



Rolling Office Chair Wheel Disassembly

Most office chairs have rolling wheels that eventually get clogged up and stop rolling. This guide shows how to disassemble and repair these wheels.

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INTRODUCTION

This will show how to disassemble a typical rolling wheel off of an office chair. Once disassembled, removal of the debris that was causing the wheel to jam up is fairly easy. The wheel can then be reassembled to function nearly as good as new.



TOOLS:

- [Pry Bar](#) (2)
 - [Utility Knife](#) (1)
 - [WD-40](#) (1)
 - [Bar Clamp](#) (1)
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Step 1 — Identify the Problem



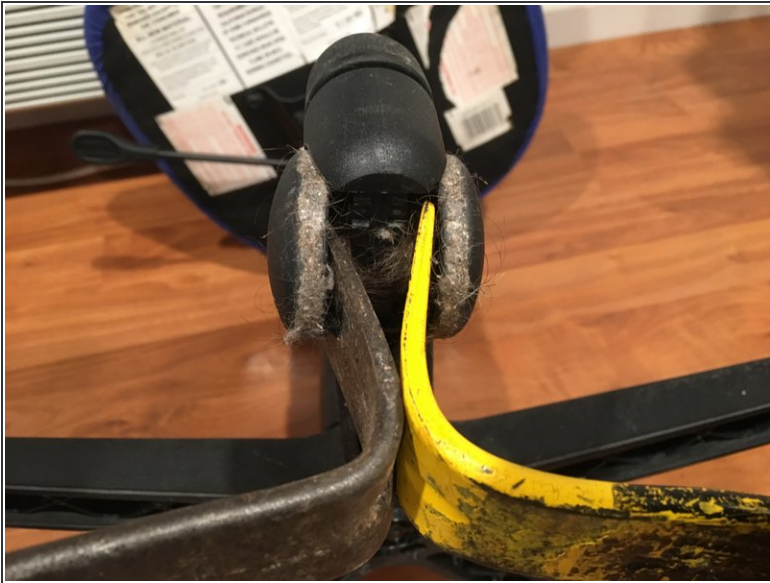
- The wheel was likely mankind's first invention but these tandem wheels so typical of any rolling office chair quickly get clogged up with pet hair and dirt until they will hardly roll at all.
- Lay your chair on its' side and examine the wheel. If it looks like debris is preventing it from rolling smoothly, then this guide will help you out.

Step 2 — Get the Right Tools



- You will need something to pry the two wheels apart. I've found that using two pry bars work best but you might be able to accomplish the same thing using (2) large screwdrivers with an object between them as a fulcrum.
- The WD-40 is a general purpose lubricant but any light oil can be used. Some people feel you shouldn't use oil at all but use graphite in lieu of oil.
- The clamp will make reassembly easier but you might be able to do the same thing with a hammer or just your foot.

Step 3 — Pry the Two Wheels Apart



- The wheels are just pressed onto a common shaft. There are no screws or clips holding them. To remove them from the shaft, insert the two pry bars as illustrated so that they press against each other and pry them apart until they pop apart.
- Only one side will come off. Use a knife to clear away the debris from the shaft until you can pull out the shaft and get everything cleaned.

Step 4 — Clean and Lubricate the Shaft & Wheels



- The faces of the wheels themselves will also likely need to be cleaned. I've found that a utility knife works well to scrape away the accumulated dirt and grime off of the wheel. You can likely accomplish the same using any number of tools or even just scrubbing it with a pad or steel wool in a sink.
- I suggest that you lubricate the axle with a light oil such as WD-40. Other repair persons say that the oil will just attract more dirt. They say that you should leave it dry or use dry graphite as a lubricant.

Step 5 — Reassemble the Wheels



- It's now time to reassemble the wheels. A clamp can be used to gently push the two wheels back together again. You can also accomplish this by placing one wheel on a sturdy object and either hammer the other wheel or step on it. It's just difficult to get the wheel up onto something to do it in that manner. The clamp is easy, safe, and quiet.
- Once the wheels are back together, test spin them to make sure you have gotten them all the way on. If they don't spin easily, you may not have pressed them together far enough. You should hear a distinct "pop" when they go together.
- That's it! You're done and ready to move to the next wheel.

A typical office chair may have (4) or (5) such wheels. Disassemble and clean all of them and enjoy a smooth rolling chair again.