutter replace" function from the printer control panel, to move the print head. Unplug the printer power cable from the back of the printer after the print head moves over.

2. Look inside the printer case, below where the print head was originally sitting, you will find the cap or caps. A cap is a rectangular piece, approximately 1" high by 2" wide (the exact size varies from printer to printer). It is mounted on a spring loaded mechanism. On certain large format printers, there may be a second device to the left of the capping station. It is simply an opening into the printer body, for the printer to shoot ink into during cleaning cycle. It is not spring loaded. Among the different printers, the following models have two caps, one next to the other: 3000, 7000, 7500, 9000, 9500, R800, R1800, R2400, R1900, R2880.
3. Look at the cap, using a flashlight if necessary. It should be horizontal, not tilted at an angle. If it's tilted, there may be a problem with the fixture supporting it. This can cause ongoing problems due to ink drying out in the print head. This problem usually requires the printer to be serviced professionally. The surface of the sponge must be flat, and sitting below the level of the gasket. Make sure that it does not bow up at all. Sometimes, the sponge will lift up in the center or an edge. When this happens the sponge will always contact the print head, and cause ongoing problems. Older model printers are more prone to this problem. Newer models have a metal piece holding the sponge down.
4. Clean the cap. Sometimes you may notice a buildup of residue or liquid in the cap or on the gasket; other times you will not. Use the syringe that is supplied as part of the **PermaJet Clever Clogs kit** to deposit this onto the sponge. Use the syringe to dispense only two or three drops of the **Clever Clogs** liquid at a time. The liquid will remain in the cap for a few seconds, but will soon drain out. Repeat this several times. Try not to let the **Clever Clogs** solution spill around the cap, and into the printer.
5. Fold a piece of kitchen towel into a 4"x4" (10cm X 10cm) pad. Press the towel gently on the sponge to dab away ink. As you push on the sponge, push down and slightly to the right, to protect the spring-loaded mechanism that supports it. Pushing too hard, or pushing to the left can damage the capping station (and hence the printer). After dabbing several times, you will remove much of the liquid, but you can never remove all of it.
6. Dip a (Cotton Bud) in water, and use it to wipe gently around the edge of the capping station gasket, to remove dirt buildup there. Again, be careful not to push the capping station out of alignment.
7. Plug the printer back in, turn it on if necessary, which should return the print head back to the park position. Run one or two manual print head cleaning cycles, and then print a nozzle check pattern. If the nozzle check pattern is better, but not perfect, run additional cleaning cycles in batches of three making sure nozzle check patterns are printed in between each clean, if the problem persists then clean the cap again as outlined above.

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