



877-99-FIESTA

Aligning Cooling Drums, Augers and Hoppers

When your Bunn Ultra machine was sent out brand new from the factory, it included two little black plastic supports that were on the ends of the auger shafts where the shafts stick out from the front of the silver cooling drums. In their haste to unpack their new machine and get started, almost everyone believes these are packing material that is to be thrown out with the cardboard box the machine arrived in. Unfortunately, these are not only designed to protect the cooling drums in transit they are also alignment tools to be used during the life of the machine.

The Cooling Drums are mounted on the back to a support structure inside the plastic at the back of each hopper. The cooling drums are heavy and long, and it is easy for someone to push down on the drum and bend the mount, or to try to pick up or move the machine using the cooling drums as the grab point. Unfortunately the mount is regularly bent in these activities, putting the cooling drum in an out-of-alignment condition. When this happens, it is normal to hear the auger scraping the inside of the hopper or the cooling drum itself, and in severe cases stopping the auger from turning at all because it is jammed hard into the hopper.

The cooling drums are an empty stainless “can” into which a coil of copper tubing is placed and epoxied against the inside walls of the drum. A plastic tube is placed in the center to allow room for the auger shaft to pass through, and then the remaining space is filled with foam. High pressure liquid refrigerant enters the copper tubing inside the cooling drum and is turned into a gas – the technical name for the cooling drum is the evaporator (because the liquid evaporates into a gas). This chemical reaction causes the drum to get cold (ask a chemist about endothermic reactions if you want more information about this process). If the cooling drum is stressed by rapid lifting or pushing down, it can cause a refrigerant leak. Replacing a damaged cooling drum is very expensive, so using a few dollars of plastic supports is well worth the cost and effort to prevent shelling out about \$800 to replace a cooling drum.

You should have a cooling drum support for each cooling drum you have. First, when you put the machine away between uses or for the winter, installing the cooling drum supports will prevent the drums from being pushed down when someone decides to pile a box or other heavy object on top of the machine. It is not uncommon for a home machine to be put in a garage and then have to be dug out from under a pile of junk before it can be used again, or a machine placed in the back room for the winter and then heavy boxes of products piled on top of the machine. That pile of junk will push down on and damage the cooling drums if you do not install the supports first. So rule number one is to install the cooling drum supports every time the machine goes into storage.

Over time, it is not unusual for the cooling drum to receive a bump here or there, moving it out of alignment. The cooling drum must stay aligned with the backing plate, the tray the hopper sits in, and the hopper. If it is not in alignment, the auger will scratch against the inside of the hopper and the outside of the cooling drum as it turns, scratching the hopper and drum and making screeching noises that become unbearable. The Cooling drum support can be used to properly align the cooling drum to prevent this rubbing and scratching.

Please contact us at ask@margaritaguys.com if you have any questions.

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