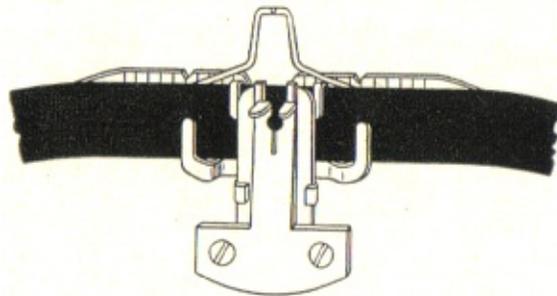


Typewriter Ribbon Installation

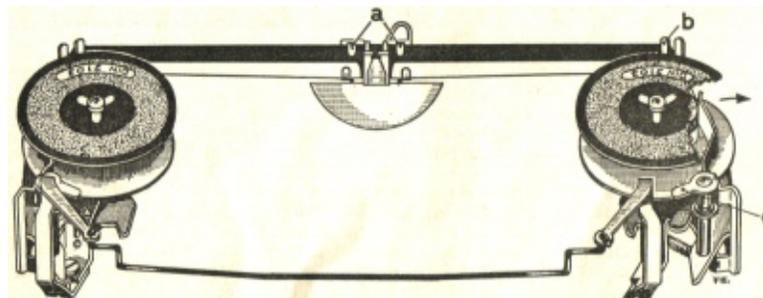
By William Davis

Very often, machines found in the field are found with the ribbon improperly installed. This is one of the easiest things to fix, as long as you know how to do it. Once you've worked with a variety of machines, the proper installation in one you're unfamiliar with will become easy, since you'll have a good idea of the tension and the clearance required at the printing point. I've decided to provide some diagrams for some common and some uncommon machines so that you can see, generally, how the mechanisms are designed and what the general arrangements are.

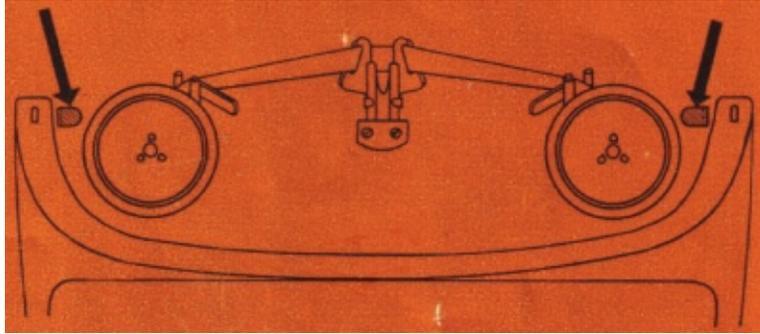
Improper ribbon installation can lead to a host of problems. If you have ribbon tension or hangup difficulties, or problems with impression, or hangup of the ribbon vibrator, make certain the ribbon is "in" the right way. Two-color ribbons are always installed with the alternate color on the bottom, with the normal print color on top. Correction ribbons are the same; black on top, correction (white) on the bottom. You can use an all-black ribbon on a machine designed for two colors to double your typing output with one ribbon.



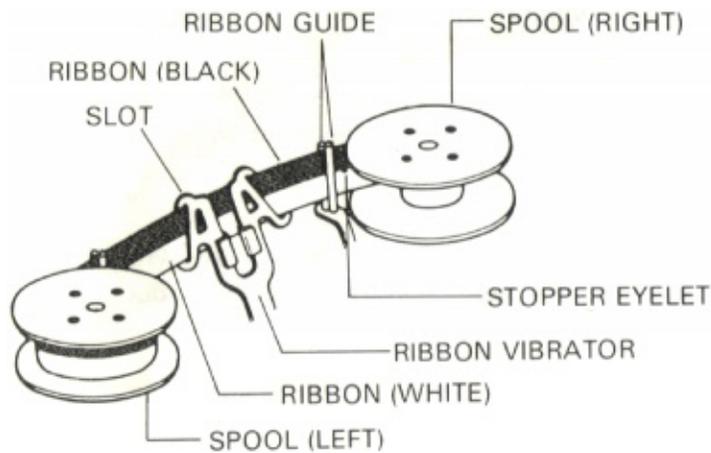
Above is an illustration of the ribbon vibrator in the Adler Junior series. Note the arrangement of the prongs on the vibrator, and how the ribbon is behind all four; two large ones at the bottom, and two smaller ones at the top.



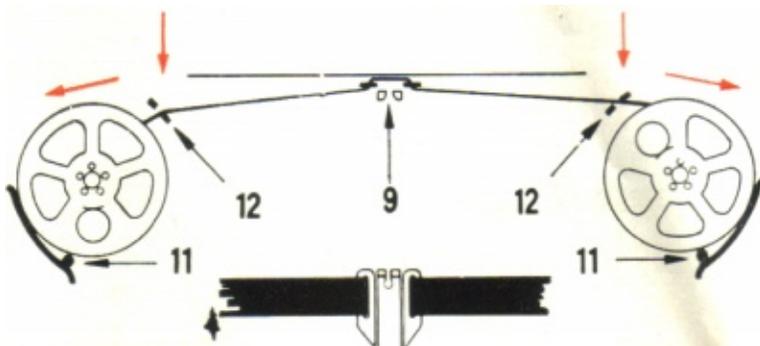
Above, ribbon setup in the small, flat Adler Tippa series. The reverse linkage is at the lower part, connected with the ribbon guide forks (b). Again, four prongs on vibrator at (a).



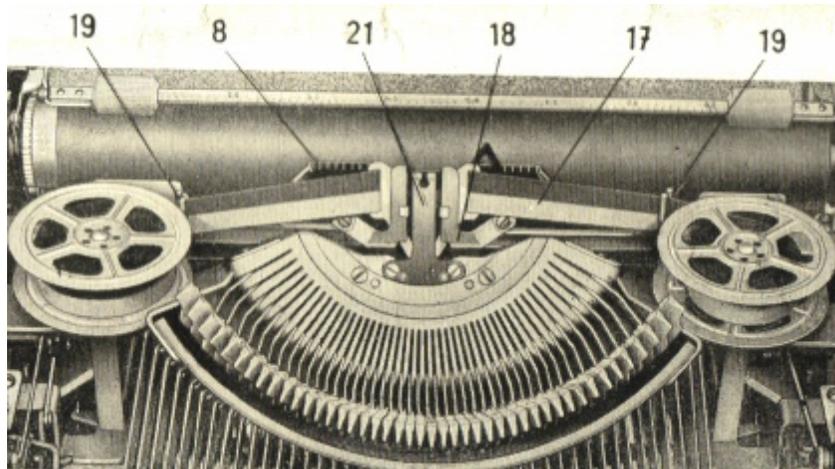
Here is the diagram for the very late Alpina machines, which is generally applicable. Note the arrows which are pointing at the tabs used to release the machine from the case base; they're not a part of ribbon changing. Note the ribbon passing through the vibrator, with the inner part of the vibrator exposed; it goes in front of the outer split sections and behind the inner sections.



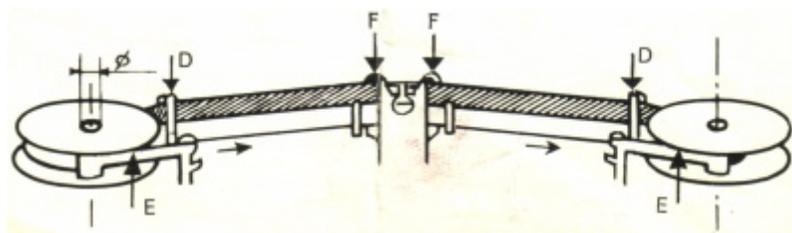
This diagram is for later Brother machines, and likely applies to Chinese clones. It's self-explanatory.



This diagram illustrates the setup on the Consul 31 series, and the 232 series. The red arrows indicate that the ribbon forks, (12), act to reverse the ribbon. (11) are the ribbon brakes, or retainers, or tensioners; there are many names for these. Note insert for vibrator threading.



This is a rare one; it's for the early Consul portables with ZP-prefix serial numbers. Note the ribbon is in front of the outer sections of the vibrator, and is behind the inner sections. Forks (19) act as ribbon reverse.



This image is from the manual for the Japy Script, and is generally applicable to the other members of the "Euro-portables" family, including marques such as Oliver, Patria and Voss Privat.

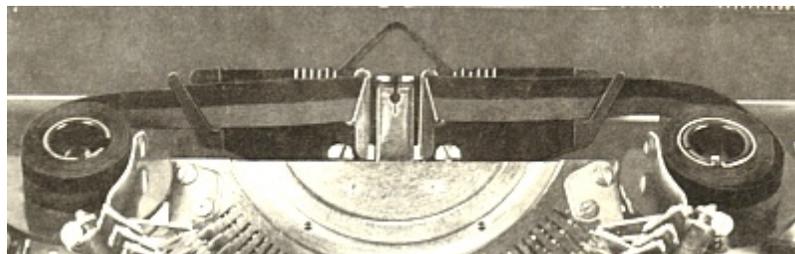
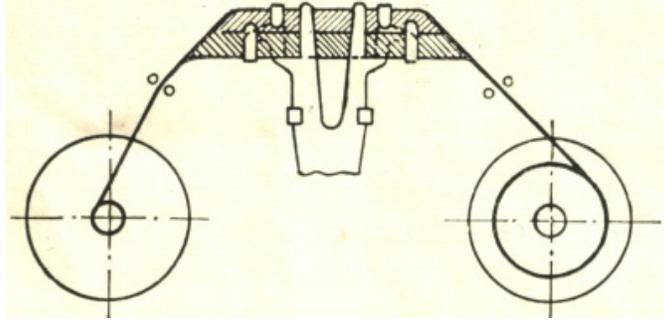
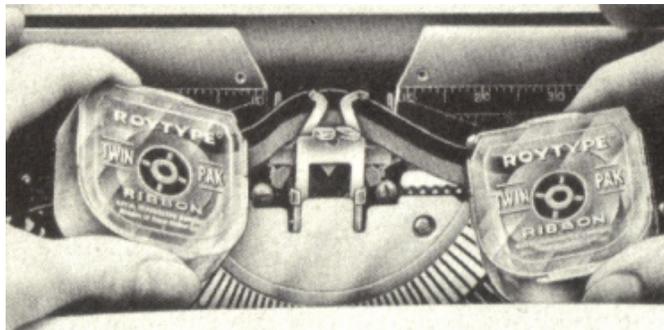


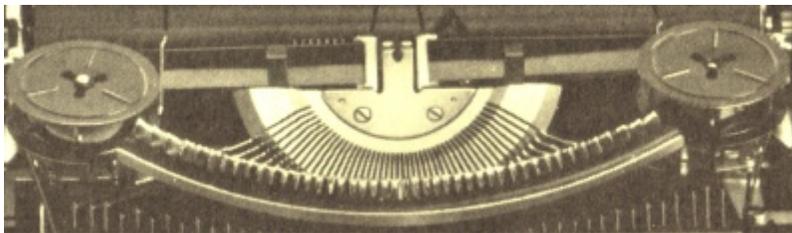
Illustration for the Remington 1040, which is from the Sperry-Rand era and, like many other machines of Remington make, does not accept conventional ribbon spools. You have to wind a new ribbon onto the existing ribbon carriers -- a time consuming chore, and one that worked against this company in a competitive sense. Archaic, and unnecessary.



Very good diagram produced for the Rheinmetall KsT. This is one of the better illustrations provided in any kind of manual, and is self-explanatory to the point of not even needing lettered or numbered parts with pointers.



Royal-McBee patented ROYTYPE TWIN-PAK ribbon, including fully self-contained ribbon spool cartridges. The ribbon vibrator has a release; you squeeze the two prongs together to release the ribbon. You place it behind these, and in front of the rear prongs, install the cartridges, and then strike a key. The release automatically returns to typing position. The Remington Quiet-Riter had a similar ribbon vibrator release mechanism. Sears-Roebuck had special cartridge style ribbons that were rounded, not squared like the Royal version, and which had wheels on the top with holes to allow fingertip ribbon winding; you see them inside Sears-labeled Smith-Corona machines from the late 1960's and 1970's. (You can use a conventional ribbon in these machines originally equipped with the above cartridges.)



Finally, an illustration applicable to Silver-Seiko portables, found with the brand names of Royal, Imperial and Silver-Reed. The application is straightforward; the two black prongs visible near the outer edges of the type bar segment have nothing to do with the ribbon, but the lid; make sure the ribbon runs behind them. Hopefully, this set of diagrams will help new typewriter owners to figure out, by either exact match or by approximation, how to thread and mount the ribbon in any typewriter. **Copyright © 2005 William Davis. All Rights Reserved.**