

Using Blades On Different Clippers.

BY TIM LOVE

I am often asked if you can use Oster blades on Andis Clippers, Wahl blades on Oster, etc. The answer is yes, but there is one problem, hinge assemblies on clippers are not equal width. I have found Oster has the smallest width hinge on the market so far and Oster is the industry standard that every manufacturer tries to match as close as possible. So if you put a blade on an Andis clipper and then put it on an Oster, it will sound noisy and not cut well. You put it back on the Andis and it cuts again so you think the Oster clipper is bad. What is happening is the Andis hinge is just slightly wider and spreads the ears apart, so when it is put back on an Oster it makes a loud noise. Even new blades from all manufactures rattle on that manufactures clippers right from the package. When I get new blades I adjust the sockets to fit an Oster and test cut with them to make sure they are working correctly. The blades will be snug the first time they go on a clipper other than Oster, but then they will then fit that clipper perfectly.

Even switching between the same brand clippers can cause the ears on the sockets to spread. Hinges wear overtime so a newer hinge will spread the socket the same as if you switched to another brand.

One way groomers have gotten around this problem is they designate certain blades to be used on certain clippers. This helps keep blades from spreading as easily. Others have learned how to adjust the sockets themselves. This is good skill to learn because some sharpeners might use a different clipper than you and spread the ears during their test and then when you put it on your clipper it rattles and won't cut. Also the ears can spread in between sharpenings and this make you think the blade is dull when it is not. So learning this skill is can be very valuable. I have made a gauge block to set the socket the same everytime and have found this to be very useful in not over adjusting the ears.

In the next issue I will talk about different blade noises, causes of the noise, and how to solve them.