Quick Fix Instructions – Low Profile Baitcasting Reels
Drag Washer and Roller Clutch Bearing Replacement

Shimano® round baitcasting reel drags and roller clutch bearings are easily replaced by the consumer.

Models: Curado®, Citica®, Cruxis®, Chronarch®, Chronarch® Mg, and various Shimano® low profile baitcasting reels.

Symptoms of Drag malfunction: Jerky drag, no drag pressure, no drag range.
Symptoms of Anti-Reverse malfunction: Handle spins backwards on hookset or with line pressure.
Diagnostic Procedure for Anti-reverse: Spin the handle rapidly and quickly depress the clutch bar. If the handle does not stop immediately upon depression of the clutch bar, then that is a good indicator that the anti-reverse is in need of replacement.
Diagnostic Procedure for Drag: With the reel in gear, pull line out with your hand. The line should come off the spool with little or no start-up hesitation or jerkiness. In other words, if it is not “smooth”, the drag washer should either be serviced or replaced.
Tools that may be needed: Small flat head screwdriver, small Phillips head screwdriver, 10mm nutdriver or crescent wrench, cotton swabs, rubbing alcohol, Shimano® Bantam® Oil. Shimano® Drag Grease.


Remove handle nut plate, handle nut, handle, and star drag assembly. **Note:** Left hand reels feature reverse threads for the handle assembly.

If changing anti-reverse roller clutch bearing, use a 10mm nutdriver to dislodge it from the sideplate.

If only changing the drag, skip this step as well as the next two steps.

Remove star drag spring and star drag nut. Remove star drag springs and spacer underneath as well. Refer to schematics.

With the old roller clutch bearing out, clean off any debris, rust or excess grease. When installing the new bearing, make sure that it is installed in the correct direction, otherwise, the handle will not turn.

The roller clutch inner tube should be installed with the prongs facing down toward the metal drag plate. Use a cotton swab to apply a very light coat of Bantam® Oil on the outside of the inner tube and to the inside of the roller bearing.

Remove the metal drag plate to expose the drag washer. On older Curado® models, the drag washers are made of a fabric material. The Curado®D drags are Dartanium II (carbon like material). Dartanium II drags are very fragile, so take extra caution not to break them! Clean inside of drive gear and drag plate with cotton swabs and alcohol.

Grease Dartanium® drags with a light coat of Shimano® Drag Grease. The old style fabric drags will require more grease than Dartanium drags. More grease = smoother drag. Less grease = more drag pressure. Excessive grease will yield insufficient drag pressure.

Important: After re-installing the sideplate, re-install the drag star springs as depicted above ( ). If they are not installed correctly, the drag range will be affected. Run the Diagnostic Procedures again to ensure proper function of the anti-reverse and/or drag.