

Maintaining AccuCut Machine and Dies

Librarians and other AccuCut users have begun noticing that their AccuCut dies are not cutting like they should and wonder if they need to repurchase new dies. It is not the dies, but the roller and tray that need to be replaced.

When the roller is new, it is black and as the machine is used, the rule (metal) of the dies score into the roller as it cuts out the various shapes. Eventually the roller gets to the point where the dies no longer cut well. The roller is now very grey and may even have paper embedded into it. This is a good indication that it is time for a new roller.

The tray is part of the equation, as it should lay flat. As more dies are run through the machine, the tray slowly becomes warped and no longer lays flat which affects the cutting of the dies as well. In addition, if a die is accidentally placed foam down instead of foam side up and run through the machine; the die will etch the image into the metal which will also cause the tray to not lay flat.

Remember, with heavy use the roller and tray can become worn which affects the die performance. The best thing to do is to replace the roller and tray. We typically recommend updating both the roller and tray on a yearly basis.

[Click here](#) for a quick video of how easy it is to change the roller.

Tips & Hints:

- If there is a straight edge on your die, angle your die when rolling it through the roller – it will have a cleaner cut.
- If you notice cuts in your MarkIV tray, a suggestion is to write in permanent marker “Foam Side Up.”
- If you are noticing the rule (metal blade) starting to work its way out of the back of the die – lay it foam side down on a kitchen cutting board and use a rubber mallet to pound it until it is flush with the wooden base.
- If you need to “clean” your die, keep a lint brush near your die cutting machine and anytime you see paper on the dies, clean it up that way.
- DO NOT use anything with liquid as that will make the foam deteriorate.
- Use a die pick (PA710AC \$4) to remove any paper that is wedged in next to the rule. It can affect the cut image.

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