



## FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING TRU COUNT™ CLUTCHES

The following questions and responses pertain to most inquiries/requests that we get from you, the customer, for Tru Count™ clutches. The answers may not be endorsed by Trimble®; this document is meant to be more of a general brief on the product line. Best to just consider the answers as “an opinion”, and then you can get a second opinion elsewhere, if you like. (Oh, and you may not see the correct ® or ™ after the brand names, but we’re trying.)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **I’m new to farming. What is a clutch for?**

A planter clutch can be used to temporarily delay product application. In a seeding application, clutches can be used to stop an individual meter, several meters, or a (hex) driveshaft. The benefit of this is reduced seed/product waste.

2. **How does a clutch work?**

Every clutch has its ‘drive’ side and ‘driven’ side---when the clutch is activated, the ‘driven’ side stops turning. Most clutches are designed in this way---losing power to the clutch means that planting will not be interrupted. (If the clutch is operating properly, that is.)

3. **Can I get a motor to run the meter or hex shaft to stop turning for the same benefit?**

Hydraulic motors are commonly installed on planters to replace the ground-drive feature, as well as to offer variable-rate seeding application. In recent years, electric meter motors have been used to achieve variable-rate seeding with turn compensation. Clutches will not do this, but their price point makes them more feasible to many growers.

### HEX-SHAFT CLUTCH INFORMATION

1. **Is a “hex-shaft clutch” the same thing as a “half-width disconnect”?**

Usually, yes. The “hex-shaft clutch” is a more precise name for it (opinion only). The clutch does not have to be mounted halfway between the toolbar span. For a more efficient design, a clutch would be mounted on either side of the shaft drive unit. Depending on the design, a single clutch may influence the operation of four or more row units at a time.

2. **What activates the clutch?**

A 12-volt power feed. Some operators prefer to manually control their clutches with simple harnessing and toggle switches; other operators prefer to let their GPS-enabled controller do the job. For those using a controller, you should acquire a harness that accounts for the higher amperage---which, depending on the load, could be as much as seven (7) amps per clutch.

3. **“Higher amperage”? Will they work with my controller?**

Trimble® has a harness that integrates up to four Tru Count hex-shaft clutches to a Field-IQ™

section-control module (SCM). Other brands, such as Ag Leader® and Precision Planting® have comparable harnesses for their product modules. Consult the manufacturer of your controller for compatibility.

4. **What planters are compatible?**

Trimble® currently has clutch kits for John Deere®, AGCO White®, and generic installations for one or two hydraulic drives. Each kit would include the necessary clutch assemblies and mounting hardware. If the planter hex shaft is 7/8” diameter, then these clutches will usually fit.

5. **I don't need a new clutch, but my new-to-me planter has some clutches I need to repair. Are parts available?**

Parts are available to order, including hardware kits, springs, seals, service packs, and solenoids. Matching an older part number to its current version may be a challenge, however.

6. **Do these need any maintenance?**

Yes, end-of-season maintenance is encouraged. There is an ELECTRIC clutch maintenance-guide PDF document posted on our website ([www.precisionagsolutions.net/product/tru-count-clutches/](http://www.precisionagsolutions.net/product/tru-count-clutches/)).

#### PNEUMATIC METER CLUTCH INFORMATION

1. **Can I order more air clutches?**

No, not as a complete assembly. Trimble® discontinued the pneumatic row-meter clutch a few seasons ago, in favor of an electric row-meter clutch that can be ordered.

2. **Can I get repair parts for my air clutches?**

Air clutch service parts are available--- housings, stop collars, springs, etc. In fact, service parts can be ordered for your entire air system. Some hardware kits are available as well.

3. **These air clutches haven't been used in multiple seasons---do they need any maintenance?**

Yes, end-of-season maintenance is encouraged. There is an AIR clutch maintenance-guide PDF document posted on our website ([www.precisionagsolutions.net/product/tru-count-clutches/](http://www.precisionagsolutions.net/product/tru-count-clutches/)).

4. **I bought some used air clutches that went on 'that color' planter, but I want to install them on 'my color' planter. Is this possible?**

The answer is: it depends. While certain clutch parts are generic between different configurations, some parts are specific to the planter or meter. If you are looking to convert “within the brand” (ex: John Deere® sprocket to John Deere® meter-mount), you'll probably have better chances.

5. **If the repair parts are available, and if the hardware kit is available, could I assemble my own clutch?**

This has been done. Please be aware, however, that some maintenance parts are sold in multiples, so if you only want to build one complete clutch, you may have to order a 5-pack of air cylinders, a 4-pack of center hubs, etc.

#### ELECTRIC METER CLUTCH INFORMATION

1. **Will the electric row-meter clutches fit on my planter, just like the air clutches do?**

Depends on planter model. At the time of this document, Trimble® offers options for:  
John Deere® Pro Drive™ CCS

John Deere® sprocket  
Kinze® “puller” and “pusher” sprocket models  
White® sprocket  
Case® sprocket for 2007/older, and 2008/newer  
Monosem® sprocket

Except for one or two instances, the hardware kit that goes with your air clutch can likely be re-used with this new clutch.

2. **How do the electric row-meter clutches work with my existing controller and air clutch system?**

Your controller communicates with a product-control module on the planter. From that module, there are several 6-pin weatherpack connectors labeled Section 1-4, Section 5-8, etc. At present, each occupied connection leads to a valve-box module---disconnect the 6-pin connection at that module. Trimble® offers a harness that converts from the 6-pin weatherpack to four two-pin deutsch connectors---one for each electric clutch.

3. **My air clutches are paired/grouped with the air hoses. Can the electric version be grouped together?**

Trimble® only supports one electric row clutch per section at this time.

If you have other questions, please contact our office at (605) 725-6999 Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm (Central). You may also email us at [precisionagsolutions@nvc.net](mailto:precisionagsolutions@nvc.net) . Thank you!