

Lubricating the Shopsmith

1. Mark your calendar to lubricate the Shopsmith each year during the Christmas period.
2. Put the headstock in the drill press (upright) position, speed at FAST and use 20 to 40 drops (a couple of bottle squeezes) of oil in the control sheave.
3. Put at least 4 drops of oil on the motor shaft and key, wait a minute and do it again. Allow the oil to soak down inside the motor floating sheave.
4. Operate the motor changing the speed slowly from FAST to SLOW and back to FAST.
5. Use 20 to 40 drops of oil again in the control sheave and the same for the motor shaft. You cannot over oil the headstock. The extra oil helps lubricate the speed control worm gear and quadrant.

Headstock Oiling Procedure

1. Put the headstock in the drill press position and FAST speed position. Tie the belt housing out of the way. Remove the logo cover. Using a zoom spout oiler, put the spout into the control sheave oil hole. Give a good squeeze (20-30 drops of oil minimum). Then put a few drops of oil around the top of the motor floating sheave and shaft and on the open shaft key.
2. Use a flat blade screwdriver to part the spring for the zoom spout. Move the floating sheave up and down a little with your hands to get the oil to go around the motor shaft and key. Do this oiling of the shaft & key several times when doing this.
3. I do not use the motor floating sheave oil hole for this lubrication as I find too little oil can be applied through this hole. Then turn on the motor and very slowly, cycle from FAST down to the SLOW speed. Then back to FAST. I do the same oiling sequence a second time. I do not believe you can over oil the headstock. 90% of the problems I find in the headstock come from lack of or too little oiling.