

From the
TECH FILES
 of Liberty Parts Team...

**An Easier Approach to
 the Swing Plate Assy.**

In the HP LaserJet 4200/4300 series, the swing plate assembly couples the main drive assembly to the fuser. Unfortunately, the fuser lacks a snug fit in these printers, and this looseness sometimes results in damage to the black gear in the swing plate and the corresponding gear in the fuser.



Fig. 1. The frequently damaged black gear connects to the fuser and is easy to replace. The white gear couples to the main drive and is rarely damaged.

the gears sold separately lack lubricating grease (the yellow on the white gear in Fig. 2). Also, it is easier to install the gear and its spacer in the proper directions when you have a comparison handy, though Fig. 3 should clarify this somewhat. Further, we recommend starting by disassembling the new swing plate assembly, to get a feel for how it comes apart, before you disassemble the one installed in the printer. If you opt to buy the gear by itself, skip to Step 2.



Fig. 3. Flat side of spacer faces in.

Replacing the Fuser Drive Gear

1. Disassemble new swing plate assembly

Just one screw secures the fuser drive gear. Remove it from one side, then push the gear shaft out the other side, and now you should be able to remove the plastic spacer disk, and finally the gear. Fig. 2 shows the swing plate assembly with these four parts removed. Note the orientation of the disk and gear as you remove them.

2. Remove old gear.

- If the printer has the optional duplexer installed, remove it by lifting it slightly and pulling it away.
- Remove the rear output bin by opening it, squeezing the hinge pin in the right rear (on your left if you are behind the printer) out of its mounting hole, and



Fig. 2. Disassembled

then rotating the bin until the hinge pin is free. Now you can just slide the other hinge pin out of its mounting hole and remove the bin.

- Remove the fuser by squeezing the blue release tabs and pulling it straight back out of the printer.

- Remove the formatter cover by pulling/sliding it to the rear (see Fig. 4)

- Remove the formatter board by removing two screws (see Fig. 5) and then sliding the whole metal cage out the rear of the printer (there will be some resistance as the self-mating connector unplugs).

- Now we can get to the swing plate assembly and the fuser drive gear. The single screw that secures the fuser drive gear is accessible through a hole in the printer's



Fig. 4. Slide cover in direction of arrow

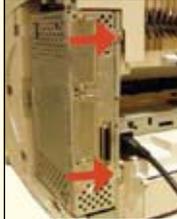
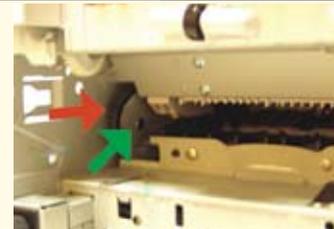


Fig. 5: 2 screws



Fig. 6. Screw & hole

Fig. 7. Fuser Drive Gear (Red arrow) and Gear Shaft (Green Arrow).



The following parts are available from LPT.

- RM1-0043-N Swing Plate Assy. (Complete)
- RM1-0043-GRB Fuser drive gear and spacer (unlubed) from swing plate assy.
- RU5-0016-A 40T gear for 4200 & 4300 fusers
- RC1-3324-A 40T gear for 4250/4350 fuser
- 5851-2766-N OEM kit, includes swing plate assembly and 4250/4350 fuser gear (also works on 4200 & 4300 fusers)

right side frame (see Fig. 6). The procedure from here is identical to what we did with the new swing plate assembly earlier, except that you are working in closer quarters: remove the screw, then push the gear shaft out the other side (see Fig. 7), remove the plastic spacer, and finally remove the gear.

3. Inspect white gear

With the black gear removed, shine a flashlight on the white gear of the swing plate assembly and inspect it. If it is damaged, you will have to replace the whole swing plate assembly, but you have not lost any significant time, because that procedure still requires removal of the fuser, formatter, etc. The white gear is almost always fine.

4. Install new gear.

Re-assemble in the reverse order (make sure to install the gear before the spacer), using the new gear in place of the damaged one. Watch for correct orientation of gear and spacer. It will take patience to manipulate the various pieces so that all the holes line up and you can insert the gear shaft. It may help to lay the printer on its side so that you are not fighting gravity. It is far less work than replacing the entire swing plate assembly.

—Dennis Kosterman