Variations Of Spring Placement On The Two 5-N-1 Blades That Affect Cutting

The Wahl 5-N-1 blades come in two versions: A covered version, and an open version.

The “Open” version is the most common of the variations. It has an “spring deck” that is not covered and can hold hair. This version needs to be cleaned often of hair. The spring that holds the cutter down is strong and is “locked” into the plastic spring deck and shouldn’t move during use.

The spring as you can see is anchored to the bottom of the spring deck. This makes the spring tension very stable, thus the cutter itself doesn’t move side to side.

In this version, the spring is independent of the cutting adjustment mechanism, and the height is affected very little by how hard you push the clipper.

One concern of both versions of the 5-N-1 is that in the #9 position, the cutter teeth may not protrude into the slots of the bottom blade enough to cut effectively. If they don’t, the blade will just naw at the hair. If your using the #9 position and you push too hard it can force the teeth back enough to naw the hair as well. To fix this problem, adjust the selector switch one notch in from the #9 to the #10 position. This way, all the teeth of the cutter are inside the slots of the bottom blade and it should cut normally.
The “covered” version of the 5-N-1 blade was designed to keep hair from getting into the spring deck, and affecting the way the blade cuts. If hair does get inside, it’s very hard to clean it out. We have opened these blades during the refurbish program and hair was impacted inside this cover. These blades cost more than the “open” version.

In this version the cutter spring is not solidly connected to the spring deck, it is connected to the height adjustment mechanism. As you adjust the height, your moving the spring that holds down the cutter. After the blade is used a while, this adjustment mechanism can loosen up and cause variations in height, tension, and stability of the adjustment mechanism. Unlike the “open” version, this mechanism cannot be replaced. It can however be converted to the “open” version by replacing this cover and adjustment mechanism with the open version spring deck. Making it a more stable system.

Other articles about the Wahl 5-N-1 blade

“Suggestions on the use of the Wahl 5-N-1 blade”
- This article covers different settings on the 5-N-1 from experiences of using this blade in the grooming shop. It points out safety concerns, and thes settings for grooming.

“The lubrication of the Wahl 5-N-1 blade”
- This article shows you how to properly oil, and most importantly, grease the cutter notch.

“How to properly clean the Wahl 5-n-1 blade”
- This article covers the proper cleaning of this blade to include the importance of cleaning the hair from under the cutter. When hair builds up under the cutter, it will make the blade seem like its prematurely dulling out.