

## Re: replacing head assy in a hard drive

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- *From:* Ken <[user@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:user@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 04 Dec 2005 14:38:04 GMT
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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 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?

Thanks.

I agree with the other posters, but there is the freezer technique that I would try before giving up if there is data you wish to recover. I trust you know what I am referring to??? My guess is that it is the disk that is more likely to be your problem, rather than the heads. If that is true, your head swap effort would be for naught even if you were successful, and that is unlikely.

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