

F-5 LETTERS: Comet 40 Maintenance

Bob: I got my first issue of *King Midget News* and have read it cover to cover a few times. I especially enjoyed the tech article on Comet clutches. I was considering using a Comet 40 series clutch on another project, but after reading the KMN article, I will probably use a 44 or 98 instead.

A few ideas on the 40. I'd suggest making the rollers as smooth as possible including removing the ridges. If a lathe is not available, a drill press could be used along with a file or grinder. A broad, flat surface would spread the load and retard wear. I would also replace the clips with rods which are a slip fit in the roller bores and cross-drill the ends for the spring hooks. Finally, I suggest using no lube or dry lube only.

These ideas at least have the advantage of being inexpensive and easy to try. Another possible but more costly solution is to have the hub ramps and rollers polished and hard chromed to increase "slickness" and wear resistance. **Ed Werick**

*Thanks Ed, we've poked around this subject a bit further here at our Western Chapter, mostly seeking the best lubricant. If you or anyone else has additional tips on Comet 40 design and maintenance, please let us know. Personally, I plan to try loosening my belt a bit (if I ever get time for barn work!) because I suspect my Predator's fast idle is not allowing total disengagement at some stops, leading to a jolt when starting up again. Following is some lubricant information from **Randy Chesnutt**:*

The ingredient for chemical stuff is found in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). I rechecked the Loctite MSDS and found that the product no longer has molybdenum disulfide (Moly) in it! The product name "Moly Film Lubricant" implies it does. I have a copy of the original MSDS and it shows Moly and graphite listed as an ingredient. Having Moly and graphite in the same dry lubricant is the best lubricant. So now there's only graphite in the product ... false advertising?

CRC is another company that makes a dry moly lubricant. See this link:

http://www.crcindustries.com/ei/product_detail.aspx?id=03084

The MSDS shows 1-5 % by weight. CRC also makes a dry graphite lubricant.

http://www.crcindustries.com/ei/product_detail.aspx?id=03094

The MSDS shows less than 2% by weight. Graphite as a dry lubricant is easier to find. A wet lubricant will attract dirt, etc. Not desirable on our clutches. WD-40 is not a desirable product to use.

Here is the MSDS on WD-40: <http://www.wd40company.com/files/pdf/msds-wd494716385.pdf>

Note in item No. 3 that it only has Petroleum Base Oil. No molybdenum disulfide (Moly) or graphite.