

TECH TIPS

For Texmac **SOLO** Garment Printer

Cleaning SOLO Printer – Daily and Weekly

To maximize production and minimize down time, it is important to clean your SOLO printer regularly. Follow the steps in this document for daily and weekly cleaning. If performed regularly, the procedures on these pages need only take a few minutes a day.

1. **Automatic head cleaning:** Find the control buttons inside the front cover (Figure 1, right) Press and hold the INK button for 4 seconds, until the white ink circulation pump starts. This initiates an automatic head cleaning that circulates all ink, discharges the small quantity of ink in the head and waste ink that may be in the capping station.

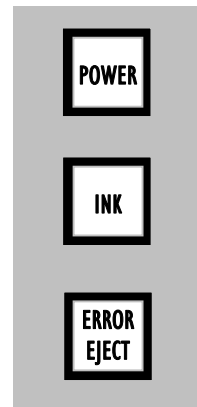


Figure 1: Internal control buttons

For the next series of steps, release the print head from the capping station as shown below.

1. Press gently against the side of the print head here (in the direction of normal print head travel),

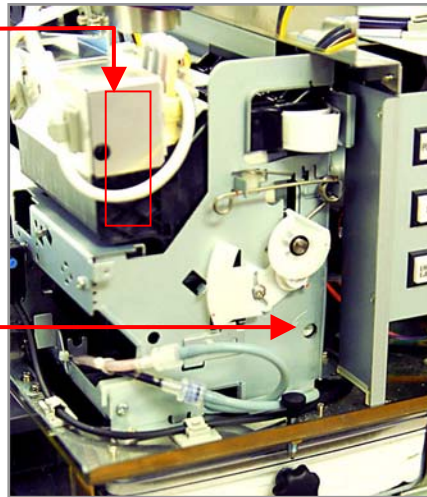


Figure 2: Side of head & capping station

2. While turning this screw counter-clockwise (turn until you feel the gears engage, then keep turning until the print head breaks free.

3. Slide the print head free of the capping station and continue turning the screw until the wiper swings upwards and level.

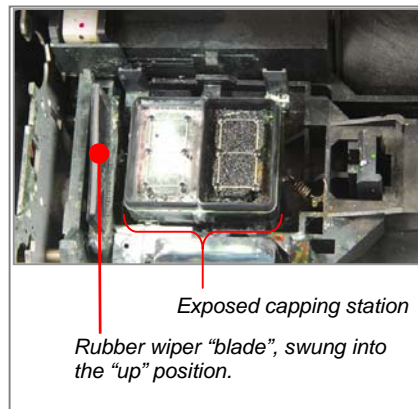
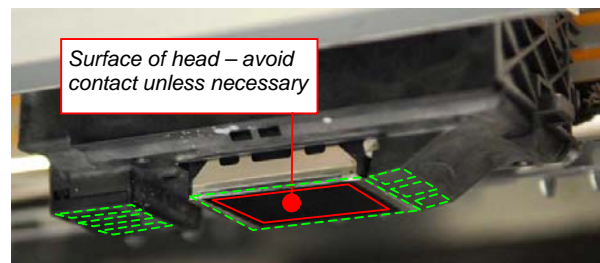


Figure 3: Capping station & wiper

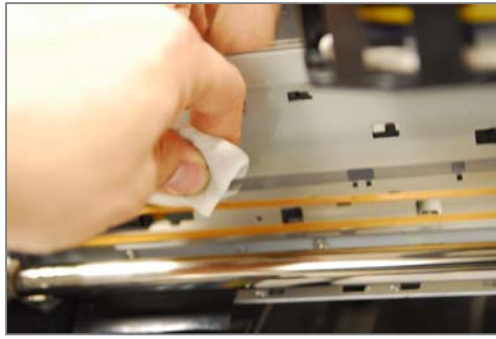
2. **Clean the capping station.** (figure 3), clean the wiper blade and the top edges of the capping station, removing any buildup of white or color ink. If neglected, a “skin” of white ink can coat the upper surface of the wiper. “Skins” of white ink will also coat the upper lip of the capping station when this is neglected. (notice there is a white ink side and a color ink side). Use the included green-handled foam swabs that came with your kit, and ammonia-based window cleaner (i.e. Windex [but not the variety with wax] or a foaming ammonia-based glass/surface cleaner). Remove any bits of solidified ink (or other debris) with tweezers from the surface of the capping station.

3. **Clean around the print head.** Using the fiber-free wipes that came with your cleaning kit, wipe around the print head itself. Soak the wipe in (isopropyl) rubbing alcohol, and wipe any buildup of ink on the plastic around the print head. If the print head needs to be cleaned, **only dab at its surface – DO NOT WIPE across it!**

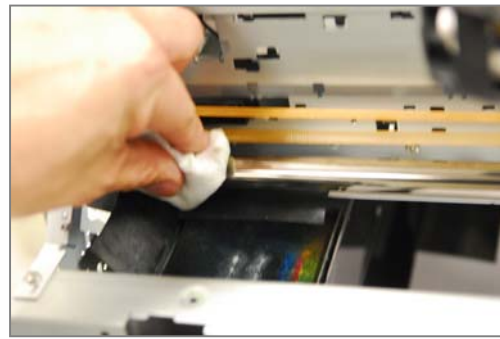


Wipe the spots marked in green to prevent buildup of dried ink. Wipe **around** the edges of the print head, but do not touch the print head unless needed.

4. Two more areas to wipe with alcohol. Once finished wiping the head with the fiber-free cloth, you can address these 2 additional areas with the same cloth, shown below, in the following order:



1. Wipe the clear plastic **encoder strip** of any ink buildup. Try to find a clean patch of the alcohol-soaked cloth to do this. Wipe its entire length.



2. Wipe the chrome-colored main carriage bar of any ink buildup using the same fiber-free cloth.

The above 2 areas can be wiped every few days, although daily wiping won't hurt. If performed regularly, only a couple of quick swipes should be enough to prevent ink buildup.

5. Clean the waste ink drain pad over the dump station located on the right side of the printer (side opposite the head or capping station). Lift out and clean the square metal grate and wash as well. If washed regularly (once every 2 or 3 days of use), these can be flushed quickly with warm, soapy water. Most importantly, this pad should not be allowed to harden with encrustations of ink, which would not only prevent absorption of dumped ink, but also any splashing from the dumping action. When practical, keep the sponge damp to maximize absorptivity.



Waste ink drain pad

6. Re-dock the head onto the capping station. You can do this by pressing the **POWER** button, which powers off the head after the head re-docks onto the capping station.



ADDITIONAL NOTES

Leaving the Head Powered On: The factory officially recommends that the head be left on (as well as main power). This allows the ink circulation system to release a small amount of ink every 6 hours (every 3rd circulation cycle) from the head (which drains into the waste ink tray below the head) to eliminate the risk of drying and clogging.

In field tests, head power has been left off intermittently (week on, week off) to reduce long-term ink consumption, without any observed penalty. *Disclaimer: It is always best to follow the manufacturer's recommendations.*

Clean only on days you print: It is OK to perform the daily/weekly cleaning described in this document only on days when the printer is used.

Perform a head cleaning just before printing. In addition to the daily cleanings, perform an auto-head cleaning [by pressing and holding the **INK** button 4 seconds, just as described in step 1 of this document] first thing every day before printing.

