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## REMANUFACTURING THE HP LASERJET 1160/1320 TONER CARTRIDGE

### By Mike Josiah

First introduced in September 2004, HP-1160/1320 series of laser printers is based on 20-22 ppm, 1200dpi Canon engine that comes standard with 16MB memory. The fuser is of the instant-on variety and along with a new processor it prints the first page out in less than 8.5 seconds (that is actually 0.5 seconds slower than the 1300). Two different cartridges are available for the 1320, the Q5949A rated at 2,500 pages, and the Q5949X rated for 6,000 pages. For the 1160, only the Q5949A cartridge will fit. Shown are the different physical sizes of the two cartridges:



Spec wise, the old 1300 series is very similar to these new printers. The 1160 and 1320 actually have a 0.5 seconds slower first page out speed! The biggest difference in these machines is that these newer models have wireless modems built in, a nice touch. My main complaint with the 1200/1300 series was always the flimsy paper trays. These machines have an internal, more robust paper tray that should hold up much better than the old design. For that change alone, I like these machines. The cartridges are similar in design to the 1200/1300 cartridges, but are not interchangeable. Shown below and in the following page are the physical cosmetic cartridge differences.

























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The chips on these cartridges follow the normal HP pattern in that they disable the toner low features on the printer if re-used. The chips must be replaced if you want the toner low/toner out features to work. New replacement chips are available.

The pin system holding the two halves of the cartridge together is similar to the HP-1200/1300. You will need to cut two small holes cut in the top to get access to the pins. The hole location on these cartridges is almost identical, and the same methods you use for the 1200 should work here.

HP has been quoted as stating: "We consciously make sure that our cartridges are reusable and refillable." Well, in my opinion that is now changing. Although the chips do not shut the cartridge down, the design of the cartridges has changed to make opening and more importantly keeping the alignment correct during assembly much more difficult. Screws have been replaced by plastic rivets and ultrasonic welds, fill plugs have been eliminated. Some of those changes can be attributed to cutting manufacturing costs. On this series of cartridges however, there are also the alignment pins for the magnetic roller hubs. These pin used to be just round plastic pins that the hub fit over. But now they are welded, and must be broken to fill the cartridge. There seems to be a trend in the newer HP cartridges to make remanufacturing them more difficult.

Cartridge troubleshooting as well as running test pages, cleaning pages and some simple printer troubleshooting will be covered at the end of this article.





#### **SUPPLIES REQUIRED**

- 1. HP 1200 toner for the Q5949A cartridge (2500 pages)
- 2. HP 1200 toner for the Q5949X cartridge (6000 pages)
- 3. New Drum
- 4. Wiper Blade (HP-1200)
- 5. Doctor Blade
- 6. Magnetic Roller
- 7. Sealing Strip
- 8. Cotton Swabs
- 9. Isopropyl Alcohol
- 10. Drum Padding Powder

## **TOOLS REQUIRED**

- 1. Allen wrench or modified spring hook to push pins out (see text)
- 2. Phillips head screwdriver
- 3. Small common screwdriver
- 4. Dremel type tool with side grinding bit

The pins in these cartridges are very similar to HP 1200/1300. The best way to remove them without damaging the cartridge is to cut two small holes. Other than the location, it is basically the same procedure as the 1200/1300.





1. Remove the drum cover by prying up on each end. Note the spring position so that it can be replaced later.







2. Drill a shallow hole on each side of the cartridge as indicated: Holes uncut.





Holes cut.







3. Push the pins out with a jeweler's screwdriver. With the hole in this location by just pushing the screwdriver in, the pins will be pushed out. Remove the pins.



4. Separate the two halves.



5. Cut two small pieces of plastic out from the hub surrounding the metal axle pin. Cut them on the opposite side of each other. This way you can pry the pin out with a small jeweler's screwdriver, and flush cutting wire cutters.







6. The drum hub that on earlier cartridges would have been removed is now welded. The weld can be broken or drilled out, but there is a good chance that the hub will either warp if pried off, or will be hard to align if drilled out.



7. Remove the drum.



8. Remove the PCR and clean with your standard PCR cleaner. We have been using Nu-Finish for years with out any problems.



9. Remove the wiper blade. The blade is the same as used in the HP 1200. Clean out the waste toner.







10. Coat the wiper blade with your preferred lubricant and install.



11. Re-install the cleaned PCR. Note that a new OEM PCR has a small amount of conductive grease on the black (contact) side and what appears to be white lithium grease on the other.







12. Re-Install the OPC drum and metal axle pin. The metal axle pin should have a good amount of conductive grease on the tip. Remove the old grease and replace before inserting the pin. Place a small amount of grease on the inside of the drive gear as indicated.



Make sure the axle pin is fully inserted.







13. Remove the left side toner hopper end cap. Remove the two screws, and pry the end cap off.

The Mag roller bushing alignment pin will break.



14. Remove the magnetic roller assembly.



15. Remove the Magnetic roller drive gear and bushing if it did not come off with the roller.







16. Replacing the magnetic roller sleeve is an easy task. Just press down on the stationary magnet and the plastic hub will pop out.



17. Remove the doctor blade and two screws.



18. Clean out any remaining toner from the hopper. Note the doctor blade seal. It is a sticky substance that can be cleaned with alcohol if toner gets on it.



19. Fill through the Mag roller opening with the appropriate amount of 1320 toner for the "A" cartridge, and for the "X". There is no fill plug in these cartridges.







20. If you are going to seal the cartridge, there is a white plastic shelf that needs to be removed.



21. The shelf is held on with double sided tape. The seal tab fits through the right side of the cartridge (fill plug side). Shown is the seal exit slot.



22. Close up is the port seal. Note that it is a rubber gasket that seals off the opening. This port seal must be removed before inserting a seal. Make sure it is put back or the cartridge will leak after the seal has been removed.







23. Re-install the white plastic shelf. If the adhesive is not working, replace it with a good double sided tape. This shelf in our first tests seems to help the flow of toner in the hopper.



24. Re-install the doctor blade and two screws.



25. Clean the old grease off the contact plate and replace with new conductive grease.



26. Re-assemble the toner hopper section. Place the Mag roller drive gear in place and install the magnetic roller assembly. Turn the roller until the keyed end fits into the drive gear properly. Install the end cap. Align the keyed magnet into the keyed slot on the gear side first. This will help in aligning the opposite end cap. At this time no new alignment pins are available. We have run the cartridges "as is" with no problems so far, but this will be a necessary part.







27. Place the two halves together. Make sure that the two springs are aligned and insert the two pins. Make sure that the pins are slightly pushed in so that they do not interfere with installing the cartridge in the printer.



28. Install the drum cover. Make sure the spring is situated correctly.



29. Replace the chip.





### TROUBLESHOOTING

<b>Repetitive Defect Chart</b> OPC Drum: Magnetic Roller: PCR:	: 76 mm 46 mm 39 mm	
Backgrounding (gray streaks):		This is usually caused by a dirty/worn out PCR, or a worn out wiper blade.
Light print:		Can be caused by a dirty/worn Magnetic Roller or worn doctor blade.
Solid black pages:		Bad drum ground contact, probably from the drum axle shaft to the contact gear inside the drum.
Perfectly straight thin black lines down page:		Scratched drum.
Black dots that repeat every 76 mm:		Bad drum, or something is stuck to the drum surface.
Dark black horizontal li	nes:	Usually caused by either a bad PCR connection, a pin hole in the PCR, or a pin hole in the drum. These lines normally run about $1/8$ " thick and can show as few as 4 times/page and as many as 12 times/page.
"Tire tracks" on the righ	nt edge of the page:	Caused by a worn out drum. "Tire tracks" are what we call a vertical shaded area with lines in it that look like tire tread marks in the sand. This normally happens to OEM drums.
Half the page prints, the	e other half is blank:	The cartridge pin on the blank side is most likely not installed correctly. Remove the pin and re-install making sure that the pin is inserted into both halves.
Light and dark print:		Shows up mostly on full grey or solid black pages. Mag. roller alignment pins not aligned correctly or magnetic roller bushings worn.





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#### **RUNNING TEST PAGES**

Two pages are available from the front panel of the printer, the Demo Page, and the Configuration Page.

To run the Demo Page, make sure that the ready light is on, and briefly press the GO button. The Demo Page will print out.

To run the Configuration Page, make sure that the ready light is on and press the GO button for 5 seconds. When the GO light turns on, release the button. Two pages with complete printer info including the page count as well as a supplies status page will print out.

#### **RUNNING THE CLEANING PAGE**

To run the Cleaning Page, make sure that the READY light is on and press the GO button for 10 seconds. When all three lights turn on, release the button. The cleaning process takes about 2 minutes. The cleaning page will stop periodically during the cleaning process. Do not turn the printer off until the process has finished. For these printers, HP recommends that transparencies be used instead of paper. Paper can be used, but apparently transparencies work better.

#### **PRINTER TROUBLESHOOTING**

As with most of the new low cost HP machines, these printers do not have a display panel. All the error codes consist of different pattern of the five lights:

Top light on:	Wireless connection established.	
Top light blinking:	Attempting to establish wireless connection.	
Toner light blinking:	No print cartridge installed.	
Bottom three lights on:	Fatal error; turn the printer off, and unplug it for five minutes. If the error still exists, the printer has a major problem. There is no information yet on what these problems may be (the service manual has not been released yet).	
Bottom three lights blinking:	Accessory error. Remove the DIMMs and replace as necessary.	



