

The following text provides just my opinion as a customer. Other customers may have different opinions and different experiences with the same product/company. Sometimes it's a matter of luck, I guess. Similar comments may hold true for other vendors.

Vendors/manufacture/customer are invited to provide a comment. You will need to identify yourself. You will sign this by yourself and you will be responsible for your content by yourself. Thus, be honest, fair, and don't include wrong information. If you liked a product, fine. If you don't like it, fine. It's your opinion. Vendors/manufacture are invited to provide a comment.

### **Model: 3536 Metal Lathe (8.5" x 16") basically a Shanghai SIEG C4 lathe**

Contacted [LittleMachineShop](#) (in Nov 2014) with the following problem:

**"The half nut lever does mostly not properly engage/disengage anymore for thread cutting.**

**Engage: sounds like gears grinding against each other (#312/342 I guess).**

**Disengage: sounds like a locomotive running over rails not connected properly.**

**Any idea what the problem might be? Problem apparently appeared after cutting a 8 TPI bolt."**

A few Emails went forth and back often with several days delay which clearly made the impression on me that either LittleMachineShop has no interest whatsoever to help out a customer with a standard problem, and/or, LittleMachineShop has no clue about the design of their lathes. The suggestion I got was that a part would be broken which is basically a short 16 mm solid steel plate/angle. That is probably the only part (#276,278 or 279) which will never ever break in the apron of this lathe, in my opinion. (That one is apparently in stock.) In addition, there would be a form on the website to fill out if I need replacement parts. It turned out later that they offer only a very limited number of replacement parts, mostly items which will unlikely break (lathe bed, apron casing, Hand wheels, etc.), in my opinion. By the way, their catalog numbers don't match the actual part numbers in the lathe manual. I had to pull every little piece of information out of the nose of the customer service. Most responses had no information content or were simply misleading or wrong, in my opinion.

**The problem.** That little lathe from LittleMachineShop is pretty good and solid. However, if you ever encounter a somewhat more delicate problem, you will be on your own, in my experience.

Replacements parts are not easily available, assuming that you can track down the problem at all. Thus, purchase a new lathe, I guess, since a \$10 part is missing.

**The "solution":** My best bet would be that #312 (a worm wheel) that connects with a worm shaft (#342) is worn out on my lathe. However, after taking the entire apron off and putting it back on, the problem disappeared suddenly. Fortunately, I did not need any replacement parts

at this time. (#342 is apparently not available.) I have no clue what the problem actually was, probably some kind of misalignment. #312 basically sits loose inside of the apron between #276,278 or 279

The numbers given here refer to the exploded view of the lathe given in the original manual of that lathe.

**What to do?** In the future when I purchase a standard piece of equipment, I will go with a shop that has a descent customer/repair service, even if they are a little more expensive - just my opinion as a customer. However, looking around, I did see some related notes on various websites. What is described here appears to be rather common for small retailer – they don't carry replacement parts, they don't offer assistance or a repair service.

(LittleMachineShop has some addresses for controller repair on their website.) We should praise companies such as Sherline which carry all parts for decades and will help you out. Perhaps the manufacturer in China is not cooperative to actually provide a complete set of parts? Perhaps I blame the wrong guys here? Who knows?

Found at the internet

**“Parts.** Can you believe some resellers don't carry parts? That's right, buy from the "other guys",...”

[http://dropros.com/DRO\\_PROS\\_Digital\\_Readout\\_Reviews.htm](http://dropros.com/DRO_PROS_Digital_Readout_Reviews.htm)

Sources for replacement parts, try:

Jet lathe

[http://www.ereplacementparts.com/jet-lathe-parts-c-32652\\_32854.html?utm\\_source=Bing&utm\\_medium=PPC&utm\\_campaign=jet++search++mike](http://www.ereplacementparts.com/jet-lathe-parts-c-32652_32854.html?utm_source=Bing&utm_medium=PPC&utm_campaign=jet++search++mike)

Sieg

<http://www.arceurotrade.co.uk/Catalogue/Machine-Spares/C3-Mini-Lathe-Spares>

[https://littlemachineshop.com/products/product\\_category.php?category=1963256907](https://littlemachineshop.com/products/product_category.php?category=1963256907)

If you find more or better sources send us an e-mail and we include it here. I did not spend a lot of time on this, but there is not much out there.