

Let's Get Reel

The year was 1967. The Beatles were wooing the world with the song, *Michelle*, while Frank Sinatra crooned of illicit romance in *Strangers in the Night*. *Bonnie and Clyde* were machine-gunning their way across movie screens. A first-class stamp cost 5 cents. And TM 11-3895-203-15, *Maintenance and Parts for Reel Equipment CE-11*, arrived on Army field desks.

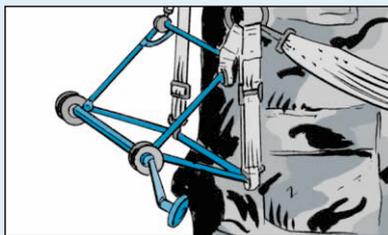
Alas, John Lennon, Frank Sinatra and the 5-cent stamp are long gone, but the CE-11 TM is still with us. It has had three changes since it made the scene, but the last was in 1988, so some of the information needs updating.

Here's the latest and greatest on parts and preventive maintenance on CE-11 reel equipment.

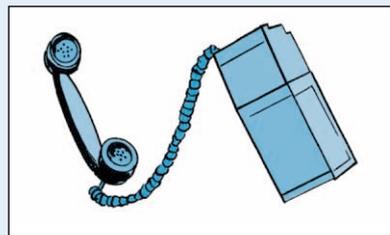
Parts

At one time, NSN 5805-00-407-7722 brought the RL-39 reel, the TA-1/PT telephone set, and the ST-34 and ST-35 straps. Now it only brings bubkes!

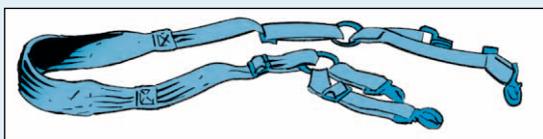
To get the RL-39 reeling machine, you'll need to order with NSN 3895-00-498-8343.



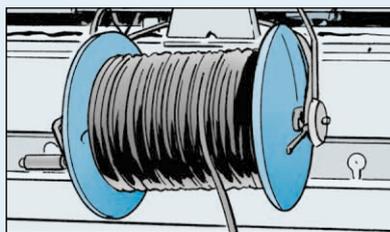
To get the TA-1/PT telephone set, you'll need to order with NSN 5805-00-521-1320.



To get a sling strap use NSN 8465-00-269-0682.

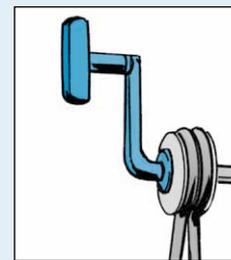


Remember, the DR-8 wire spool never came with the CE-11 and still doesn't. To get the spool, order with NSN 8130-00-407-7859. To get the spool with about a third of a mile of WD-1A wire, use NSN 6145-01-155-4258. To get the spool with 1,000 feet of WF-16 wire, use NSN 6145-01-259-9203.



If you need to replace just the hand crank, order it with NSN 5340-01-142-9478. Order a cotter pin to keep it attached with NSN 5315-00-842-3044. A new carrying handle can be had with NSN 3895-01-135-2538.

Support can also do some parts replacement on the RL-39. They can order a bearing with NSN 3895-01-133-9995; a housing assembly with NSN 5805-01-151-9929; a plate assembly with stop with NSN 3895-01-151-9928; and a retaining ring with NSN 5365-00-803-7306.



Maintenance

Rust on the reel makes your reeling chores tougher. Remove heavy rust with steel wool, NSN 5340-00-242-4404. Fine, 280 grit sandpaper, NSN 5350-00-193-7211, should do the job on lighter rust.

Once the rust is gone, apply a light coat of oil, NSN 9150-00-273-2389, to the axle.

Newer reels have nylon bearings and don't have lube points. If you have an older reel, you have three lube points—one on the face of each bearing and one on the crank handle. Use oil NSN 9150-00-273-2389 on the lube points, too.

While you're doing maintenance on the reel, check the DR-8 wire spool. Look at the spool's end plates. If the tabs are only bent over, not welded, get support to spot weld them. Bent tabs are too weak to hold the end plate if you drop a loaded spool. For added strength, spot weld the seams where the spool shaft joins the end plates. Three welds at each end will do the trick. Clean up the welds with a wire brush, then touch up with paint.

Despite its age, there is still good info to be found in TM 11-3895-203-15. If you don't have a copy, get an electronic copy emailed to you from CECOM.

If you have other questions about the CE-11 or related issues, contact the CECOM experts at DSN 992-4773 or (732) 532-4773. If you sing a stanza from *Strangers in the Night*, the info they give you is free!

