

NeXT 400 DPI Laser Printer Tricks

Disclaimer

This file is authored by Glenn Parsons with DeepSpace Technologies. While we wish we could guarantee the following procedures to work for your NeXT Laser printer, we cannot. Neither DeepSpace Technologies, nor myself can accept any responsibility for harm or damage incurred to any persons or any machines as a result of following these procedures. The reader takes full responsibility for actions and consequences resulting from following any of the following procedures. **WARNING:** Acetone is a dangerous chemical. All precautions and warnings posted on the original container should be followed.

Background

When I started working at DeepSpace Technologies in early 1998, we had a number of NeXT Laser Printers that were not printing. The problems were due to the paper jamming either at the front end or at the back end of the printer. The front-end jamming was more frequent and much more easily fixed. I originally would remove the entire front-loading assembly to clean it. That required removing all the black plastic molding from the outside which was quite time-consuming. I perfected this quicker technique later. Some of these refurbished printers went out to customers. However, due to a climbing number of DOA warranty claims, I quit refurbishing them. The printers that ship now either works right off, or I don't ship them. Therefore, keep in mind, this may or may not work for you! If it does work, it may not work for very long.

Purpose

This document is intended to help you with a *QUICK* fix for your NeXT Laser printer **IF** and **ONLY IF** you have a problem with the paper jamming in the front end of the printer. If you have a problem with the paper not completely exiting the printer, this document will **NOT** help you! There is plenty of good documentation out on the Internet on how to solve that problem.

The front-end jamming problem is due to mostly dirt and minor deterioration of the rubber parts in the front loading assembly of the Laser Printer. The dirt can be removed with a cotton swab and Acetone. I chose acetone because it really does clean the rubber well, while restoring its grip to surfaces. The rubber does swell as a result of the acetone as well.

Judging from the many owners of these printers that I have spoken with in the last few months, many of you NeXT Laser printer owners have or will have a broken-down, but very fixable printer. I authored this document to help you keep these machines going.

If you have comments or improvements to suggest, please contact me at:

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Materials Required

#2 Phillips screwdriver	Acetone
Cotton Swabs	Rubber Gloves (optional)

*NOTE: The Rubber gloves are to protect your hands from the acetone.

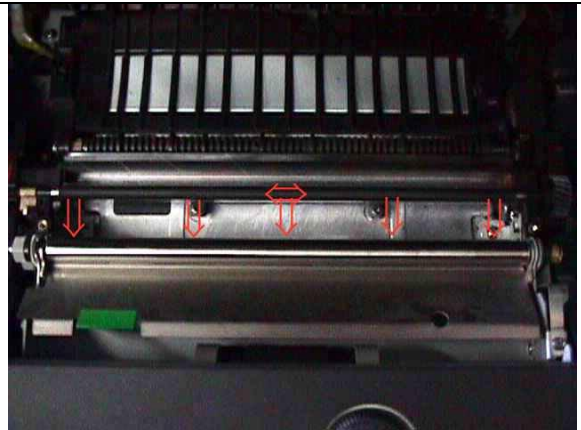
The Tricks:

1) Open the Printer cover, and remove the screws indicated by the arrows. These screws hold two long, narrow plates in between the metal roller and long, thin rubber roller, one on top of the other. Remove the two plates by lifting up at each end of the width (roughly where the arrows are pointing). **Note:** There is a ground spring mounted by the screw indicated by the arrow on the right. Don't lose it (especially in the gearing)!

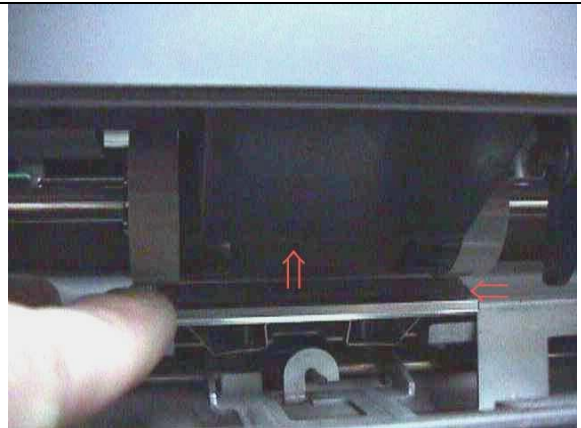


This is what you should see having removed the two plates.

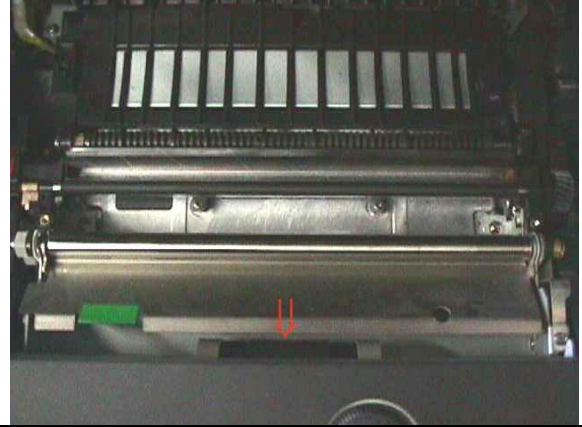
2. Use your cotton swabs, wet with acetone, to clean all roller surfaces. Clean ALL the rubber and metal roller surfaces. The bi-directional arrow indicates the long, narrow rubber roller toward the back of the front-end assembly. Clean that one **VERY** thoroughly. Notice the 5 arrows pointing downward? There are five rubber rollers underneath the metal roller. They need to be cleaned well also. You had to remove the two metal plates to get to those.



This picture was taken inside the entry port for the paper tray. The arrow pointing upward is pointing to a large rubber roller. This needs to be cleaned. To do so, clean the roller with a cotton swab and acetone from the inside of the printer unit while using your other hand through the entrance port to hold and turn the roller. See the next photo for inside access to the roller. The roller will only turn in one direction. Don't force it too much, but a little force will be required to get it to spin a full 360 degrees.



This picture shows the access you have to the roller in the first stage of loading paper at the entrance port. The arrow is pointing at the roller.



Reassembly:

There is not much to reassemble from these procedures. You should have removed two screws, a ground spring and two metal plates. The metal plate with the five notches for the five pinch rollers pointed to in the second picture is the bottom plate. The five notches should point toward the paper entry and the five pinch rollers. The other plate goes on top of that with the curved edge downward toward the long, narrow rubber roller. Don't forget to mount the ground spring on the right-hand side screw. If you should lose a part inside the printer, turn the printer upside down and shake the part out onto a large clean floor surface so that you can find the part. Do not power up a printer with stray parts or foreign matter inside!

Hopefully, your machine will be fixed at this point. If not, you should probably think about which roller you did not clean well; go back and clean it! Don't be surprised if you get it this time. I have had an approximate 70% success rate with these procedures.