

# Snap fasteners save Gemini printer heads

By Michael Quigley

One of the nice features about printers

like the Gemini 10X is that they can use relatively inexpensive ribbons.

Unfortunately, some of these ribbons pose a potential danger to your printer. At each end of the ribbon near the central spool is a little metal button (called an "eyelet grommet") which is supposed to catch in a changeover lever and automatically reverse the ribbon's direction. On some ribbons I've purchased, this grommet is so thin that it will pass right through the lever and end up under the print head where it might

cause a lot of damage.

Watch for this happening the first time you use a new ribbon, and if there's any sign of danger, head to your nearest fabric store and purchase some snap fasteners. These are similar to the grommet, but much thicker.

Snap them into place just before the grommet. And when you go to throw the ribbon out, don't forget to keep the snap fasteners — they're reusable!