

ACORN AutoClay

Trouble Shooting Guidelines

WARNING: BEFORE any maintenance or Trouble Shooting, you MUST put the trap in the STORED position (see AutoClay Launcher Operating Schematic) with the launch Spring DISCONNECTED. From here, connect the battery and move the Launch Arm to the 12 O'clock position AND ENSURE your fingers remain away from the Launch Arm swinging arc. FAILURE to keep fingers clear could lead to substantial injury.

1) Question: Trap fires without stopping

a) Answer: The Launch “Trigger” (ie Footswitch etc) is stuck in the ON position:

Disconnect from the plug to verify if it is stuck. Check that the plug/socket is not full of water.

b) Answer: The “Stop” Reed Switch under the Launch Arm not working:

Check that the Reed Switch (see figure below) and magnet (on the Launch Arm) are in position. If the magnet or Reed Switch is damaged or missing they must be replaced.



c) Answer: The Spring Crank has rotated anticlockwise past ‘Top Dead Centre’:

Advance the Reed Switch by slackening the mounting plate and moving it towards the rotation of the Launch Arm: If set too finely this effect can sometimes appear after prolonged use or during hot weather when the mechanism has loosened up.

2) Question: The Trap fails to fire clays:-

a) Answer: The 12 v Battery is flat:

Make sure the battery is fully charged.

b) Answer: The fuse may be Blown:

Replace fuse on power lead (15 amp for the AutoClay 65 and 30 amp for the AutoClay 300).

c) Answer: There is a poor Connection:

Check for proper connections to the battery, and check the battery leads and crocodile clips are not damaged. Also check all electrical connections ie Motor Leads etc.

d) Answer: You may have a faulty Launch “Trigger” (ie Footswitch etc):

Check that the release button is making contact: Short OUTER contacts on the socket to verify. (DO NOT make contact with the centre pin, which has 12 volts in it and is used for an optional radio release).

e) Answer: Defective Launch Motor:

Do a voltage check on the Launch Motor, replace if necessary.

3) Question: The Clays are breaking on launch.

a) Answer: Damaged “pick-ups” on the clay:

Check the clay before re-using for chips or cracks.

b) Answer: The clays maybe soft:

Reduce the Launch Spring pressure.

c) Answer: The Launch Arm maybe bent:

Check that the Launch Arm is straight:- if the arm appears to be bent carefully straighten the arm. If this does not work, the Launch Arm must be replaced.

d) Answer: The Friction Strip on the Launch Arm is worn or damaged:

Check and replace if necessary.

e) Answer: Clays are being nipped by the Launch Arm:

Ensure the Launch Plate height is set correctly.

f) Answer: The Launch Arm has moved from its correct setting:

Check that the Launch Arm and Spring Crank are correctly aligned.



g) Answer: There may be a build up of dirt underneath the soft landing plate (stainless plate on the Launch Plate):

Clean out any residue from underneath this plate.

h) Answer: The Launch Plate may be dirty:

This can increase friction and cause breakage. Simply clean the plate with a suitable solvent cleaner.

4) Question: The Clays are not feeding.

a) Answer: The clays maybe wet or sticky:

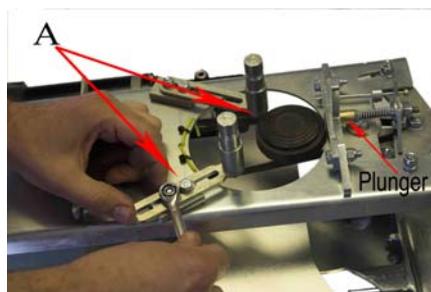
i) For the AutoClay 300, check if the Carousel is turning correctly. Ensure the white nylon Pawl block is freely moving (see centre left of photo).



4) Question: Clays not feeding for the AutoClay 65:-

b) Answer: The clay supports are not fully opening in the Clay feed mechanism.

The two black, sprung steel Clay Supports run inside the clay drop hole, see photo Clay feed mechanism. Check that these clay adjusters are set for the correct size of clay, see Step 6) Setting the clay dropping mechanism in the AutoClay 65 Manual.



Clay feed mechanism

c) OR Check that the clay separator (the small stainless steel needle with spring) is reaching and parting the clays.

d) OR The Plunger is sticking (which has a brass and nylon head):

Keep the plunger clean and check the setting (see photo Clay feed mechanism).