

Measuring Wear on John Deere Planter Double Disk Openers

The JD disks are 15" in diameter when new. If disks are less than 14.5 inches in diameter, they should be replaced. There are shims in the hub where the disks run that can be removed or added to reach the appropriate distance. Once the shims are all pulled out, and the disks do not meet correctly...it is time for new disks for sure.

How to check for proper contact point of the disk openers:

1. Place a business card in the top side of where the disks meet. Slide the card down until it stops "in the pinch".
2. Take another business card and slide in from the bottom side up until the card is "in the pinch".
3. Measure the distance between the 2 business cards. This distance should be 1.75 to 2.0 inches for proper performance. See attached picture.

Proper closer wheel separation distance:

The distance between the inside of the closer wheels (at narrowest point) should have no more than a 0.75" to 1.0" gap for proper soil closing performance.

Excessive disk wear causes:

- Incorrect planting depth
- Ridge of soil in bottom of furrow that effects placement of seed and possibly germination and emergence.

