

A Quick & Easy Way to
**DISASSEMBLE & CLEAN
YOUR PASTA MACHINE**

FREE
tutorial by
Phyllis Cahill



Sparkly clean
in less than
3 minutes!

Tools Needed:



A medium-sized Phillips screwdriver

A 10mm socket wrench
(Other types of wrenches will work, but a
socket wrench is the easiest.)

A paper towel

90% rubbing alcohol or a baby wipe



*For
polymer clay
artists!*

W

hen bits of different colored polymer clay show up on new clay you run through your pasta machine, it's usually coming from clay accumulated on the scrapers. Cleaning them prevents this problem. Sometimes old clay sticks to the rollers, but that's easy to see and wipe off without disassembling your machine.

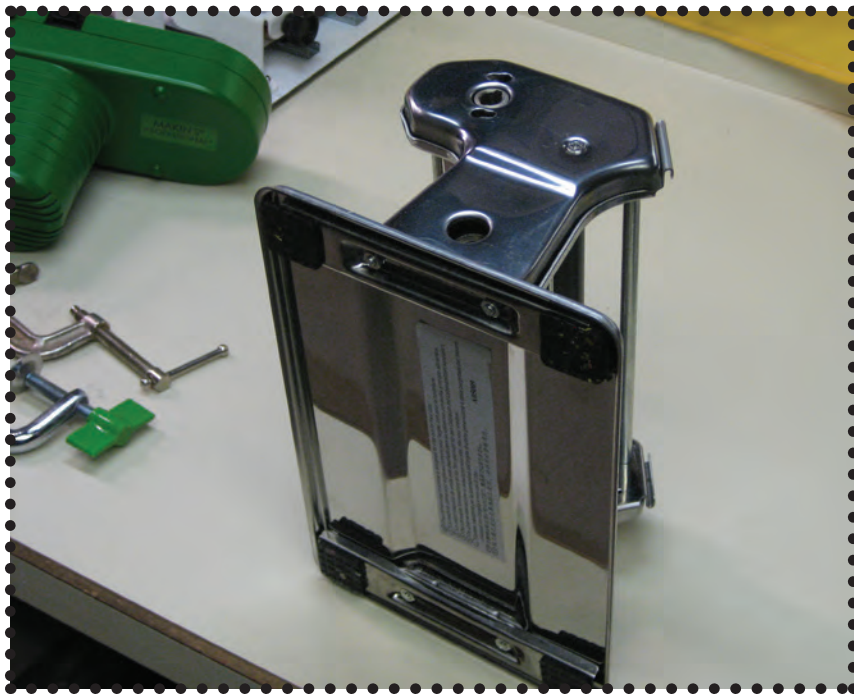
Clay starts accumulating on the scrapers as soon as you use the pasta machine. It can contaminate your clay soon after. The scrapers are necessary and this is normal, although it can be annoying.

I clean the scrapers on my machine quite often. I clean them between mixing colors that are fairly different from one another. I always clean them before making a Skinner blend or doing something where I really don't want the clay messed up. If I forget whether the scrapers are clean or not, I'll clean them again because I can't tell without taking the machine apart.

This sounds like a LOT of cleaning, but the whole process takes less than 3 minutes. I find it easier and less irritating than cleaning up unwelcome bits of old clay.

I've probably cleaned my scrapers 100 times and haven't noticed any problems with my pasta machine. Pasta machine manufacturers might not approve, but it's a tool that needs to work for us.

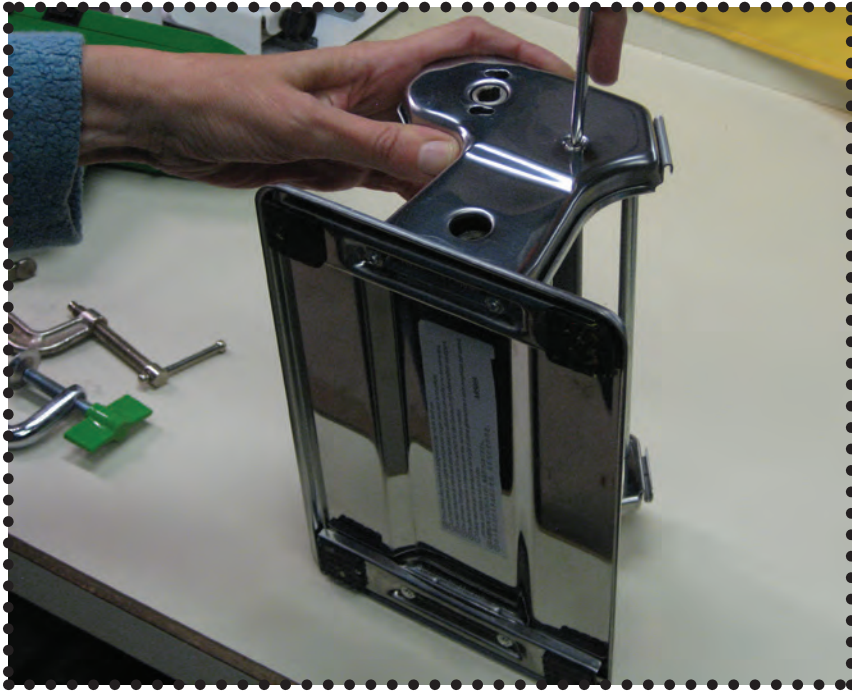
A Makins pasta machine is shown in the photos below, but Atlas is virtually identical. I prefer the Teflon-coated rollers of the Makins because the Atlas' metal rollers make black streaks on my clay.



Step 1:



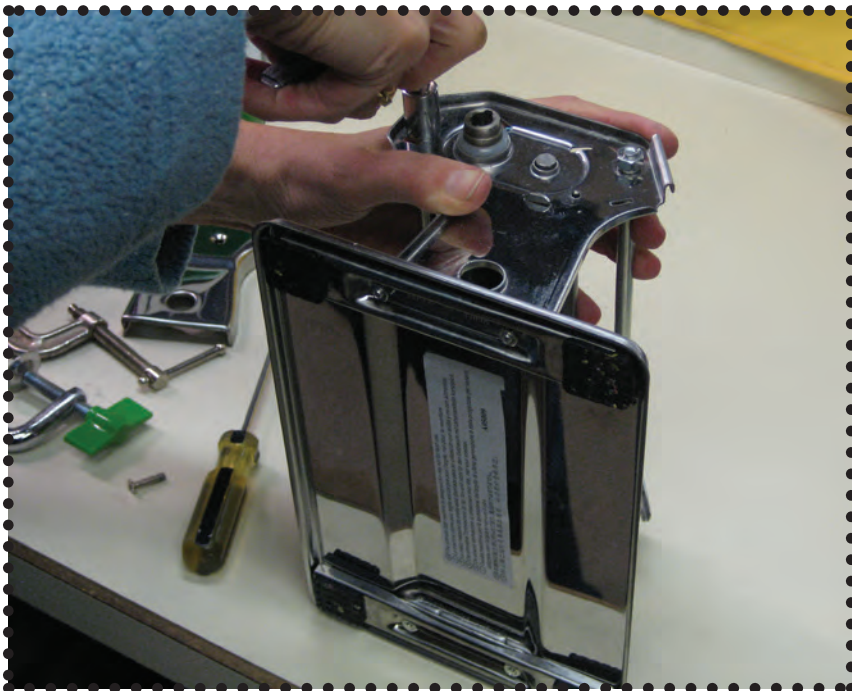
Remove the handle or motor and stand the pasta machine on its end. I've permanently removed those pesky metal fenders that cover the rollers because they're unnecessary. If you'd like to do the same, you can in Step 4.



Step 2:



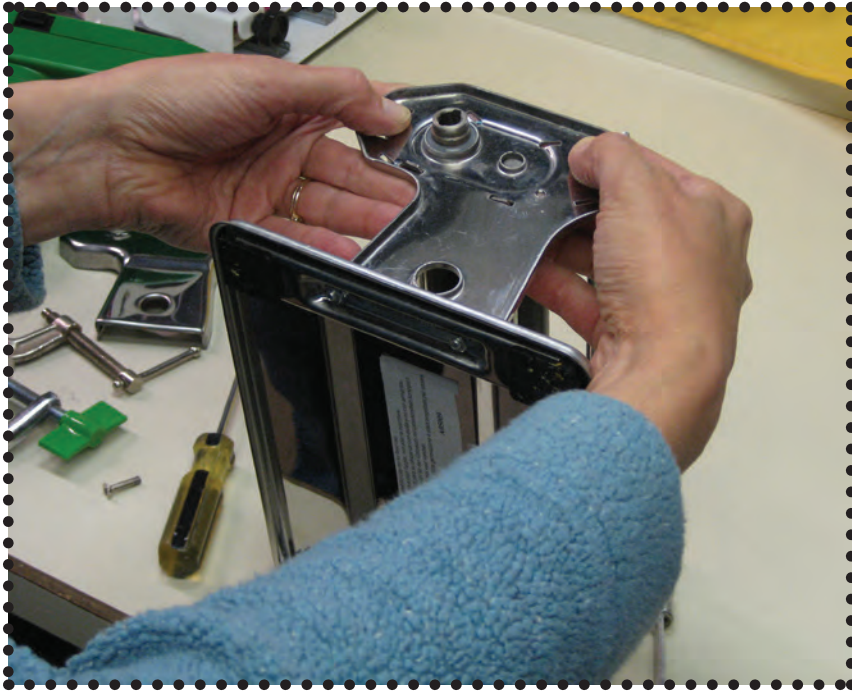
Remove the screw and metal face plate. If you don't use a motor, this plate can also be permanently removed.



Step 3:



Remove the two nuts, but leave the washers in place, if your machine has them.



Step 4:

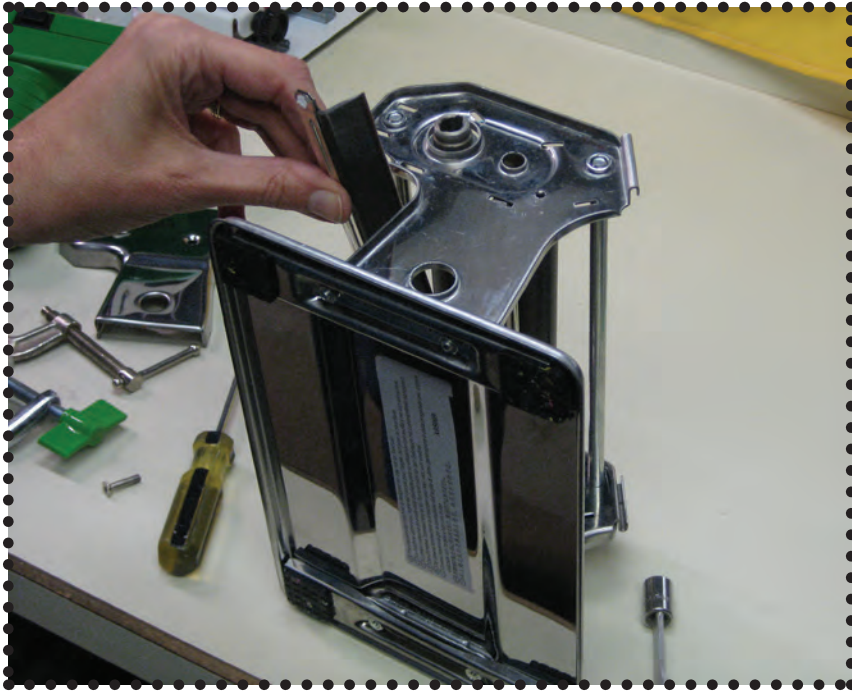
Place your thumbs on the two bolts and push them down while using your fingers to slightly raise the metal plate toward you. We're flexing the metal only about 1/4", not permanently bending it.

The metal might be a bit stiff the first few times, but it will loosen up. If they're still on, remove the metal fenders that cover the rollers.



Step 5:

Holding the metal plate in place, slide the right roller away from you just enough to prop open the machine, only about 1/4". The bolts will still stick through the holes, though the washers may try to slip off.



Step 6:



Note how the scrapers are placed so you can put them back later, then remove them.



Step 7:



With your thumbnail or a smooth plastic scraper, scrape the clay off of the scrapers. Don't use anything that might nick or scratch the scrapers because this will show up in your clay.

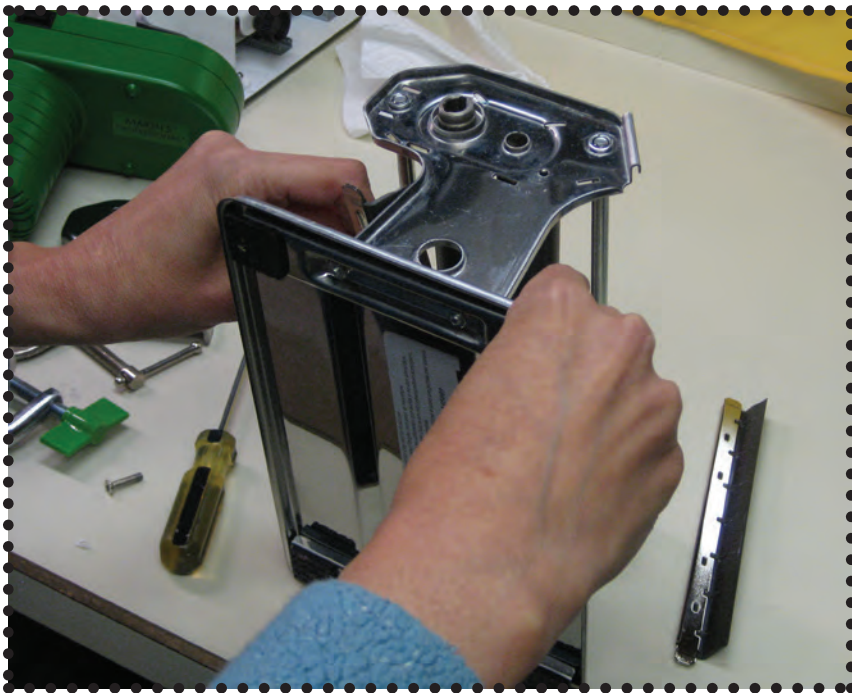
(The clay on the scrapers in this photo accumulated from conditioning just one small package of clay.)





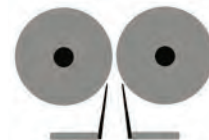
Step 8:

Wipe both sides with with a dry paper towel. This will remove most of the clay. You can use rubbing alcohol or a baby wipe to be sure all colored clay residue is gone.



Step 9:

Replace the scrapers by putting the bottom metal tabs into the slots. (The thin part of each scraper goes toward the center, right next to the rollers like this:)



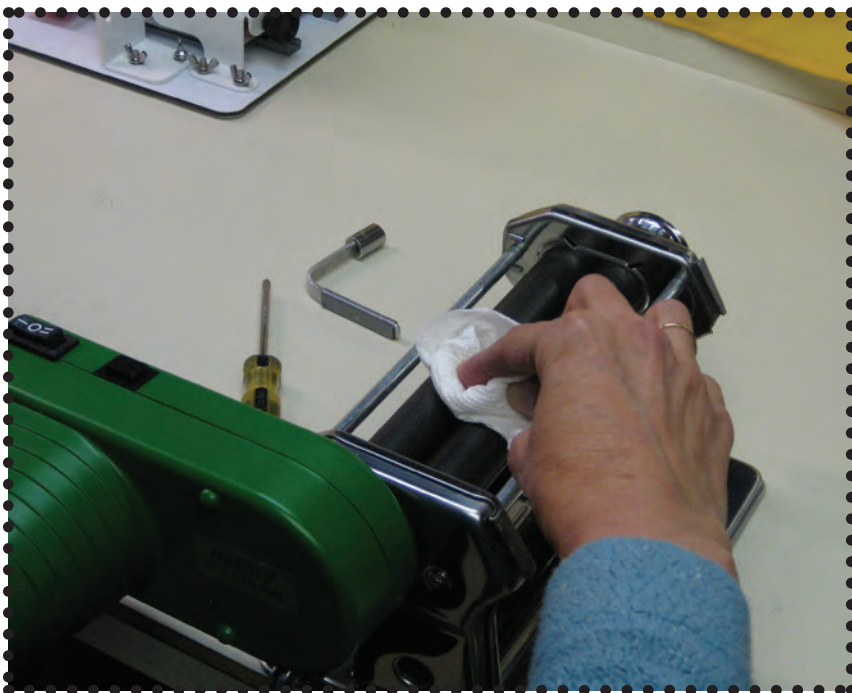
Adjust them until the top metal tab of each scraper sits right under the top slots. Put the right roller back in place and gently push the metal plate down. Everything should click into place. If not, assure you have everything lined up and try again.



Step 10:

Replace the nuts, face plate and screw.

TIP: Replacing the screw is easier when the machine is sitting on its base because you can see the second hole for the screw on the other side.



Step 11:

Replace the clamps, handle or motor. Wipe down the rollers while they're rotating. Clean up any stray bits of clay on your pasta machine and work surface and...

YOU'RE DONE!