



Gatorback® Automatic Belt Tensioner Troubleshooting Guide



CONDITION	PROBLEM	COUNTERMEASURE
Tensioner/Pulley Appearance:		
1. Excessive tensioner movement at idle (more than 1/4")	1. Internal wear 2. Pulley is out of round 3. Loose mounting bolts	Check mt. bolts, if ok, repl tensioner Check mt. bolts, if ok, repl tensioner Check mt. bolts, if ok, repl tensioner
2. Tensioner tilted, misaligned or gap exists between tensioner and arm base	1. Environmental damage (i.e. heat, water, stones) 2. Poor tensioner mounting surface 3. High internal wear	Check mt. surface, if ok, repl tensioner Check mt. surface, if ok, repl tensioner Check mt. surface, if ok, repl tensioner
3. Cracked/broken tensioner arm	1. Incorrect installation/removal 2. Long-term fatigue failure 3. Tensioner was allowed to snap back against stops	Replace tensioner Replace tensioner Replace tensioner
4. Chipped/cracked pulley (plastic pulley)	1. Foreign material damage (i.e. stones) 2. Faulty installation procedures	Replace tensioner or pulley Replace tensioner or pulley
5. Wear in belt tracking area (more than .25 mm) (plastic pulley)	1. Extreme environmental wear (i.e. heat, water, stones)	Replace tensioner or pulley
6. Excessive wobble (run-out)	1. Bearing failure 2. Excessive load on pulley 3. Belt is not tracking properly over pulley	Replace tensioner or pulley Replace tensioner or pulley Replace tensioner or pulley
7. Grease appears to be leaking out of the bearing	1. Grease purge 2. Seal degradation 3. Abnormal internal bearing clearance	Replace tensioner or pulley Replace tensioner or pulley Replace tensioner or pulley
8. Pulley has been marred in belt tracking area (steel pulley)	1. Foreign material damage (i.e. stones) 2. Faulty installation practices	Replace tensioner or pulley Replace tensioner or pulley
9. Corrosion (steel pulley)	1. Extreme environmental exposure	Replace tensioner or pulley

See Back Side for Troubleshooting Noise, Belt Tracking, Sticking, Seized Tensioner/Idler

CONDITION**Noise:****PROBLEM****COUNTERMEASURE**

1. Belt Squeal

1. Belt worn or stretched to maximum take-up length of system
 2. Tensioner is seized
 3. Tensioner is tilted

Replace belt
 Check belt length gauge, if length is correct, repl tensioner

2. Tensioner clatters or rattles during engine operation

1. Internal wear/interference

Replace tensioner

3. Belt chirping

1. Worn pulley or tensioner (tilted)
 2. Cracks in tensioner base or arm
 3. Loose mounting bolts
 4. Damping system failure
 5. System misaligned

Replace tensioner or pulley
 Check mt. bolts, if ok, repl tensioner
 Re-torque mounting bolts
 Replace tensioner
 Check system alignment

4. Pulley makes a high-pitched whine or howling noise after the

1. Worn bearing
 2. Incorrect bearing fit

Repl pulley/noise continues after 3 min
 Repl pulley/noise continues after 3 min

5. Pulley exhibits noise during normal operation engine is started

1. Worn bearing
 2. Balls in bearing are loose; grease is degraded
 3. Insufficient bearing lubricant

Replace tensioner or pulley
 Replace tensioner or pulley
 Replace tensioner or pulley

6. Pulley and bearing assembly exhibit noise when shaken

1. Broken bearing cage
 2. Balls in bearing are loose
 3. Insufficient bearing lubricant

Replace tensioner or pulley
 Replace tensioner or pulley
 Replace tensioner or pulley

Belt Tracking:

1. Belt does not track properly on pulley

1. Bearing is not fixed to the correct depth in pulley
 2. Belt tracking surface is not square to bearing mounting surface
 3. Internal tensioner wear
 4. Loose mounting bolts
 5. System misalignment
 6. Incorrect belt length

Replace tensioner or pulley
 Check mt. bolts, verify system alignment, verify proper belt for application, if ok, replace tensioner
 Replace tensioner
 Re-torque mounting bolts
 Repl tensioner and/or components
 Replace belt

Sticking/Seized Tensioner /Idler:

1. Pulley is seized and will not rotate

1. Damaged/failed bearing

Replace tensioner or pulley

2. Sticky/notchy feel when rotated

1. Abnormal internal bearing clearance
 2. Incorrect bearing fit (in pulley)

Replace tensioner or pulley
 Replace tensioner or pulley

3. Tensioner does not operate smoothly or will not move

1. Internal thrust surface damage/wear
 2. Internal damage/wear
 3. Broken spring

Replace tensioner
 Replace tensioner
 Replace tensioner

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