

HOOF BUFFER MAINTENANCE

by Allen Horton, FPD Inc.

We sometimes receive Hoof Buffer attachments which have been reported as leaking. In most cases the fix for these units is quick and simple. Often these attachments need nothing more than a little tune up.

The most common problem encountered is a loose valve stem. These units turn quite fast and there is a possibility that the stem can become loose. If you encounter a leak this is the first place to look. The Hoof Buffer units are provided with a valve stem wrench. Sometimes the valve stem will get debris in it which prevents it from working properly. Use the provided valve stem wrench to remove the stem and check it for debris. If you encounter a leak this is the first place to check. The valve stem should be snug, not overtightened.

There are also eight screws that secure the bladder to the tool. These screws should be checked periodically. Tighten them on the diagonal so that one side doesn't become pinched. The bladders can become worn over time and need replacing. This is an inexpensive and simple maintenance procedure. Simply loosen the screws, remove the worn bladder and replace with a new bladder. Be sure the bladder is seated with the lip of the bladder completely over the end of the chamber. Tighten the screws on the diagonal to keep even pressure on the seal.

If you are experiencing a leak and can't identify where the leak is originating it may be helpful to spray the unit with soapy water or submerge in a bucket of water. This will show the source of the leak.

We see very few Hoof Buffers which can't be repaired. Most can be made good as new with minimal time and effort.



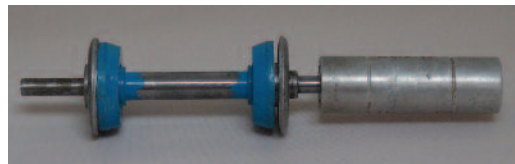
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1. Hoof Buffer as it comes from the package. Buffer, valve stem, and valve stem wrench.



2. Hoof Buffer before maintenance work begins.



3. Hoof Buffer with bladder removed and ready for new bladder.



4. Hoof buffer handle.



5. Hoof buffer with new bladder properly covering end of buffer.



6. Putting screws back in place. Note diagonal tightening of screws.