HOW TO REBUILD THE ZX PRINTER'S BELT © F.Rizzo 2008

STUFF NEEDED
- A VCR Flat belt 5 mm hight, 1 mm thick and with a circumference 275 mm or bigger .
- Cyanoacrilate glue
- The ZX Printer Service Manual

PART ONE : DISASSEMBLE

Before disassembling your Zx Printer, I strongly suggest to read the ZX Printer Service manual.

Considering the very unusual printing mechanism, studying it will make your work easier and most probably you will succesfully rich the purpose of this guide.

Carefully open your Zx Printer, keep the four screws and all the pieces of the old belt, in particular **keep carefully the two styli** and the two parts of the belt where the two spigots are located .

PART TWO : THE BELT

Take the new belt and make a cut with using the cutter then tape the belt on plane surface (to keep it steady) without bending it and cut it (make sharp cuts) - Do the second cut to make a belt 275 mm long.

Always keeping the belt taped on the surface, take two marks with a marker at a distance of 137,5mm one to each other. It's not important where you draw the first mark, but it's fundamental that the second is drawed at 137,5 mm from the first.

PART THREE : THE NEW SPIGOTS

Take the stapler and use it on the belt, put two staples one on each mark made in part one. The staples must be stitched on the same way .
Using the stapler don't be rude or you'll cut the belt!
Hint: If you have a piece of belt that you won't use, use it to make some tests.

Check that the staples has been stitched over the mark taken in part two

Now cut of the upper part of the claw with a pliers.
The remaining part has to be 2.5 mm tall over the belt, as the original spigot was.
Warning: if the spigots are too high, the belt won't spin!

Reconnect the belt usig the glue, don't exaggerate: a small quantity is enough. Spread the glue on the belt's cut using one needle.
Important: Try to be sharp when joing together the two belt's part; it's fundamental in the correct belt's spinning .

PART FOUR : THE NEW PUSH-ON CAPS

PART FIVE - THE FINAL RESULT

Untill someone will decide to produce brand new zx printer's belt, I believe this can be a nice solution: remember that I've said nice, not perfect :-).
I hope you'll appreciate this guide, please keep in mind that it is not an easy task; don't tighten too much the four screws, I've noticed that it may help to reach a correct way of printing.

Being the new spigots, the original push-on caps are useless, so you have to make some new:
take a small electric wire - a little piece of an FTP cable used on almost computer's network
cable is ok - use the outern part to make a new push on cap.

In order to facilitate your work make it longer, then you will cut it later to reach the right misure (max 2.5 mm = spigot + push-on cap)
Set the stylus in place and use the new spigot to hold it still, it can help a bit of glue (just A BIT) on the upper part of the spigot.

Let me know your comment or your improvement to this tutorial at **zioclive@libero.it** .

Regards to you all.
Fabio Rizzo

(printable version by Ben Versteeg – april 2013)