

Dorma Door Closer Manual



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Book Descriptions:

Dorma Door Closer Manual

This article is primarily about surfacemounted door closers, but the ideas here can be applied to other kinds of door closers as well. Most of the adjustments are implemented by opening and closing hydraulic valves. When it comes to turning the screws that operate these valves, a little goes a long way. A turn of five degrees can significantly increase or decrease closing speed. Also, hydraulic fluid will leak out of the closer and make a mess. It accomplishes this by using spring tension modulated by hydraulic fluid. As the user opens the door, hydraulic fluid passes from one reservoir to another. As the spring pushes the door closed again, the hydraulic fluid passes back to the previous reservoir through a series of valves that control the speed. The illustration above shows the effects of the common hydraulic adjustment controls available on most commercial grade door closers. Controls for swing speed and latching speed control how fast the door closes. Many closers also feature a hydraulic control for back check that controls the last few inches of the opening the door so as to prevent the door from being slammed into an adjacent wall. Swing speed adjustment controls how fast the door closes from fully open to within about five degrees of closed. These might be located in many configurations, but you will usually see the back check control located somewhat away from the latch speed and swing speed controls. There are also door closers equipped with an additional valve for delayed action. Delayed action closers hold the door open for a longer period of time to allow persons with disabilities more time to get through the door. Control Valve Placement Notice the spring tension adjustment in the illustration above. The term is misleading because it does not actually have anything to do with the physical dimensions of the closer. <http://artpolinakuzina.ru/pict/91-honda-civic-manual.xml>

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It is tempting to use the spring tension adjustment to solve problems—for example, in positive pressure situations where air flow is preventing the door from closing properly. However, the tighter you make the spring, the harder it will be to open the door. It is possible to tighten the spring tension so that some people will not be able to open the door. Making an Adjustment To adjust the door closer Bring a step ladder tall enough so that you can easily reach the door closer from the second or third highest step. If you cant see adjustment screws, chances are the closer has a cover. Usually, the cover is plastic, but it could also be metal. If you see no fasteners holding the cover on, that means the cover is held on by tension. Pull it off. If you do see fasteners, usually you can loosen, but not remove, the fasteners and the cover will slide off. You need a new door closer. If, however, it is not leaking, you can proceed. If you are lucky, they will be marked on the closer body as to what they are, or there will be a diagram inside the cover. If not, you may have to experiment a little to see which is which. Turn the adjustment screw clockwise to slow the door closer down, counterclockwise to speed it up, then get down off the ladder and observe the effect. If it closes right the first time, check it 10 more times. If it closes correctly every time, youre done. If not, go back up the ladder and make another adjustment, until the closer is doing what you want it to do. If there is a hinge problem, a warped door, or the door must swing uphill to close; a door closer will only go so far to solve the problem. Sometimes a door must be repaired before it will close and lock

automatically with a door closer. The trapped air between the inside and outside door can be a factor in door closing. You may have to adjust both closers to get both to work correctly. <http://www.alphapipes.com/userfiles/image/91-honda-civic-service-manual.xml>

Wherever air pressure is a factor, including negative or positive pressure situations, I have been able to get door closers to close and latch the door consistently by adjusting them to a slow swingspeed and a somewhat fast latchspeed. The slow swingspeed seems to give the air a chance to get out of the way, and the fast latch speed gives it a very slight slam at the end to make sure it latches. Download the instructions from the door closer manufacturers web site and see if it is installed correctly. Either way, your best option is to replace it. Content is for informational or entertainment purposes only and does not substitute for personal counsel or professional advice in business, financial, legal, or technical matters. I have tried tightening both of the screws as per the manual, but it is still slamming. Would you have any tips on this before I consign it to the bin and order a new one. There are no leaks anywhere, but this has been slamming since long before I started, and this is on an old warehouse door. Answer Sometimes, even if a door closer has not lost any fluid, its speed adjustment valves malfunction. It has always been my choice, if a closer cannot be adjusted, to replace it with one that can be adjusted. Question My tenant is complaining that the door is too heavy to open. What adjustment is needed. Answer The two most likely possibilities are 1 excessive spring tension or 2 incorrect installation. To find out which kind of closer you have, you'll need to identify the make and model and then download the install instructions from the manufacturers web site. If the closer has adjustable spring tension it will say so in the install instructions and also tell you how to adjust it. If your closer has no spring tension adjustment the install instructions may show how to locate the closer differently on the door to decrease the tension. Also, using the install instructions and a tape measure you can tell if your closer is installed incorrectly.

If it is installed incorrectly this could also affect the spring tension. Question What if you install the door closer device and the door is really hard to open. Answer All door closers exert force against opening. If the force needed to open the door is excessive, and the spring tension of the door closer is adjustable, the level of force exerted by the spring can be reduced. Some door closers have preset spring tension. These have sizes according to the strength of their spring. For example, on an exterior door that is three feet wide, one would usually use a size four door closer. If one used that same closer on a door that is thirty inches wide, one might find that opening the door has become difficult. For example, if the arm were attached to the spindle in the wrong position, or if the closer was installed in the wrong location, it might make the door hard to open. Question Why, when trying to use my door opener, is it too heavy to work. Answer Two reasons come to mind 1 the spring strength is too strong, 2 the closer is installed incorrectly. If you find that the spring tension is not adjustable, your closer may be the wrong size for your door and you will need to replace it if you want to improve the situation. I suggest you replace it with a closer that has adjustable spring tension. This may mean simply taking the arm off and placing it back on in the right position according to the instructions, or it might mean relocating the closer according to the measurements given in the instructions. For example, if your building has positive air pressure, as many buildings do nowadays, perhaps the closer was made so strong so it could overcome the air pressure. Or, perhaps the door does not swing right. If there is some resistance because the hinges are bent or rusty, for example, or if the door rubs against the frame, it could be the closer was given more strength to avoid dealing with the real problem.

<http://www.raumboerse-luzern.ch/mieten/dacor-rv30s-installation-manual>

You would then have to see if you could fix the root of the problem before you adjusted the spring tension. Question What do I do if I have the screws out of my door closer as far as they go, but it still is not closing. The back pressure is still holding it open. I am almost wanting to slam it closed.

Answer Air pressure is a powerful force. Often I have found in a vestibule situation, the inner door simply will not close properly while the outer door is closing. One has to slow down the swing speed and speed up the latch speed so that the door closer can ease the door closed against the air that is trying to escape from the vestibule. You may be able to get it to close by the same method slow swing speed and fast latching speed but it could be that no hydraulic door closer will do the job. Even if you put the most powerful door closer on the door, such that its actually hard to open the door which, BTW, will not meet the American Disabilities Act requirements it still may not quite do the job. One might suggest to their facilities manager, maybe it doesnt have to be so strong that it compromises security. Question My Russwin Door closer has been working properly for several years, and now it doesn't return all the way. Why is this Answer Sounds like it might be a broken main spring to me. Question My door began slamming over the past four to six months, and theres a trail of this sticky mess dripping down the glass door and collecting like black tar on the threshold under the door closer. Can I assume that the sticky black mess, which is nearly impossible to remove, is indeed either oil or hydraulic fluid. Answer Yes, I think your diagnosis is absolutely correct. Answer I think you are referring to numbers that appear next to the speed adjustment screws. The numbers are there because they are referred to in the installation instructions. Identify the manufacturer, find the install instructions and your mystery will be solved.

Answer Acceptable interior door opening force, according to the American Disabilities Act, is 5 pounds of pressure. Exterior doors are not regulated in the latest version of ADA, but local authorities have requirements ranging from 5 to 15 pounds of force required to open the door. Since opening force and closing force are the same thing, a door closer adjusted to comply with opening force standards may not exert the closing force necessary to consistently close and latch the door. Question Can I refill the hydraulic fluid if it has leaked out of my door closer. Answer It is possible, but it requires materials and expertise. The hydraulic fluid leaked for a reason either the closer body has a crack in which case it would just leak out again, or more likely one of the hydraulic seals orings has given out. So to fix a leaky closer, you need to completely disassemble the closer, replace the offending part, and then replace the fluid. It is also essential to put in the right amount of fluid, no more, no less, so be sure to consult with the manufacturer. Question How do you adjust a door closer so itll hold the door open. Answer For your door closer to hold the door open it must have a holdopen mechanism. In double lever arm common door closers this feature is in the arm. In track closers less common it is in the track. Most door closer manufacturers offer arms separately, so if you want to change your door closer from one that does not have a holdopen to one that does, you can replace the standard arm with a holdopen arm, and that will do it. If you already have a door closer with a holdopen feature, it may be adjustable. Often with holdopen door closers there is a large nut on the shoe. The nut is tightened by the swinging open of the door and loosened when it closes. One can adjust the nut so that when the door is opened to a certain degree, the nut is tightened sufficiently by the opening of the door to hold the door open at that degree of opening.

Question My Yale pottype closer has far too much force on the swing, but slows down for latch. Answer It sounds like your closer has a fast swing speed and a more normal latching speed. It also sounds like you probably know how to adjust the swing speed, but it will not adjust. If these two assertions are true, perhaps the swing speed valve seal is failing or the valve itself is worn out. This typically occurs in closers that have been in service for several years, or in closers that are defective. Another possibility is that the closer has lost some of its hydraulic fluid, but since the fluid usually drips down the face of the door when it escapes, this cause is easier to detect. Question My house door has a concealed door closer. It makes a loud sound whenever it closes. How can I fix it Answer Many hydraulic concealed door closers have the same kinds of adjustments found on surface mounted hydraulic door closers. Often there will be holes in the cover plate that allow access to the adjustment screws. Sometimes one must remove the cover plate to find the adjustment screws. They

leak, or the seals wear out, and then they can no longer be adjusted and tend to slam the door hard. And, like surface closers, they can be rebuilt or replaced. Question I have a door closer LCN 146071 that holds open at about 180 degrees. How do I prevent the hold open feature. This arm has a large adjustment nut on the shoe. This is not the small nut toward the middle of the forearm that attaches the forearm. Turn the hold open adjustment nut slightly counterclockwise and your problem should disappear. The clip can be removed and the closer will no longer hold open. Download the LCN 1460 installation instructions to see if the closer is mounted in the right place on the door to properly allow for 180 degree opening. Check the top of the door for rub marks. The arm should have no contact with the top of the door.

Answer Im no authority on that, having never put hydraulic fluid into any closer. Since its been out of production for some years, I think it would be difficult to find out how much fluid it takes. Ive adjusted many door closers, but I have not rebuilt any. RBAdoor.com says the DC6210 replaced the 120, so perhaps you can use specs for the DC6210 as a guide if you are rebuilding a 120. Question What exactly are the specs for adjusting a door closure to ADA requirements. Answer I have found that local authorities often differ in their enforcement of the American Disabilities Act. Check with your local Authority Having Jurisdiction to be sure. Open the door gradually; do not "jerk" it open. Typical maximum opening force for exterior doors ranges from 8.5 to 10 lbs. Any door so heavy that it prevents entrance by people with disabilities may deny them access to goods and services, which is covered under the ADA. Also, state or local government codes may have specific accessibility requirements for exterior doors. The closing or swing distance is from the open position at 90 degrees to 12 degrees from the latch. Answer The degree of opening is adjustable to an extent. If your closer is mounted on the door on the push or pull side, you can download the install instructions from Allegion. They will show you how to adjust the degree of opening. It may mean changing the location of the closer body and arm shoe. Question We replaced the door closer on the office front door but the door keeps opening when its windy outside. What can we do to fix the problem with the door. Answer Wind can be a difficult problem to solve. If your door closer has a spring adjustment, you can make it stronger. You will need the manufacturers instructions to see if and how this can be done. Otherwise you can replace the closer you just replaced with one that can be adjusted.

Or you can replace it with a door closer that is not adjustable but has the most powerful spring that is available, such as the LCN 4016 or 4116. However, even a size 6 closer may not be strong enough, and the other side of the coin is that the more powerful the spring, the harder it becomes to open the door. Depending on the degree of opening at which the wind takes your door, you may be able to solve or at least mitigate the problem by using an overhead stop. This will stop the door from opening too far. Be aware, however, that to comply with the American Disabilities Act your door must provide 32 inches of clear opening. A normal 36 inch wide door complies only when it is opened to an angle of 90 degrees. If the wind is blowing your door open from a completely closed position, then you need a latch on your door to hold it closed. Question Why does my door closer suddenly change speed. It goes slow, stops, and then goes fast. Answer It seems to me your door closer has the standard twovalve speed adjustment system. One valve controls the speed for the first part of the swing, and the other valve controls the last part of the swing. These can be set any number of ways fast, then slow, or slow, then fast, or both slow, or both fast, and many settings in between these variations. The only mysterious part is, why does it stop. If it were going very fast, then slow, that would indicate to me it has probably lost some hydraulic fluid; but since it is going slow, then fast, I think one or both valves may be malfunctioning. If you can identify the make and model of your door closer, you can probably download the installation instructions for it. These instructions will include how to adjust the valves. Adjusting the speed valves is often a trialanderror process. The important thing to remember is to turn either valve just a tiny bit, then test it. Repeat until you achieve the proper results. Never turn a valve so far that it comes out of the closer body.

Question Our church has multiple door closers of different makes. Some lack any labels or identifying marks that I can find. How can I identify the make and model of our door closers in order to look up instructions for adjusting them. Answer I think you will need to enlist the help of a professional, but the definitive identifying feature tends to be the mounting screws. Take photos of each door closer with the cover on, the cover off, and then with a tape measure or ruler showing the centertocenter dimensions, vertical and horizontal, between the mounting screws. Using this information, the door hardware professional can get an idea of the manufacturer from the closers appearance and then verify the particular model by the screw pattern. How do I regain that aspect. Answer It sounds like you have a friction holdopen arm, and somebody lubed the friction holdopen knuckle. Because this kind of hold open works due to friction, and the purpose of lubrication is to eliminate friction well, you can see the problem. If you can disassemble it, try removing the lubricant from all parts using a small amount of solvent like turpentine and a rag. If you cannot get inside the knuckle to do this, try to clean it as much as you can from outside, and then use a heat gun on a low setting to dry it out. That might work. Question I am trying to make a door closer for my project. All the work is done besides figuring out a specific speed setting after multiple cycles, my door closer starts to lose the speed of its motion without me having made any changes to the valve setting. What is a possible solution. Answer There are a few factors at play. First, there is the hydraulic fluid. Second, the orings in the valves may change position, compress or expand if they are too elastic or of two small a gauge.

Also the valves may not provide an adequate seat to the oring, allowing it to flex out of position, and significant air temperature changes in the door closers environment may affect the closers behavior. Then, find the installation instructions online, if possible. The installation instructions will tell you whether the spring tension of the closer is adjustable. If it is, adjust it according to the instructions. If your door closer is not adjustable it may be an incorrect choice for your door. Measure the width of the door, and then shop for a new door closer that is either adjustable for spring tension or is sized appropriately for your door. Hitender on June 20, 2020 My door is too hard to open look what I do DINESH on April 10, 2020 THANKS. One neighbour said he has a spring on his door which causes it to close hard. Would a pneumatic or hydraulic door closer stop the slamming from being so hard. Which one is better. I also saw a damper from Justor, would that be better. And which tradesperson should I look for to fit the door closer. I also dont know how I can convince the landlord or neighbour to let me fit it. This model has a friction holdopen feature, which I wanted. Problem The friction release point is at about the 50degree point in the swing. I would like the frictionhold release point to be closer to 80deg point. i.e. 10deg less than full open. Can you tell me if this is possible with this unit, even if disassembly might be required. There is no external adjustment for this function. The manufacturers supportclone was no help. The problem is really the principal of the spring and the hydraulics. One adjusts a door closer for certain conditions but then the conditions change. Its pretty normal to have to adjust a closer seasonally, but daily must really be a chore. A fully electromechanical power operator would be less susceptible to these pressure fluctuations, but not immune, and it would be expensive as well.

One of these days some clever person will come up with a selfadapting robot door closer. Tyler Lasche on April 08, 2019 I have an interior door that when it is cold out side the air flow in our building will cause the door to slam shut. When it is warm or hot outside the air pressure is so much that it cause the door to stay open. Is there a door closer that would help me not have to change the swing speed or the latching speed so much. Any advice would be helpful. Tom rubenoff author from United States on April 02, 2019 Usually when I have seen this in the past it is because the shoe of the door closer is attached to the wooden casing on a wooden door frame. But since I dont know what your door frame is made of, Im not so sure. It could be that your door closer is equipped with a back check feature that causes a backward pressure designed to keep users from slamming the door into the wall. If the back check is adjusted very high it could cause what you describe. To find out if

your door closer has a back check valve, consult the installation instructions. These instructions can usually be downloaded from the manufacturers web site. Grant Hickey on March 31, 2019 One of the screws is being ripped out of door frame when I open the door. Is there an adjustment I can make to the door closure to stop this or what can I do to fix this. Tom rubenoff author from United States on January 16, 2019 Wind can be a difficult problem. You may be able to adjust the spring tension so that it is stronger than the wind at least part of the time but then the door may be difficult to open. Sometimes you can use an overhead stop or other device to stop the door from opening to the degree that it catches the wind, but then your door may not open all the way. You will have to experiment and try to find something that works. Of course, reversing the swing of the door would probably solve the problem, but doing so is usually difficult, impractical, against fire safety code, or impossible.

Dany on January 16, 2019 The wind keeps the door open most of the time. What should I do Tom rubenoff author from United States on October 01, 2018 While door closer hydraulic fluid has been improved over the years, it still can be affected by changes in temperature. In colder temperatures the fluid will tend to thicken up a bit, making the closer slow down. John at work! on August 21, 2018 Tom. Thank you for your effort anyway. Very much appreciated. Nice to know there are likeminded people in the world who take doorclosing serious. Tom rubenoff author from United States on August 21, 2018 Unfortunately I could not find any installation instructions online for this closer. At Hafele I did find a written description of possible adjustments for this closer. According to what I read, this closer has no adjustment valves. The screw you mention seems to adjust closing force, not speed, but adjusting it may have an effect. The primary way to adjust the closing force, they say, is to reposition the closer on the door; that is, to unscrew it and move it toward or away from the hinge. That is an ugly idea. The way to adjust the latching speed, they say, is to reposition the arm; that is, to remove the arm from the spindle and reinstall it at a different angle. This may have an effect, so I would suggest you try that. If that fails I would recommend replacing the closer rather than moving it and creating extra mounting holes. John at work! on August 21, 2018 I have a GEZE TS2000 and the door closes everytime with an almighty slam. Far too loud. Can I adjust this somehow so it closes alittle slower. Remove little round black gummycap and simply turn screw! Tom rubenoff author from United States on July 21, 2018 The spring is indeed the thing that creates the pressure on the door. It is also the thing that shuts the door. With a door closer one tries to adjust the spring so that it shuts the door without exerting so much force that opening the door is difficult.

A common mistake is to depend solely on the spring to make the door shut and latch. The object of adjusting the closer is to achieve a balance between spring tension and closing speed that allows the closer to shut the door reliably without exerting so much force that it makes the door difficult to open. The solution to your door closer problem may be to decrease the spring tension and slightly increase the latching speed. This kind of closer is usually used when there is a space issue or when less closing force is desired. John Holehouse on July 20, 2018 Tom, I wonder if you know how to make the pressure on opening the door less and I also have a thump when the arms on top of the door reach the end of the slot. How much should you turn the end of the spring and have I over turned it which made the door heavy. Thanks for the article. John Tom rubenoff author from United States on April 28, 2018 Many installers are using spring stop arms because the wind is destroying their standard parallel arms. Some companies make parallel arm closers in a size 6 spring strength, but since these are sized the spring tension is not adjustable and half the time either the end user replaces it or an inspector throws it off the job for non compliance with ADA. Many closers are field adjustable to size 5, so in many cases this is the best we can do. Nick on April 27, 2018 Not a fan of push side parallel mount bodybon door and arm on header w plate, but unfortunatley had to do this twice this week, but i feel it takes away from alot of strength of the closer on exterior doors but the job site condition allowed nothing else any tips. Tom rubenoff author from United States on April 24,

2018 Wow, great to hear. Door closers can be both the most gratifying and the most frustrating pieces in the door hardware game. Glad the article was helpful. KerriC on April 24, 2018 Thanks Tom. I fixed an office door which was slamming shut for months following your instructions.

I would jump every time someone entered or exited from the door. Today is a much better day with no door slamming. Tom rubenoff author from United States on February 10, 2018 Thanks, George. I actually did not make this particular illustration, and I have to say it is difficult to see what part of the closer body I'm looking at, or who the manufacturer is. Nevertheless I think it helps reinforce the point that there are two closing speed adjustments to consider, each controlled by a separate adjustment valve screw. The best way to find out which screw is which is by consulting the manufacturer's installation instructions. The second best way is to carefully experiment with the screws, turning one at a time just a fraction of a turn and observing the effect. Or maybe the shoe is slightly crooked and the knuckle of the arm is binding. I would check the installations against the instructions. Might be a dumb question on my part, but has anybody detached the closer to see if it's actually the hinges squeaking Richard on February 07, 2018 We have about 100 cal royal door closers in our church. Not a problem adjusting them, just that they all squeak when opening or closing. Have lubricated all the arm, no where else to lube. Please help Jason on December 30, 2017 Hey, this seems to be a really helpful thread. I installed a closer and the spring tension is backwards, meaning that the spring keeps the door open instead of closed. The spring tube is mounted towards the door, and I don't think the closer can be mounted another way. Any ideas on how to solve this problem. Thanks, Jason Richard on October 29, 2017 W Morgan I also had a lot of trouble looking for the Britton 1004 which seems to be pretty much the same and found the 1003 instructions here hope it helps. W Morgan on September 26, 2017 Are there any adjustment screws on the Britton 1003 door closer I can not see any. Is there anything I can do to rectify this.

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