

Power Base and Power Base Lite Users

Dirty Gears, Stretched Belts and other reasons for slow performance

Some users mistakenly think that they need a new motor when their power base seems to slow down. However, most of the time this “slow down” is caused by other factors.

The ball winder is normally the cause. It gets clogged with fiber inside the gear system. This occurs slowly over weeks and months of use (yarn shops) or years (for knitters at home).



These first 2 photos show an extremely filthy situation. This unit was basically “locked up” and could no longer operate until it was cleaned out. The one on the right was pretty clean except shortly after it was cleaned a clump of yarn got inside. This resulted in a “clunking” sound every time it went around.

Users need to routinely clean their winders out yearly (in a shop environment) and every 2-3 years (at home). We have a video which goes into extreme detail on how to clean the unit.

The reason our motorized unit may start to slow down is because it gets clogged up as you can see above. The motor is strong but not as strong as your arm believe it or not. Also, the handle and your arm have tremendous leverage because of the handle design. So the motor will notice the dirty gear situation long before your arm will if you have a manual crank model.

Another reason the motor may appear to lose energy is because the clear belts tend to stretch in response to dirty gears and other conditions (o-ring too tight, inefficient swift, etc.). So check your belts for stretching, check your gears for fiber, and most importantly check your black o-ring tightness for excessive tightness (see [video](#) on youtube).

If your motor has between 1,200-2,000 hours of actual run-time, it may need to be replaced. The motors are “rated” for 2,000 hours (a pure guesstimate) but this can be more or less depending on how hard you work it. If your ball winder is dirty and the belts are stretched and the black o-ring is too tight you will get closer to 1,200 hours (it is like a human’s heart – if you smoke, drink, and are overweight you will not last as long as another person who is fit).

Motors are easy to install. We will need to know what color your current belts are that run between the ball winder and the motor. If you use black or orange belts, you will need new pulleys and belts when you order a new high torque motor. Users that already use clear belts will just need the new motor.

Need more info? Call 800-731-5648 (919-387-9197 International) or email info@nancysknitknacks.com