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ImageWriter II: Worn Spring Affects Print Quality

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TOPIC -----

I have seen numerous ImageWriter II printers with this problem: once or twice in a page (during test print) the printing gets very light for a word or two, and then goes back to normal. Sometimes ribbon quality is blamed, but other times a new ribbon changes nothing.

I had one on which I changed the wire and gears that drive the ribbon, and it still did it. Moving the carriage back and forth by hand and holding the ribbon-advance knob with light pressure shows that sometimes the knob stops spinning briefly, as if the wire were sliding on the pulley. However, everything looks physically okay.

DISCUSSION -----

The most common cause for the ribbon to stop spinning intermittently is a worn spring: the spring that maintains constant tension on the nylon wire that drives the ribbon-drive gear assembly. If the spring is worn, the constantly-varying tension within the ribbon cartridge (transmitted to the gear assembly), causes the nylon wire to slip.

Try replacing either the Ribbon Wire/Spring assembly (service part number 935-0001) or the spring only (available as a part of the Miscellaneous Hardware Kit, part number 076-0317).

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