Instructions for The Tooth-A-Matic

User assumes all risk associated with the use of this and any farm equipment.

LIGHTLIVESTOCKEQUIPMENT.COM

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Remove from box and check to see if the Tooth-A-Matic has been attached to your grinder. There should be a plastic windshield in box. Attach to the front side of grinder with either the handle or bolt. You could leave this off if you choose, but alpacas don't like wind in their face. Read grinder instructions for use of tool and maintenance.

*****VERY IMPORTANT! *****
Your tool must be properly calibrated!
Failure to do so could result in injury to your alpaca.
The tool has been calibrated at the manufacturer, but shipping could modify it.

When getting your new tool out of the box, you will need to check the Tooth-a-Matic to make sure it is securely fastened to the grinder. Tightening the screw on the front of the grinder will secure. Over tightening can lead to a tight fit and poor sliding of mechanism. Make sure the attachment is pushed all the way against grinder housing screws.
Next, you need to check the tooth length cut dimension. Ideally, the teeth should be cut to about .450" length. Measured from bottom of grinding wheel to outside (bottom) of tooth plate.

The Tooth-a-Matic achieves its desired tooth length by adding shims to the grinder's arbor (located on arbor under the grinding wheel). Currently, we have installed one .125" shim***, or 2 thinner shims in your grinder. This will provide you with a .450" tooth length. Check it with calipers or ruler. If you don't have one, you can use a Lincoln head penny. Holding Lincoln's head, place into tooth hole on bottom of tool. You should see his entire nose. If you can see any of his beard (a depth of about .400"), **STOP!** You may not have the proper shim in your tool. Call me and request a new shim. If Lincoln's eyes are covered (a depth of about .500") , you may not have the tooth-a-matic slid all the way up the grinder's housing. Place tooth plate on kitchen counter and push down on grinder housing to force attachment all the way against the screws of grinder. This is the most common occurrence during shipping

*** If you desire to adjust your teeth length to a different length you may buy additional shims. A .125" shim gets you to approx.450", so , just add or subtract the amount you want to adjust, and purchase these shims at www.LightLivestockEquipment.com. These have an OD of 1" and an ID of 5/8ths . example: adding a .030" shim will cut the teeth .030" ***shorter!*** Taking the .125" shim out and replacing with a .110" shim will leave teeth .015" longer. Length of teeth can also be mico-controlled by angling the tool up or down slightly at time of trimming. Use your eyeballs to view the cut through the top opening of the attachment.

Once you are confident the Tooth-a-Matic is properly calibrated, you can experiment turning it on and sliding forward to get the feel of the tool.

Use one or 2 persons to hold the alpaca's head while another trims. (Chutes are a great way to safely secure your alpacas during tooth trimming and LightLivestockEquipment.com has them) Keep the grinder noise to a minimum by not turning on until you have properly "hooked" the teeth into the tooth hole. It should only take a couple seconds to cut trim the teeth. Quickly turn off and keep your animal stress free. After about 100 animals, you may find the worn grinding wheel prevents the tool from completing the cut. It's now Time to replace cutting wheel. New wheels are 4" in diameter.

Keep stored inside, out of frigid and hot temperatures. Store the Tooth-A-Matic upside down on it's 2 metal legs. Protecting plastic from the extreme weather conditions will prolong life.

Occasionally, you may need to clean the inside of the wheel cover. Take the screws out of the tooth plate and clean with water. If you experience "sticking" of the slide mechanism(see 3rd paragraph), simply clean and spray with Armor All spray to help lessen the friction.

New grinding wheels can be ordered from **LightLivestockEquipment.com**. Replacement wheels cost $12.00 for two wheels, when ordered from LightLivestockEquipment.com.
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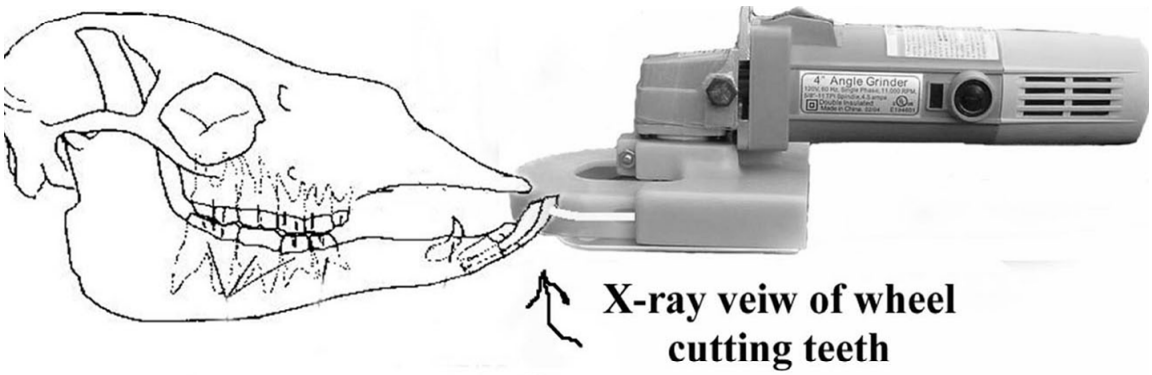
We also sell additional tooth plates for you to customize fit any of your snaggle tooth girls. $40 each plate. They are now available in sizes, LC, AC,LN,AN. If you do purchase other size tooth plates, be sure to use the correct size for each alpaca. Too sloppy-fit of a hole will lead to over cutting teeth too short. The normal size (AN) tooth plate provided will fit most all 18 month old and older alpacas teeth . We don't recommend using the Tooth-a-Matic for a precision Show cut until you are experienced with your tool and have the finesse to get a "perfect" cut.

The grinder and Tooth-A-Matic are warranted for 90 days.



X-ray veiw of wheel cutting teeth

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Tooth-A-Matic Shim Kit
Instructions for Placing Shims

The Tooth-A-Matic is calibrated at the factory to a .450” tooth trim dimension, checked from bottom of grinding wheel to the bottom of the tooth plate. Use a pair of calipers for accurate measuring.

The shim kit contains several thicknesses of shims to allow you to customize your tooth length of your desire. Included are 2) .020”, 2) .032” 2) .047”, 2) .062” , 1) .125”.

The .450” dimension is a safe starting point, but some breeders like to cut the teeth lower or higher.
Some vets even like the dimension to be as low as .250” so that they can manually tip the Tooth-A-Matic and get their desired angle on top of teeth.

A Word of caution here, if you try this, be aware that the safety margin has been removed and teeth could be cut too short. You cut at your own risk.

Some of you have mentioned that you just want to take off a little more. Start off by adding a .020” shim under the grinding wheel.

Some of you like to cut off a little less, start off by removing the existing shims and putting in a shim less than what was in there to begin with. Some TAMs have been constructed using 1.125” shim and some have a combination of shims.

Start by removing the tooth plate with a Phillips head screwdriver. Then take the wrench provided to take off the arbor nut. Pull off the grinding wheel. Under the grinding wheel you will see the shims. Replace with desired shims and put back together.

Measure before you use the tool again.

Call me if you need help … Jay

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