

Checked drive motor lately?

Does your press come up slowly or sound a little strange or have some unusual symptoms? If that's the case, have the press motor and motor controller checked out as soon as any unusual symptoms arise to avoid costly repairs. Even if you have a technician sign off on the health of your press motor, get a second opinion. The life of the press motor depends on it.

Want proof? One of the newspapers I visit on a regular basis hired a technician to check its press motor. The engineer said the motor was fine and would last several more years before requiring repair. Instead, the motor only lasted six months. The technician, who, as it turned out, had very little motor experience, only conducted a visual inspection.

How do you know if the technician you are using is doing a thorough check of your press' motor? Here is what you should look for:

- A visual inspection of the motor and its components to gauge wear or damage.
- A thorough cleaning of the commutator, using a commutator stone and other appropriate tools.
- Inspection of the motor brushes for length and damage. The brushes should be removed from the motor to permit adequate inspection.
- Inspection of the brush holders for damage or arcing.
- Lubrication of the motor, including greasing the motor bearing with the lower plug removed to eliminate excessive pressure and the chance that grease might migrate internally into the motor.
- Inspection of the bearings (through the use of a stethoscope) while the motor is running.

If the motor is neglected long enough, it might flash over, which could cause permanent damage to the motor's armature and other components.

Do you want to avoid these expensive repairs? Then check your motors every year.