

Lionel News & Views Extra Lionel Smoke Fluid Loader Fix

I reviewed the new Lionel Smoke Fluid Loader in the June issue of *The Lion Roars*. While I was generally impressed with the design, I also mentioned a failure that needs to be addressed. As reported in the article, Lionel is aware of the problem and has a special repair kit available. After the article was submitted, I had a chance to obtain the repair kit from Lionel Service and make the corrections to ensure proper operation of the Smoke Fluid Loader.

If you purchased one of Lionel's new Smoke Fluid Loaders, No. 6-37821, 6-83634 or 6-83635, you should contact Lionel service and request the repair kit. The repair kit is No. 6307821800. The kit contains two short lengths of 1/8" ID (inside diameter) tubing of the proper type. Even if you have not had a problem, I would suggest installing the repair kit to prevent a problem in the future. To order the kit, contact Lionel Customer Service at 586-949-4100, ext. 2.

IMPORTANT: Do not attempt this repair with any other type of hose or tubing!

The problem is that the connection of the fluid tubing to and from the red pump unit is likely to come apart. It appears that in the manufacturing of this product, the tubing was forced into the connection points of the pump and then some kind of cement applied to secure it. On the unit I had, the tubing broke off clean at the pump nozzle. First one of the tubes and then the second. It appears as though the cement used to secure the tubing may have reacted with it, hardening it and allowing it to easily break. You have two options if this happens. You can return the unit to Lionel by requesting a return authorization or the much easier solution is to request the repair kit and make the repair yourself. I would suggest applying the repair kit even if you have not had a problem as this will prevent the problem from occurring later. Follow the steps below to make the repair.

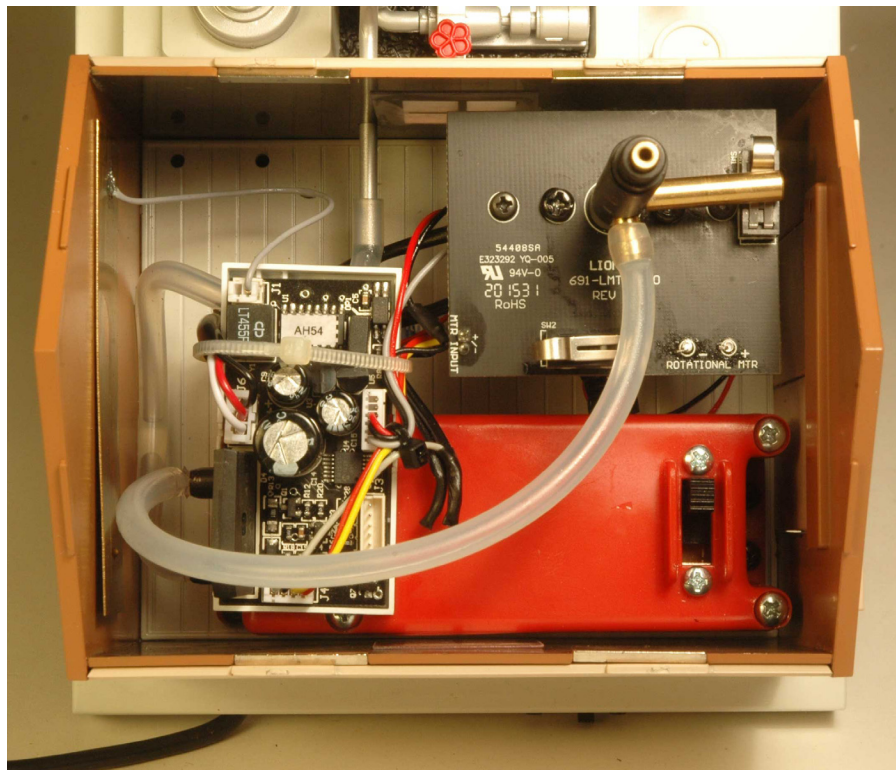


Photo 1

Step 1 - The first step in making the repair is to remove the loader arm and the roof as shown in **photo 1**.

Step 2 - To gain access to the pump nozzles, remove the back wall of the shed - it pops off easily. I found it easiest to carefully unplug the antenna wire from the circuit board allowing you to move the wall completely out of you way.

Step 3 - Pull both hoses from the pump and clean any adhesive that may remain on the tubes. Check that there is no tubing remaining in the pump nozzles. I found that about a 1/4" of the tubing remained in the nozzle which I removed with needle nose pliers.

Step 4 - Push the ends of the existing tubing about 1/4" into the repair tubes. I found that rubbing the outside end of each tube with a water wet finger made the insertion easier. **Photo 2** shows the result.



Photo 2

Step 5 - Push the repair tubes onto the pump nozzles. Be sure to place the tubes on as shown in **Photo 3**.

IMPORTANT: Do not use any cement at the connections!

Step 6 - Replace the antenna wire plug if you removed it and replace the back wall. There are pins at the bottom of the wall which are inserted into the small holes and the wall pushed back into place. In my case, I found that the wall snapped back into place and did not require any cement to hold it in place. Carefully position the tubing so that they are not kinked. It's a tight fit, but you'll find the tubing can be bent radically without kinking. If needed you can use a small bit of super glue on the end of toothpick to apply a spot on the 2 upper corners of the wall to hold it in place.



Photo 3

That completes the fix for the Lionel Smoke Fluid Loader. It's really pretty simple and took me only a few minutes to complete.

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