



**SEDGBEER**

AT THE FOREFRONT OF POULTRY PROCESSING

## FLIGHT & TAIL PLUCKER

This machine was recently developed to meet the demand for an efficient flight and tail plucker. In the past there had been a number of machines on the market which had gone some way to meet the requirements, albeit with shortfalls. This machine was developed from these original designs but ensuring the shortfalls were eliminated.




The end result is a flight and tail plucker which is:

- Easy to use.
- Requires very little maintenance.
- Suitable for all types and sizes of birds (including catering turkeys).
- All stainless steel construction.
- Extended life rollers.
- Height adjustable and suitable for static and online applications.



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## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

	Dimensions	L 1300mm x W 950mm x H 510mm
	Weight	140kg
	Height of plucking point	Maximum 1000mm - Minimum 1220mm
	Electrical	IP.55 or greater 240V 13A single phase, or 415V 6A three phase D.O.L. starter with overload
	Drive Motor	2.2KW foot mounted
	Drive System	Single motor with double sided toothed belt driving both shafts. Shafts contra rotate at same rotation speed. A belt tensioner is also included.

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In summary, this flight and tail plucker will complement any processing system, whether dry plucking, bowl plucking, or on-line processing. One operator can achieve a throughput of 120 birds per hour with relative ease, with both the primary and secondary flight feathers being removed.

It comes complete with starter and 16A plug.

### GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to talk to us, or need more information on this Flight & Tail Plucker, please contact us using the details below:

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## INSTALLATION

The plucker comes complete with a 16A plug so the only requirement is a suitable positioned 16A wall mounted socket, with an isolator.

The four rubber feet are adjustable to enable a stable, level positioning.

When plucking, the feathers are effected to the rear of the machine, therefore it is best to position it with a wall behind to reduce the spread of feathers during processing.

## OPERATION

The plucker can be adjusted for height. Also, the two pairs of feather guides can be adjusted for width. Depending on the type of bird being plucked, it may be necessary to adjust the gap between the feather guides so that the feathers can pass between them but the wing cannot. It will only be necessary to make this adjustment when a different species of bird is to be processed.

The machine is designed to remove the primary and secondary flight feathers and also tail feathers.

The machine is designed to be left running at all times during use. Assuming normal production, switching off between birds is not recommended.

The plucker can be used either in a manual or hand line application or with a powered line. In all cases the bird is held in front of the machine, which has been designed to be flat to enable the bird to pass freely.

- With the bird either held under one arm or suspended from a shackle, the wing is spread so that the primary feathers are fan shaped.
- Then, starting nearest the body, feed the feathers between the guides, keeping the wing as close to the plucker as possible.
- Continue feeding the feathers in until the wing tip is reached. Then repeat the process on the same wing, to remove the secondary feathers.
- The whole process is then repeated with the other wing into the other feather guides. It is probably best to have the bird suspended, with its back towards the front of the plucker; as the wings tend to hang down and backwards, this makes it easier to feed the feathers through the guides. Also try having the bird suspended in a shackle, both hands are then free to control the plucking procedure.
- The tail feathers are removed by feeding the tail feathers through either pair of rollers.

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Occasionally the feathers may become jammed whilst feeding into the rollers. If this occurs, take the wing back in the opposite direction. Don't pull the wing. If necessary, stop the plucker and then remove the bird.

- During operation it may be necessary to remove feathers which are blocking the feather outlet chute. Always switch the plucker off prior to doing this.
- The plucker has been designed to enable safe operation but great care should be exercised to keep fingers and clothing away from the rollers at all times.
- Keep the front of the plucker clear of feathers (and any other items) to reduce the risk of the operator tripping, whilst using the machine.
- Operators should not have loose clothing, ties, straps, hair etc. whilst using this plucker.

## MAINTENANCE & GENERAL CARE

The Flight and Tail Plucker has been designed to require the minimum of maintenance, however there are a number of areas that do need attention.

### **ALWAYS DISCONNECT THE POWER SWITCH BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO DO ANY MAINTENANCE ON THE MACHINE.**

1. Grease bearings and slider plate: This should be done after each 50 hours of use using a good quality bearing grease. The greasing points are each bearing assembly (4) and two grease nipples in the slider plate. The bearings in the belt tensioner are sealed and require maintenance.
2. Belt wear and tension: The drive belt needs to be checked for wear and tension at the same time as greasing the bearings. Adjust belt tension using a 19mm spanner so as the belt can be twisted through 90 (ninety degrees) using thumb and fore finger. Over tightening will cause excessive wear of the belt and bearings, too loose and the belt will jump the teeth and slip during plucking. Replace the belt when the teeth become worn.
3. Roller wear and adjustment: In order to pluck the light and tail feathers efficiently it is essential that the rollers are correctly adjusted. Both pairs of rollers should be adjusted in the same manner and evenly so that the machine is 'balanced' during operation.

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There are two adjustments that can be made:

- **Roller tension.**

This is adjusted by adjusting the tension springs (M 16 nuts). Do not over tension, as this will cause the plucker to 'snatch' during operation making it more difficult to use. Have sufficient tension to grip the feathers and pull them out.

- **Roller gap.**

This is adjusted by means of the 'stop' bolts. Using a pair of spanners, unlock the M 16 nuts, adjust the gap and retighten. The rollers need to be just touching, too much of a gap and the rollers will not grip the feathers, too tight and the machine will vibrate significantly, be very noisy and the polyurethane rollers will wear quickly reducing their life.

It should not be necessary to adjust the rollers between each greasing of the bearings. As the rollers become worn, the gap between them will become uneven, and eventually no further adjustment will be possible due to the bearing housings touching each other. At this point the rollers must be replaced.

To remove the roller, undo the bolt located at the end of the roller using a 17mm spanner, while at the same time holding a 22mm spanner on the flat recess located at the centre of the shaft. The rollers can then be removed by using the special tool which is supplied with the machine, a 19mm spanner, and an Allen key.

4. The motor and starter are maintenance free, however an electrician should check the plucker at least once a year.
5. The plucker mechanism should be cleaned on a regular basis, at least after each day's plucking. Remove feathers and feather debris, which can build up during plucking. The slots in the stainless steel rollers must be scraped free of any feathers fibre/congealed blood etc.

**THE REAR GUARD MUST BE SECURELY FIXED AT ALL TIMES DURING OPERATION.**