

Re: replacing head assy in a hard drive

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2005-12/msg00228.html>

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- *From:* Sam Goldwasser <[sam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:sam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 04 Dec 2005 08:05:40 -0500
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In two words: Forget it. Sorry, the cleanroom and alignment issues are just so far beyond what you likely have available, that the chances of success are about as close to zero as the odds of winning the lottery twice in a row.

If the data was that valuable, you should have sent the unopened drive to a data recovery service.

--- sam | Sci.Electronics.Repair FAQ: <http://www.repairfaq.org/Repair> | Main Table of Contents: <http://www.repairfaq.org/REPAIR/> +Lasers | Sam's Laser FAQ: <http://www.repairfaq.org/sam/lasersam.htm> | Mirror Sites: [http://www.repairfaq.org/REPAIR/F\\_mirror.html](http://www.repairfaq.org/REPAIR/F_mirror.html)

Important: Anything sent to the email address in the message header above is ignored unless my full name is included in the subject line. Or, you can contact me via the Feedback Form in the FAQs.

JazzMan <[No\\_Spam@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:No_Spam@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> writes:

> Ryan Underwood wrote:  
>>  
>> Hello.  
>>  
>> I have a click-of-death 4-platter Maxtor drive. It failed clicky while  
>> running. So I believe that this is not a firmware issue or an issue with the  
>> hidden data on the drive, nor simply due to bad sectors. By process of  
>> elimination, it seems to be either the electronics, the heads or the head  
>> amplifier. I obtained an identical drive and swapped the board, which did not  
>> change things. So now I am thinking about trying to replace the head assembly.  
>> I have attempted this before, on a Toshiba 2.5" drive with 5 platters, and met  
>> with no success.  
>>  
>> I recall two problems I had at the time. One was that when removing the voice  
>> coil magnet, it seemed to be awfully close to the platters for comfort. Is  
>> there any risk to the platters if this magnet is removed, as long as it stays  
>> as far away from them as it did when mounted to the coil?  
>>  
>> The other problem was that when I slid the heads off the platters, they slapped  
>> together. I believe this may have instantly destroyed them, but I'm not

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> > certain. It seems like I need some kind of "comb" type thing to keep the heads  
> > separated while off the platters. Anyone have any bright ideas?  
> >  
>  
> Before we can proceed further, we need to know what class  
> clean room you are working in.  
>  
> JazzMan  
>  
> --  
> \*\*\*\*\*  
> Please reply to jsavage"at"airmail.net.  
> Curse those darned bulk e-mailers!  
> \*\*\*\*\*  
> "Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of  
> supply and demand. It is the privilege of human beings to  
> live under the laws of justice and mercy." – Wendell Berry  
> \*\*\*\*\*  
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• **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **Re: replacing head assy in a hard drive**  
◇ From: stickyfox@xxxxxxxx

• **References:**

- ◆ **replacing head assy in a hard drive**  
◇ From: Ryan Underwood
- ◆ **Re: replacing head assy in a hard drive**  
◇ From: JazzMan

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