

HW:

I may have stumbled accidentally on to the cause of your ribbon troubles with the Hermes. I've had what sounds like the same trouble both with a Hermes and this Smith Corona Electric. The ribbon mechanism on the two machines appears identical, functionally.

Recently during a longish typing job I had continual trouble toward each end of the ribbon. It would wind outside the spool, get outside the ribbon guide next to the winding spool, and stall. With the electric, this stalls the entire machine.

Finally figured out that this seems to be caused by using a second hand ribbon from the office which is for a standard machine and therefore longer than a ribbon cut expressly for a portable. What happens appears to be that the longer the ribbon is used, the more beat up it gets from typing and the more space it takes up on the spool (because, in effect, it's thicker) and the sooner it gets out of the guide and winds and twists outside the spool. As far as I know we've never had this trouble with the shorter ribbons made expressly for portables. You still should be able to use standard ribbons by cutting a couple of yads off one end, but you'll have to be sure to replace the grommet near the end which fetches up at the ribbon guide and reverses the ribbon winding direction.

jdwl6march73