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StyleWriter: Clogged Cartridges and Print Smudging

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TOPIC -----

Some customers have their StyleWriter ink cartridges stop printing after 50 pages of text. These ink cartridges appear to have clogged ink jets. These customers may also have excessive amounts of ink inside their StyleWriter printer, causing smudged printing.

DISCUSSION -----

These problems may be related, but are not caused by the same thing.

Clogged Ink Cartridges

Clogged ink cartridges can occur when the cartridges dry out. There is a rubber boot attached to the frame assembly that covers the ink jets and keeps them from drying out. If the rubber boot is twisted or damaged, the boot will not seal the ink cartridge. In this case, the customer could only print a couple of pages before the cartridge went dry.

To cure this problem, you should replace both the Frame Assembly (P/N 661-0630, Rev. A or 661-0718, Rev. B) and the ink cartridge at the same time.

Print Smudging

Print smudging in a StyleWriter is usually caused by excess ink on the print mechanism.

If the ink cartridge becomes clogged, you may be able to unclog it by purging. The StyleWriter has a tube that wicks purged ink to a felt pad at the bottom of the printer. If you purge the cartridge too many times in a short period of time, the ink cannot be wicked away fast enough and it accumulates on the print mechanism.

Also, changes in altitude sometimes cause the ink to leak from the ink

cartridge. This is most likely to occur if a StyleWriter is shipped by airplane with an ink cartridge installed. The low atmospheric pressure at cruising altitude may cause ink to leak from the cartridge onto the printing mechanism.

Note that the ink cartridge's life is shortened when it is purged an excessive number of times. Under normal conditions, a StyleWriter ink cartridge should print about 450 double-spaced text pages.

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