

Cleaning the Timing Strip on Your Canon Printer

The timing strip is a clear, plastic strip approximately ¼” in height positioned horizontally across the center of the unit, just in front of the carriage drive belt. The timing strip contains many thin black vertical lines that help determine the carriage position during operation.

During certain uncommon tasks such as the removal of a paper jam, it is possible to inadvertently touch a lubricated area on the printer’s chassis causing a small amount of grease to be deposited onto the timing strip.

Grease on the timing strip may result in poor print quality including; mis-aligned or distorted characters, vertical lines or, in some cases, an inoperable error condition or knocking / grinding noise.

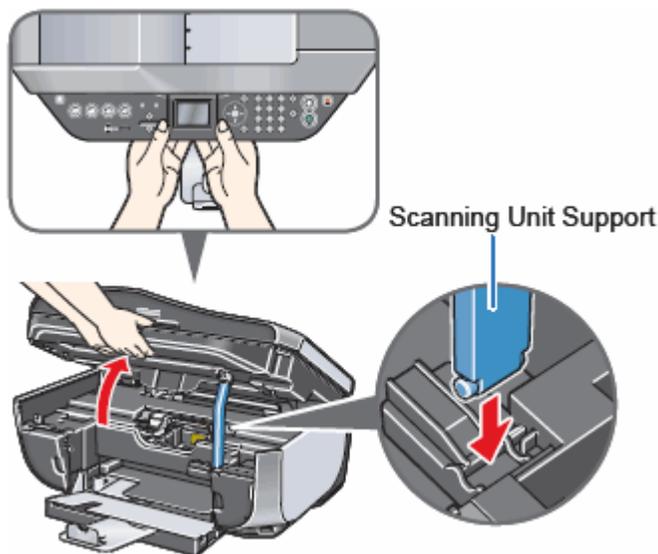
In most cases, it is easy to remove the grease from the timing strip using common household items. If you wish, you may follow the steps below to remove the grease from the timing strip.

Items needed:

- Clean, unused cotton swab
- Small amount of Isopropyl Alcohol or window cleaner
- Flashlight or other light source

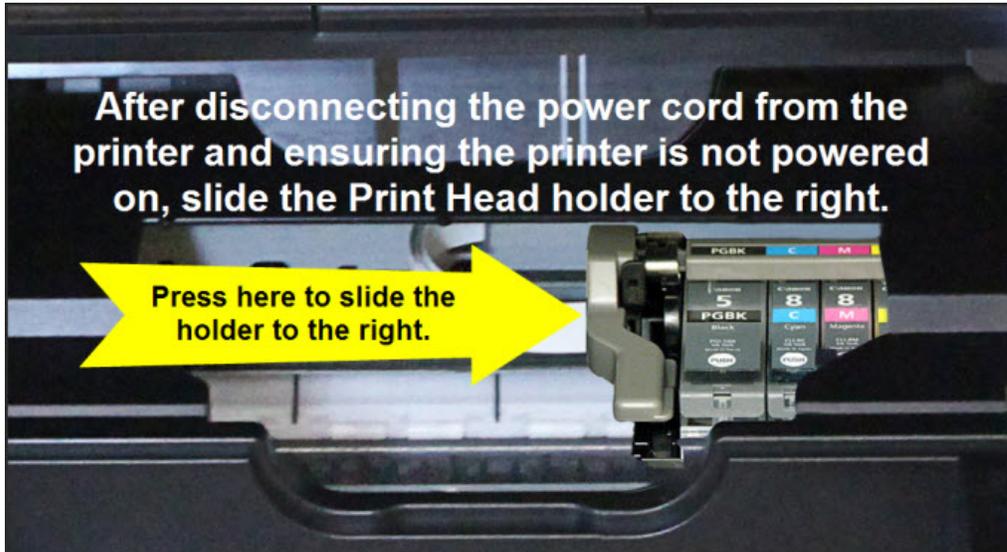
Note: The illustrations will display a PIXMA MX700; however, the parts and cleaning procedure will be the same for your model.

- 1) Power on the printer and open the main access cover (scanning unit cover).
The Print Head Holder (carriage) will move to ink changing (center) position.

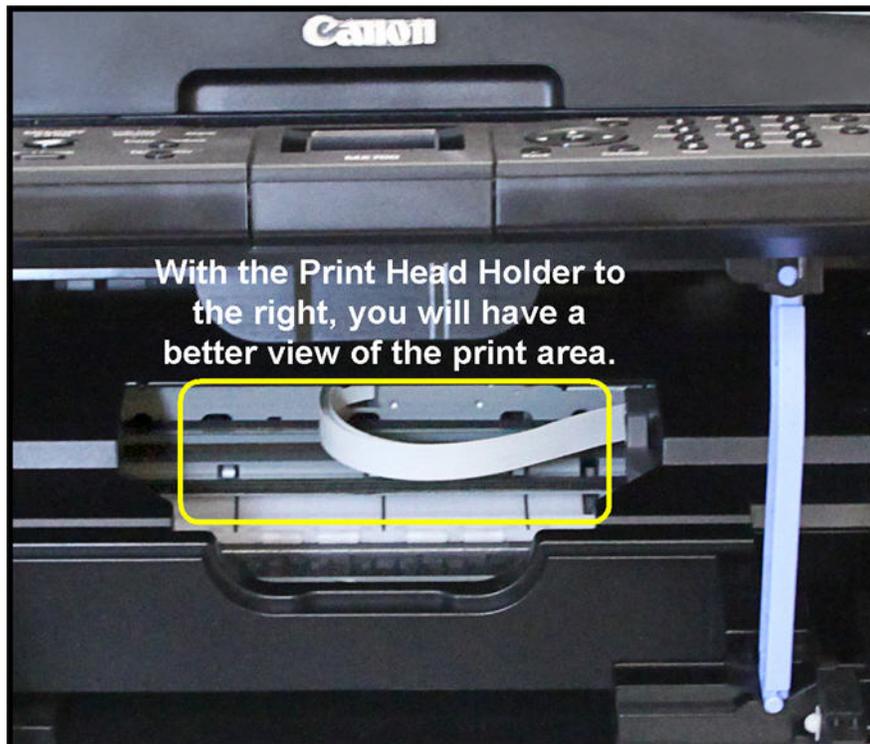


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- 2) With the access cover open, unplug the power cord from the printer. Be sure the printer's power LED is no longer illuminated. This will allow you to easily slide the carriage left to right.
- 3) Gently slide the carriage to the right side of the printer until it stops.



Carriage is centered



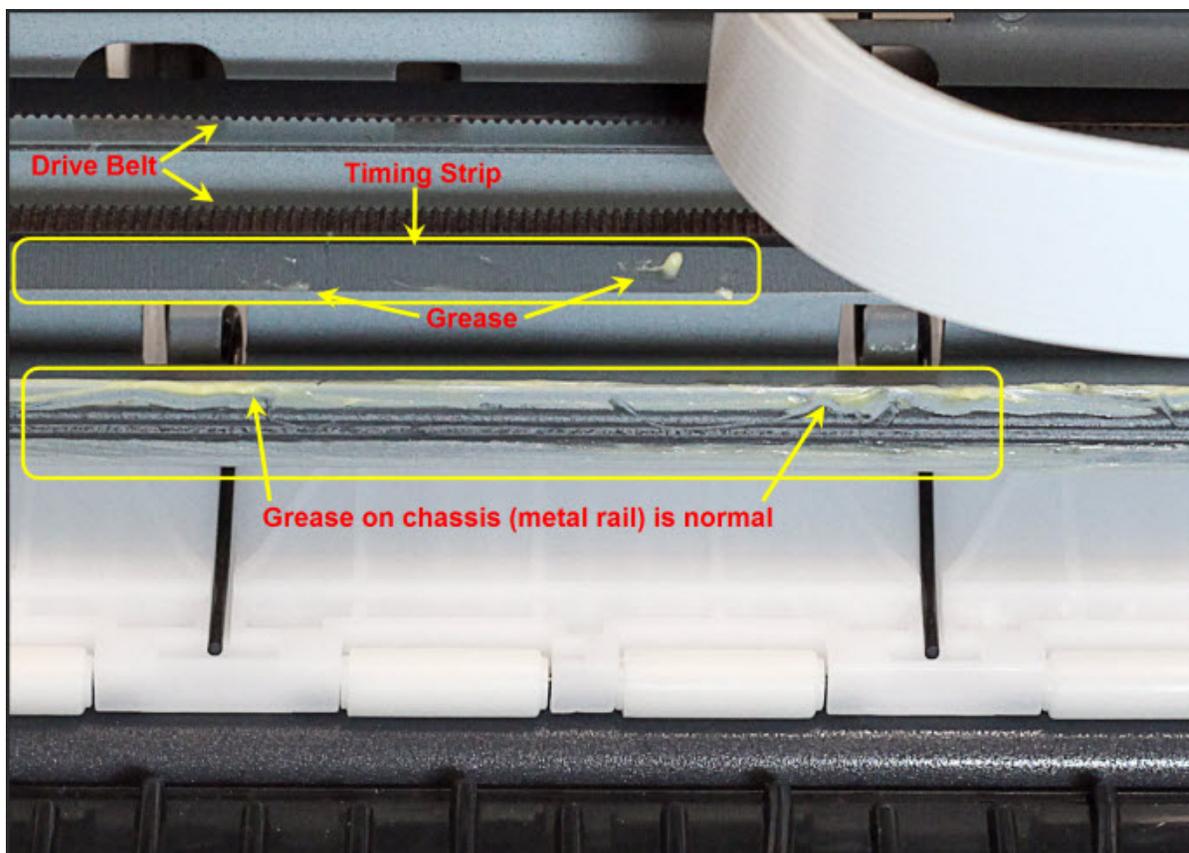
Carriage is to the right

- 4) Using a flashlight, carefully inspect the timing strip for grease that may have attached to the timing strip. It is helpful to view the timing strip from several angles as even a small amount of

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grease can impact print quality.

Note: The timing strip is in front of the carriage drive belt.



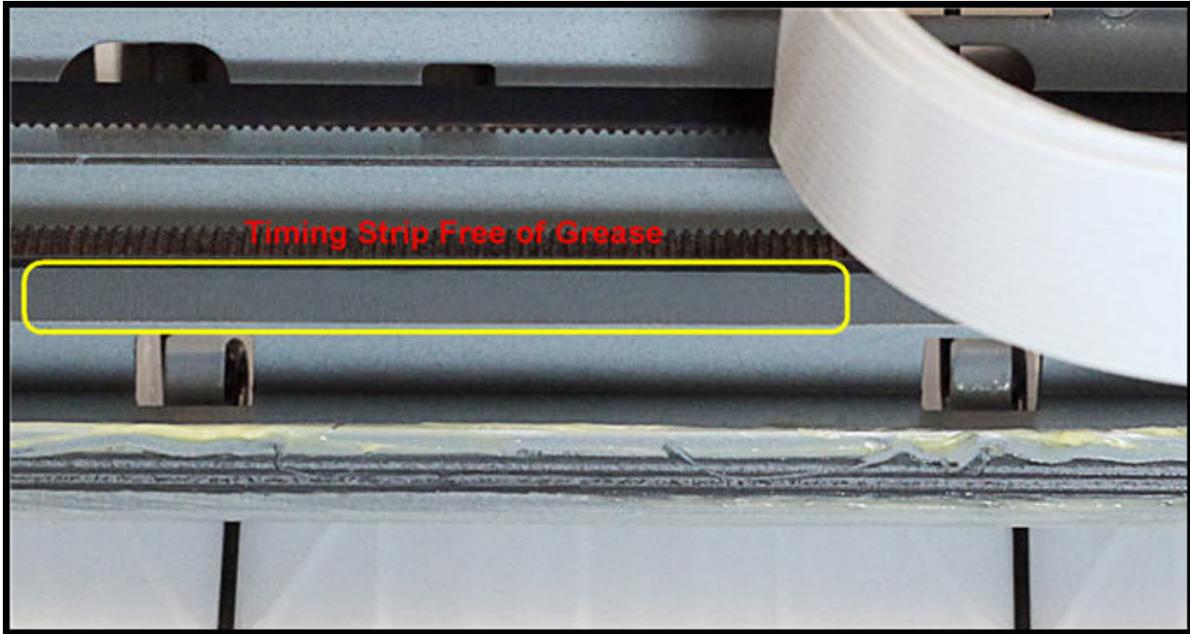
- 5) Moisten the cotton swab with Isopropyl alcohol and carefully remove the grease from the timing strip. To prevent further spreading of grease, be careful not to touch the chassis or other areas inside the unit which may contain grease from the factory.

Note: If Isopropyl Alcohol is not available, you may use window cleaner solution.

CAUTION: Do not remove the grease on the chassis (metal rail).

- 6) Once you have confirmed that the left and center portions of the timing strip are clean, gently slide the carriage all the way to the left until it stops.
- 7) Repeat steps 4 & 5 for inspecting the right side of the timing strip until is completely free of grease and other matter.

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- 8) Lift the scanning unit support and then close the printer's main access cover.
- 9) Reconnect the power cord and power on the printer.
(The indicator light blinks steadily while the printer initializes.)
- 10) Confirm operation of the unit by printing a photo or other print sample such as a [Nozzle Check Pattern](#). If print quality is still poor, repeat the above steps.

(e.g. A nozzle check pattern can be printed via the printer's menu (Settings > Maintenance > Nozzle Check Pattern). Otherwise, select "Nozzle Check" pattern from the maintenance tab of the printer driver properties on your computer.)

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Nozzle Check Pattern:

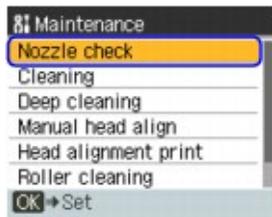
- 1) Make sure that the machine is powered on, open the Paper Output Tray, and extend the Output Tray Extension.
- 2) Load a sheet of A4 or Letter-sized plain paper in the Rear Tray or the Front Tray.
- 3) Press the Feed Switch to select the paper source where you have loaded paper.
- 4) Print the nozzle check pattern.
 - a. Press the <Menu> button.
 - b. Press the < (left) or > (right) button to select [Maintenance/settings], then press the <OK> button.

The **Maintenance/settings** screen is displayed.

- c. Press the < (left) or > (right) button to select [Maintenance], then press the <OK> button.

The **Maintenance** screen is displayed.

- d. Press the up or down button to select [Nozzle check] and then press the <OK> button.



The pattern print confirmation screen is displayed.

- e. Press the up or down button to select [Yes] and then press the <OK> button.

The nozzle check pattern is printed, and the pattern confirmation screens are displayed alternately.

- 5) [Examine](#) the pattern and take the appropriate action.

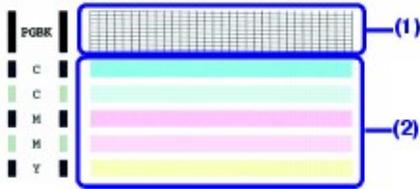
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Examining the Nozzle Check Pattern:

Examine the nozzle check pattern, and perform cleaning if necessary.

Note: If the ink level is low, the nozzle check pattern will not print correctly. To resolve this, replace the relevant ink tank.

- 1) Check the nozzle check pattern you printed.



- a. Check if lines in this pattern are missing.



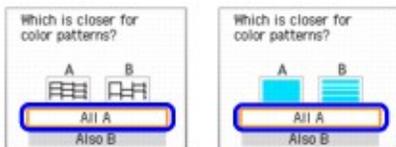
- (A) Good
(B) Lines are missing

- b. Check if there are white streaks in this pattern.



- (A) Good
(B) White streaks present

- 2) The confirmation screens for white streaks and missing lines are displayed alternately. Select the pattern that is closest to the nozzle check pattern that you printed.



- a. If there are no missing lines and no white streaks, select [All A] and press the <OK> button.

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- b. If lines are missing or white streaks are present, select [Also B] and press the <OK> button.

The cleaning confirmation screen is displayed.

- c. Select [Yes] and press the <OK> button to start **Print Head Cleaning**.