

How to Clean Your Circular Sock Knitter

The most difficult part of this process is to find a method of marking, photographing, or sketching the parts of the machine as you take it apart so that you can put the machine back together without error. Work in a well-ventilated area; wear gloves



Some things to gather before you start:

- All of the parts of your machine, or all of the items you purchased as a machine.
- Cleaning supplies such as: Mineral Spirits, a bowl you will not use again in food preparation, gloves, old

brushes such as toothbrushes, screw-drivers both large and small, rags, pad and pencil to take notes as needed.



- A digital camera would be helpful to record how the machine comes apart. Otherwise sketching, or carefully recording how you took the machine apart will

help you put it back together without left over parts.

First, take all accessories away and place in another area.



Then take the machine apart. Place machine on its side and remove the yarn standard, leaving the weight (if there is one) on the standard. Remove the wire. Check the condition of the take up spring.

If you have the “Assembly of Machine” page that comes with some instruction books, this is a good time to look at it.

Not all machines will be the same; many machines no longer have the weight on the yarn standard.

The names of some of the parts will differ from machine to machine.

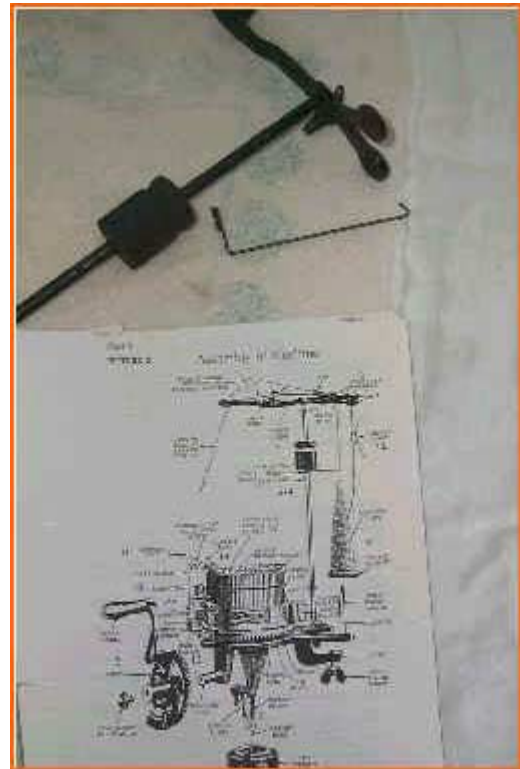
Remember to keep track of how you took the machine apart.

Assembly of Machine Pages

Gearhart, 3 pages

AutoKnitter 2 pages

Master Machine Home Profit pg. 1, 2 & 3





Locate the two screws on the bottom of the machine. These screws hold the cylinder to the frame.

Loosen one screw, then the other. Take the screws out together, that is loosen one of them then the other just a small amount until the frame comes free of the cylinder.



Carefully lift the cylinder and cam ring from the frame and crown ring. The frame is the part that screws to the table and the crown ring is the ring with the bumps or gear teeth.

Place the parts back together in the order in which they were removed.

Keeping the removed parts in order of removal will help you keep track of how you took the machine apart.



Keep machine parts in order. Lift the cylinder from the cam ring.

Lift the crown ring from the frame.





The parts in order from left to right are the frame with crank handle still attached. Next, the cam ring with the yarn carrier bar and head still attached. The third ring is the cam with the cam nut and latches still present. Last, the cylinder with the needle band still around the cylinder.

The cam latches must be carefully watched so they do not become mixed up. There is a right and a left cam and they look very much alike. They might fall off, so take care to keep them in place until they can be identified. You could identify with a dab of red mark on the right cam (**R**ed and **R**ight).



Some older machines, such as this Gearhart have wires holding the latch in place.

[How to rewire latches](#)

An old toothbrush and mineral spirits help clean the slots in the cylinder.



Carefully lift the needle band (a small wire spring) from the groove in the cylinder. This wire band may be rusted and break. It may adhere to the cylinder, be certain that it is free all around the cylinder.

The cam nut can be completely removed from the cam.

Take care not to lose or damage the wire spring being held by the cam nut. The cam nut is the stitch adjuster in that it adjusts the height of the cam.



Penetrating oil may help stuck parts become unstuck for cleaning and oiling.

Oil all moving parts as you put the machine back together.



Oil the wing thumb screw that holds the frame to the table.

Place a light coat of oil between the cam ring and the frame.



The crown ring fits onto the frame.

The cam ring fits onto the crown ring.



Oil the cam nut and tension spring.

Line up the screw holes in the cylinder with the holes in the frame.





When the screw holes are lined up, hold the machine securely.

Carefully place the machine upside down on the edge of a table, taking care not to damage the yarn carrier head.



Screw the cam to the frame by screwing one side down a small distance.

Next, screw the other screw down a small distance. Repeat one side and then the other until the cam is secured to the frame.





The ribber is taken apart by unscrewing the dial from the ribber plate. The screw is on the bottom of the dial.

The dial and ribber plate may be cleaned with mineral spirits and a brush.

This machine is clean and ready for yarn adjustment according to the yarn used.



This Gearhart appeared to be mismatched in that the ribber was green while the remainder of the machine was black. There is no way of knowing if all of the parts of the machine you bought were original or factory replacements or parts of a second machine.

These parts represent “extras” often found in boxes with circular sock machines. It is a yarn winder bracket and wheel. Some reel sticks and pins were also in the box as was a screwdriver and a wooden bobbin.



[Back to top](#) - [Back to Table of Contents](#)
