

Replacing the Air Con pulley

This is mounted low and so liable to get wet and damaged. Mine started making a hissing noise. If you take the belt off and spin the pulley it should make little or no noise just like the larger pulley above it. If it rumbles it will probably need replacing. You will need a replacement AC pulley bearing and clutch kit, which you can get for about £120. I bought a second hand pump from a scrap yard for £140. The pulley fitted fine but the pump did appear to be different. To remove it you will have to get access to a circlip tool. These look like regular pliers but have 2 pins connected at 90 degrees to the pliers tips to allow the spring clip to be opened.

Replacement should take 30mins if you have the circlip tool (3 hours+swearing without?.)

Release the tension in the belt as detailed in the **Replacing the lower pulley tensioner** write up. You can release the centre nut of the air con pump with a screw driver angled vertically in one of the U shaped cut-outs on the pump clutch plate and a 14mm socket on the centre nut. The screwdriver gives enough purchase to stop the clutch rotating allowing you to loosen the nut.

Remove the clutch plate (watch out for the two thin washers.) You could spin the pulley now to see if its noise was caused by an obstruction with the clutch plate. The now visible spring clip can be prized out with a screwdriver but DO NOT REMOVE unless you have access to the right kind of tool to get these clips back in. Sharp nosed pliers will probably not be enough. I tried unsuccessfully for over an hour with regular pliers but if you removed the inner plastic wings you might stand a chance.

The pulley can now be gently levered/pulled off. Some pumps have the clutch driving coil fixed but mine appeared to be held by the pulley. Replace the pulley and make sure is knocked home otherwise the circlip won't fit. The clutch plate can only go back on where it came off as there is a notch on the spline.
