Replacing the switch on a Krups KVX231 coffee grinder

This machine works well but it has a serious design flaw. The on-off button breaks. You can buy a replacement but dismantling the grinder at first sight appears impossible as there are no screws. For years I used a plastic chop stick to start the machine but in the end decided to do a repair. What follows explains how to fit a new button. The disassembly technique apply to all replacements of course. Have a small container handy into which to put the screws and other bits.

To be sure we are talking about the same machine, here it is after the repair:

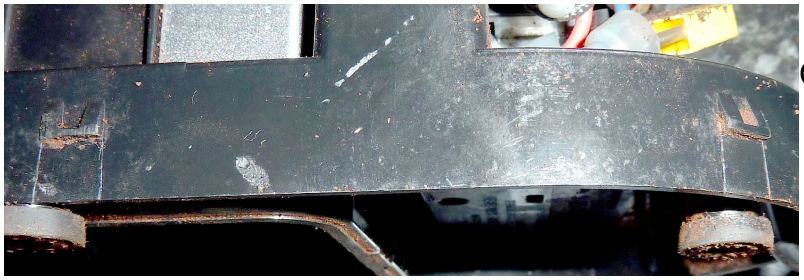
Take off the bean hopper and lid and remove the ground coffee hopper. It's a good time to clean up the machine as you will be making a mess anyway.

Check that the machine is not plugged into the mains.

Remove the two knobs using a large pair of pliers. They just pull off, surprisingly without damage, but take a bit of pulling. Be very careful as under one of the knobs there is a white bit of plastic in a hole and a spring. Tip them into your hand and store them.

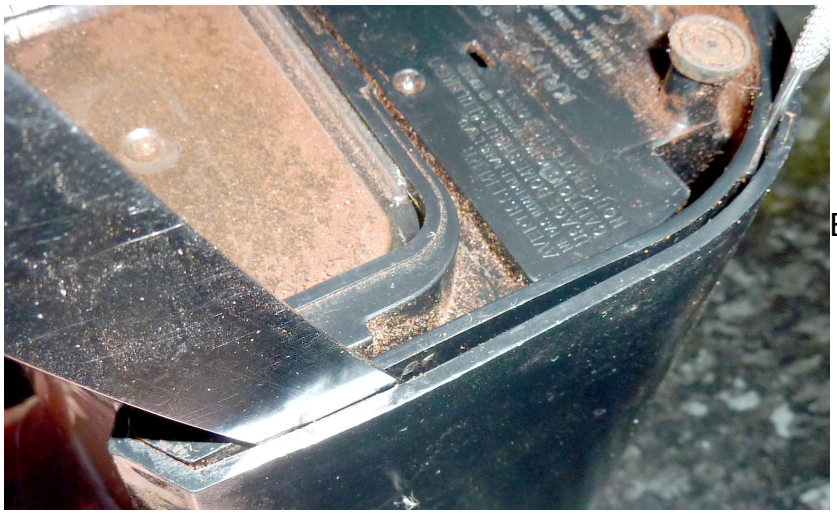
Turn the grinder upside down and stand it on a firm surface such as a worktop. You see an outer sleeve that fits around the inner body with a small gap. There are four hidden clips at the bottom that lock it on. Two are at the sides near the front and two are about 60 degrees around from the back centre, one each side.

Clip slots in outer sleeve



Clips sticking out of inner body

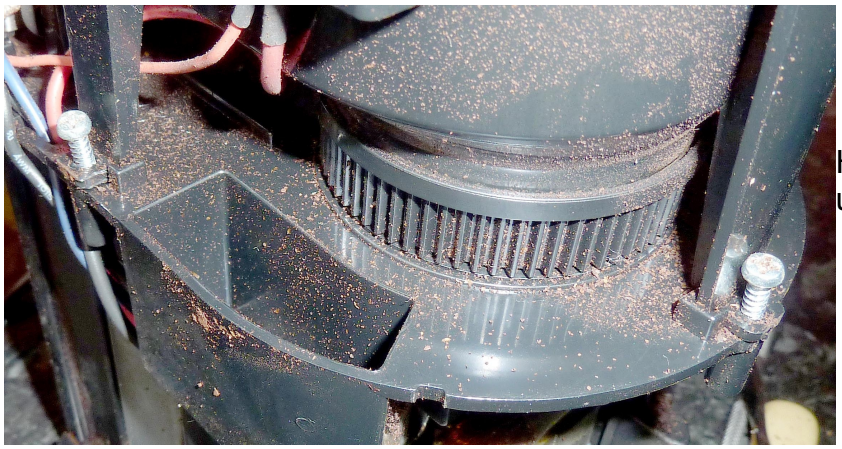
To unlock the clips you need thin blades of some sort, blunt for safety. I had an old fashioned fine bladed table knife but only one. I looked around my workshop and found some model shaping tools. They were a bit thicker but in the end worked fine.



Blades in place on one side

Slide the blades into each of the four places until you feel the clips unlock. Leave the blades in place. Then push down on the outer sleeve and it will slide off easily. A lot of coffee dust will fall out.

Turn the machine right way up. Now you have to remove the top. There are two crosspoint screws that hold it in place. Unscrew them and store them. The top then lifts off, perhaps with a bit of a squeeze to unclip the two location clips. The circuit board slides out of its slots.



Here the screws have been unscrewed ready for removal.

Then you have access to the on-off button. Well of course it will be broken so find and discard the broken bit. Unscrew the cross point screw and fit the new button.

Fixed piece of broken button

New button in place

Replace the top, manoeuvring the circuit board into place in the slots. Make sure the two small clips go into their holes. Check that all wires are inside the case. Screw in the two retaining screws.

Do a final clean up then slide the outer sleeve into place until it clicks.

To replace the knobs first turn the square bosses to one extreme or the other. Carefully drop the spring and white plastic into their hole. I found a pair of fine nose pliers were useful here for both jobs. If you drop either spring or plastic into the case you might be lucky and shake them out but chances are you'll have to take sleeve off again. Shake over a bowl or they will hit the ground and never be seen again.

Now push the knobs back on in the correct extreme positions. Turn the fineness knob and check that the burr moves up and down.

Replace the bean and ground coffee hoppers. Plug in to the mains and push the button. Hooray it works! Stand waiting for the well deserved congratulations. Feel very pleased with yourself and get your admirer to grind the coffee and make you a cup. What, no-one around! I feel a case of, 'No sorry, I couldn't fix it' coming on.

Last edit 13 October 2022

peter@peterscott.website