

TECH TALK

Shock Troubleshooting Guide



Progressive 5th Element

– Andrew Hamilton, Neezy Australia, andrew@neezy.com.au

The most common problems we see with the Progressive shocks are depressurised shocks, platform valve failure, and aeration or loss of oil. Reservoir air pressure must be kept above 50psi. Other than checking the air pressure; most other problems involve sending the shock back to Neezy for a rebuild.

1. Shock compresses virtually undamped

Lack of, or insufficient, air pressure. Also, the shaft will generally remain compressed. Air pressure will try to extend the shaft.

2. Shock is like a “pogo”

A failed or collapsed platform valve will cause the shock to “pogo” with no noticeable compression or rebound damping.

3. Shaft slows significantly during last few millimetres of extension

Progressive shocks have a hydraulic top-out which causes this “slowing”. This does not indicate a problem with the shock.



4. Shock tops out with a “clunk”

Air may have been introduced into the oil. The shock can lose small amounts of oil without detrimental effects to the damping – it is only when air is introduced that a problem will occur. This will cause cavitation or foaming (aeration) of the oil which results in inconsistent damping.

5. I think it’s leaking!

Many shocks are returned with no pressure in the

reservoir. If you think you have a leak, pressurise the shock and hold it underwater – you will soon see bubbles if there is a leak.

6. Is my shock gauge working?

Most 5th Element coil shocks will need 10 or more strokes with the Progressive pump to achieve 100psi. If you get to 100psi with two strokes, your pump is not fitted correctly to the valve, and you are probably pressurising the pump, not the shock.