

One annoying problem with the Featherweight is the clicking sound that sometimes occurs when sewing. If the noise comes from the bobbin area of the machine, and you have already confirmed that the needle is installed correctly – flat goes to the left and the feed dogs are not hitting the needle plate, another likely place to look is the Rotating Hook Bobbin Case Position Plate Springs. I know, that is a really long name for a small part but this is the name given by Singer. Basically on the bottom of the needle plate is another plate held on by two screws, which holds two flat springs. These springs, over time, can become compressed and lose the tension that they originally had against the Bobbin Case Base positioning finger. These springs act to dampen the movement of the Bobbin Case Base and still allow the thread to pass through. If the springs have lost their tension, there will be an audible clicking sound when the Bobbin Case Base positioning finger is able to move too far and hits the spring instead of being gently held by the spring.



Bobbin Case positioning finger between Bobbin Case Position Plate Springs



Out of pure curiosity, I measured the width of the positioning finger of several Rotating Hooks that I have in stock and found the width to be fairly consistent and averaged 0.136 inches.

I then took 12 used needle plates from my stock and measured the distance between the springs and found the gap ranges from 0.138 to 0.167 inches, with an average of 0.152 inches. While the difference between the largest gap of 0.167 and the width of the positioning finger is only 0.03 inches, it is significant enough to

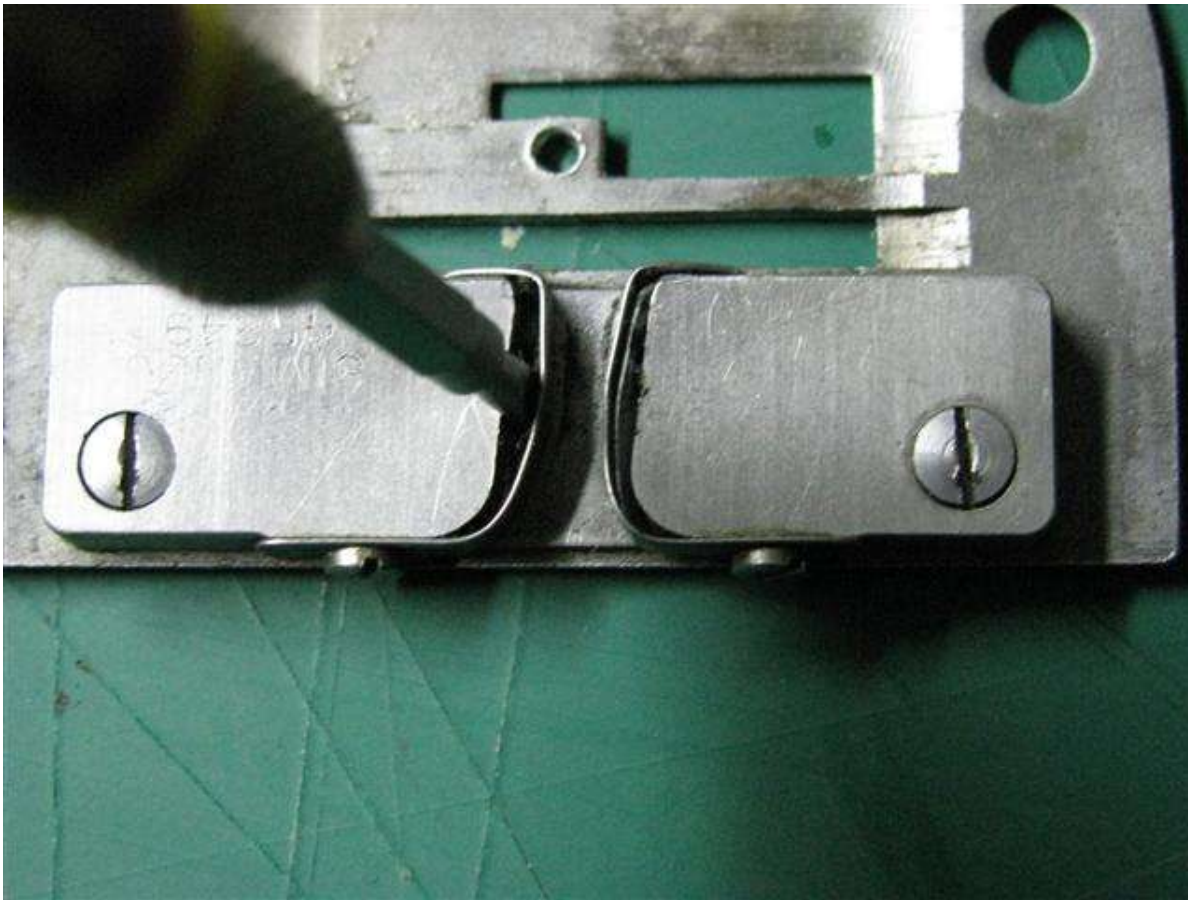


cause the noise. To confirm, I installed this plate on a known good machine and sure enough, it clicked.

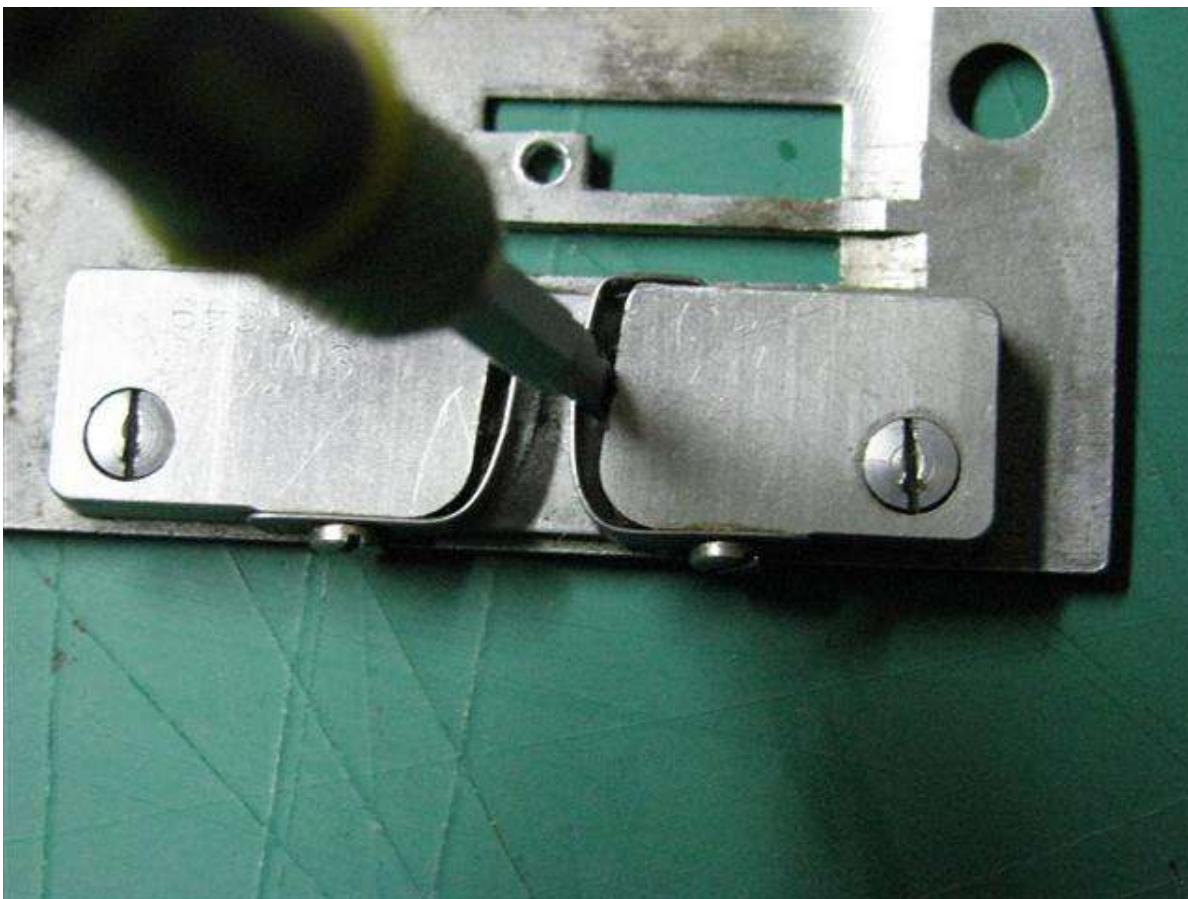
Notice the difference in the gap between the springs of these two plates



To eliminate the clicking sound remove the 2 needle plate screws that hold the needle plate to the machine and remove the plate from the machine.



Gently insert a small flat blade screwdriver between the spring and the plate and bend the spring outward to close the gap between the two springs.





Then replace the needle plate, aligning the Bobbin Case positioning finger between the springs and replace the needle plate screws.



This should help eliminate the clicking noise. To test I reinstalled the repaired plate on my known good machine and the clicking noise was gone.