

The Groomers Clipper and Blade Guide

Choosing Your Clipper

As a professional, you will most likely be using your clippers several times daily, so it is important to select the right ones for you and your business.

Of course, you will want clippers that are robust and can be used for long periods of time, so picking a clipper from a trusted professional brand and at least a year's warranty is a good idea.

- **Corded, cordless or hybrid?**

Whether your clipper comes with a lead or not will depend on salon electricity supply and also on you. Cordless clippers won't have trailing leads, meaning that you get a better range of movement. Portable, rechargeable clippers are great for the show ring and competition grooming, but can be heavier than corded clippers due to their batteries.

- **Power and batteries**

If you want a cordless clipper, make sure you get one with a powerful battery so you know it will cut through dense coats. We recommend the Lithium Ion battery, as it is powerful and has no memory effect.

- **Motor**

While rotary motors are great for grooming needs, especially those with a lot of power to drive through thicker coats, the latest technology is a brushless motor. Not only is it much quieter, it also needs less maintenance and therefore lasts longer.

- **Speed**

To really get through dense or matted coats, you will need a fast clipper with plenty of power. Having a clipper with multiple speeds can help you gain more control, especially if you groom a range of coat types. But remember to pay attention to the rate of strokes per minute.

- **Noise Level**

Some dogs dislike clipper noise, and while you can pop a dog snood on them for the most part, when it comes to the head, they may have other ideas. A brushless motor will ensure a clipper is quiet, while other clippers may have sound dampening.

- **Weight and ergonomics**

A lightweight, ergonomically designed clipper will ensure less pressure on the wrist and fingers and allow you to work for longer without fatigue in your hand. Some clippers include a non-slip grip or extra comfortable handle that you may like if you find your hand gets tired easily.

- **Blade and comb compatibility**

Some clippers only take their own style of blade and attachment comb, while others carry a universal A5-style blade. You may want to buy a universal range as you have used it before and understand the system well, or simply because of the vast range of choice you have for blades and attachment combs. Choosing a quick and easy blade system can save you time in the salon.

Many clippers are air-cooled, enabling them to be used for long periods without overheating, and have removable filters to keep the hair from the inside of the machine.

Trimmers

Smaller trimmers are suitable for detailed work and tidying up in difficult to reach areas. Larger trimmers or midi trimmers can be used for small details or for completing clips on smaller dogs.

Parts Of A Clipper

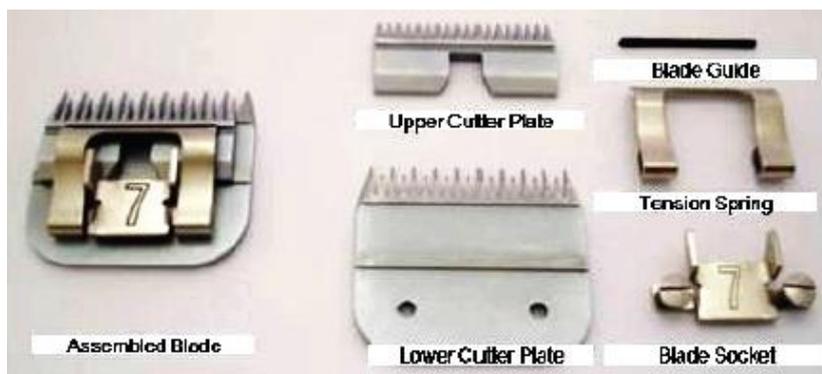


Clipper Blades

Clipper Blade Components

Blades are usually supplied as a set, comprising an upper and lower blade. The lower blade is fixed, and the upper blade performs the cutting action.

There are a wide variety of blades on the market which allow precision in cutting an animal's coat to the desired length. These blades vary in length from surgery blades to long body blade, with the most popular sizes for general use being a close cutting #10(2mm) blade, a body blade such as #7(5mm) or #5(7mm). Many manufacturers offer two types of body blades; skiptooth which has staggered teeth, or full tooth (F blade), which can also be defined as a finishing or fine cut blade. The full tooth blade will give a smoother finish to the clipped coat, while the skiptooth version is easier to use on thick, matted or very curly coats, but be aware that they shouldn't be used on areas with thin skin that is likely to catch on the blade.



Cutting Lengths

These cutting lengths are as used against the natural lie of the coat.

Please see one size larger cutting length when cutting with the lie of the coat. Eg: #7 will be a #5 length. Please note that these sizes are approximate and may differ between brands.

Blade #	Inches	Millimetres
50	1/1.25	0.2
40	1/100	0.25
35	1/75	0.35
30	1/50	0.5
15	3/64	1.2
10	1/16	1.5
9	5/64	2
8	7/64	2.8
7/7F	1/8	3.2
5/5F	1/4	6.3
4/4F	3/8	9.5
3/3F	1/2	13

Andis Blade Sizes

5/8 HT	5/8	16
5/8 Toe	1/32	0.8
3/4HT	3/4	19
T-84	3/32	2.4

Blade Maintenance and Care

Prolong the life of your clipper blades by following these tips.

- Oil blades regularly before and after use with 3 drops of oil on the blade to prevent rusting. Wipe off excess.
- Brush off hair periodically while clipping and before oiling.
- Ensure tension and blade placement are correct before use.
- Clean blades after use and dry immediately. To do this, first brush away excess hair with a fine, soft brush (such as a clean paint or eye make-up brush). Then clean in a formula specifically designed for cleaning clipper blades, such as Groomers Blade Wash. Submerge the blade in the solution for a few minutes, then leave to air dry on a few pieces of kitchen roll. Never clean clipper blades with water, as this will corrode the metal over time.

- Keep the blades well lubricated at all times to prevent clipper rash. Lubricate your blades by spraying with Groomers Klipper Klean every 10 – 15 minutes when in use, then fully lubricate after washing the blade. To do this, simply slide the top cutting blade to one side and dab oil on both side of the blade guide.
- Don't work your blades too hard and use coolant when necessary.
- Store removable blades in a blade box or rack to prevent blade damage. For blades that are not in use for long periods, wrap them in an oil-soaked cloth and leave in a moisture-free area, again, to prevent rust.
- Ensure trailing leads are not in the way as a trip may result in clipper blade damage and personal injury.
- If the blades are fixed to the clipper, ensure the blade guard is in place before storing.
- Do not use damaged blades or clippers. If a tooth is bent or broken, replace the blade.
- Have your blades professionally sharpened. Do this when your blades start to become dull. Depending on how often you use your clippers, this could be required every few months, or annually. Never attempt to sharpen clipper blades with a knife sharpener or similar, as this may permanently damage their quality.

Don't forget! You can buy all your must-have blade maintenance equipment in one place with our Blade Maintenance Kit.

Clipper Blade Damage

It is almost inevitable that your clipper and blades may be knocked to the floor and damaged.

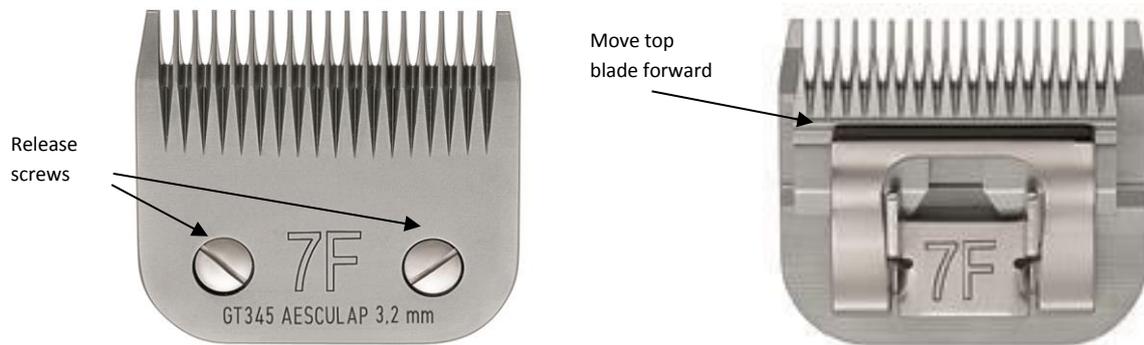
Often the blades can become misaligned, begin to wobble on the clipper or sustain damage to the teeth. Most problems can be resolved fairly easily, but broken teeth cannot be fixed. It may be possible to round off broken teeth and thus allow the blade to be kept as a spare, or for roughing out, however, extreme care should be taken when using a damaged blade. If in doubt, send the blade to a specialist for advice.

Setting a Blade

Do you sometimes attach a blade onto your clipper; find it cuts for a minute and then starts to snag? If so, your blade needs resetting. This can often happen with a new blade, or a blade that has just returned from a sharpening service.

1. Release the sole plate screws only slightly, enough to blade enable you to reset the blade. Do not release the teeth too much otherwise the blade will fall apart.
2. Turn the blade over and gently move the top forward so the teeth are in line with the end of the sole blade. To check the teeth are in line, run your finger down the front of the blade. If there is a step then the top of the blade is still out of line.

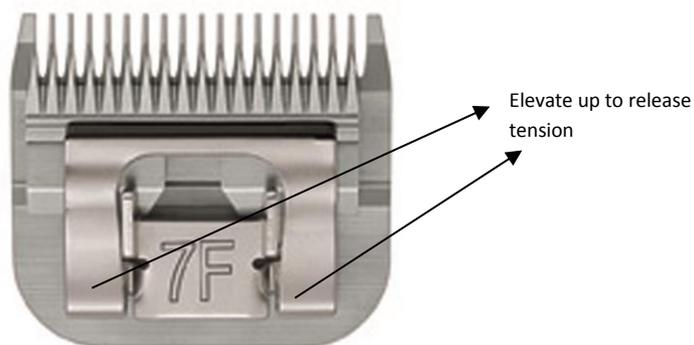
3. Turn the blade back over and tighten the screws. Your blade is now reset.



How do I release the tension on my blade?

Most blades normally jam because the top blade is too tight. If the top blade does not easily move backwards and forwards then the clippers will not be able to drive it properly.

To release the tension, place a flat head screwdriver under each side of the blade and gently elevate up, making sure the top blade does not come out of its guide. This does not need a lot of force, you can always repeat if needed. You should now be able to move the top blade easily.



Attachment Combs

If the longest cutting blades available still won't give you the required length, attachment combs are available. These combs fit on shorter A5-style cutting blades, though we recommend using a #10 or #15 blade, not a #30 blade, which can easily be damaged through use. Much like with blades, there are plenty of sizes of attachment combs to choose from. Many trimmers and certain clippers supply attachment combs with their machines.

When using attachment combs, remember that the long teeth of the comb have to pass easily through the coat for the blade to reach the hair and cut it cleanly. Therefore matted, knotty coats are not suitable and you may struggle with particularly dense or curly coats.

Our team are always happy to help you with any questions you might have. Why not email us on sales@groomers-online.com or call us on 01635 581958 for more details?