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## DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/03 06:51

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[http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4144/5411810586\\_3a82b5353f.jpg](http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4144/5411810586_3a82b5353f.jpg)  
DSC\_0298 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5058/5411199805\\_455507c1e0.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5058/5411199805_455507c1e0.jpg)  
DSC\_0299 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5140/5411812054\\_b0237ce95a.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5140/5411812054_b0237ce95a.jpg)  
DSC\_0300 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5253/5411201233\\_804088ae83.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5253/5411201233_804088ae83.jpg)  
DSC\_0301 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4093/5411203459\\_976a294477.jpg](http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4093/5411203459_976a294477.jpg)  
DSC\_0305 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5054/5411815608\\_acd945687f.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5054/5411815608_acd945687f.jpg)  
DSC\_0306 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5251/5411205063\\_805d7d9d14.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5251/5411205063_805d7d9d14.jpg)  
DSC\_0307 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4141/5411817090\\_03ed218677.jpg](http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4141/5411817090_03ed218677.jpg)  
DSC\_0308 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5011/5411817814\\_80589199c8.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5011/5411817814_80589199c8.jpg)  
DSC\_0309 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5137/5411207173\\_108a18e0c2.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5137/5411207173_108a18e0c2.jpg)  
DSC\_0310 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5217/5411207903\\_10d8d75268.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5217/5411207903_10d8d75268.jpg)  
DSC\_0311 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4141/5411208595\\_c09ac6bf8a.jpg](http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4141/5411208595_c09ac6bf8a.jpg)  
DSC\_0312 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5252/5411209465\\_a164b333bf.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5252/5411209465_a164b333bf.jpg)  
DSC\_0313 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5255/5411809126\\_02a838aaed.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5255/5411809126_02a838aaed.jpg)  
DSC\_0314 by Hz-C, on Flickr

I don't want to do this again, but aint she lovely inside.

:)

Tomorrow night i bring the iron out to rip the legs off

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by maelstrom - 2011/02/03 07:00

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tas kinda creepy man.

but cool B)

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/03 07:13

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thanks,

hmmm not really that cool, this is an old Mk1 Mono, and whilst the encoders are mainly built like a tank, the spindles are plastic, and dont take to kindly to the pulling that occurs when you want to take the knobs off. All this levering to get the knobs off is tugging at 2 tiny barbs of plastic. These barbs main purpose is to regulate the heigh of the spindle after clicking down, not to do battle with the handle of a spoon.

Once the spindle decides its coming out, thats it, broken, it'll work mostly, but little bits of plastic get caught up in the base of the encoder, and eventually (during a set perhaps) it will get lodged preventing click dialling and other shady nonsense.

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I have ordered encoders from Elektron, my advice is to buy more than you need. Initially, I only needed to replace one - as you can see i need now to replace two. Justin has done this too, and I agree, I will need to dig deep to get through the next phase.

:blink:

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### Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by poonti - 2011/02/03 07:29

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I've replaced encoders on other gear before, and they seem like such delicate things (especially when you take apart and look at the old one like I did). You seem to know what you're doing...good luck!

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### Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/03 07:34

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Thanks,

Its the cleaning up that'll give me the pain - hate desoldering

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### Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by darenager - 2011/02/03 07:43

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^ Done the same here. Still waiting to hear back about the encoders.

Taking them out the way you have done should make desoldering a breeze, just heat the pin wait till solder melts then quickly pull the pins out with needle nose pliers, clean any remaining solder with a desolder pump.

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### Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/03 07:51

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needle nose pliers - trip to maplin tomorrow

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### Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by darenager - 2011/02/03 08:42

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If you get a solder sucker there, don't get the expensive ones, the cheap (well that's relative at Maplin isn't it?) blue one they do is fine, had mine for years then thought I'd get a better one, but it was crap compared to the old blue one - that thing could suck golf balls down a hosepipe, but watch the recoil:laugh:

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### Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/03 08:49

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I have 2 of these, one heated and one like an antisyringe. The heated one is a bit of a pasty suitable for stripping lead off a church, think i'll go with the dainty number

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by TheKM - 2011/02/03 12:05

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Are there metal-shafted encoders that are compatible with the MnM does anyone know?  
I don't see what the point of replacing them with stock encoders is if such a thing exists.

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/03 17:05

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^apparently not, there is a thread on this regarding the SFX 6, and the guys at elektron getting these things made up. This seems to be a bit of a stretch in my mind, However, the encoders inside are unmarked and uncoded, which is unusual in my experience and suggest that the above is true, otherwise i would be finding replacements in mouser or farnell or digikey.

I don't know if the MK2's have plastic spindles or not.  
Then of course theres the matter of the pin layout for the pcb.....

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Nils - 2011/02/03 20:26

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Thanks for the research Hz! This will definitely come in handy.

Afaik the Elektron encoders are custom built for Elektron. At least they were when the MD was introduced.

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/03 22:49

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No probs,

I will also repeat from another thread.

Lube up those knobs when you replace them - so they come off easier next time.

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/04 01:43

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[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5100/5413206415\\_cebfd615cc.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5100/5413206415_cebfd615cc.jpg)

DSC\_0329 by Hz-C, on Flickr

Nice and clean please.

[http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4102/5413816624\\_865c1b4ec3.jpg](http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4102/5413816624_865c1b4ec3.jpg)

DSC\_0328 by Hz-C, on Flickr

Wanna se daylight through those bad boys

[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5136/5413206985\\_f8ee654acb.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5136/5413206985_f8ee654acb.jpg)

DSC\_0330 by Hz-C, on Flickr

Thanks Maplin this was a lot less painfull than I had anticipated. Now for a mug of tea. Those encoders can arrive anytime they like. :)

Coo, whilst the irons hot - makes me feel like doing a rad kit. Anyone got one - got stuff i may trade in the For Sale threads

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by TheKM - 2011/02/04 02:46

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Nils wrote:

Afaik the Elektron encoders are custom built for Elektron. At least they were when the MD was introduced.

Well, that's unfortunate.. I mean if they're custom built why not have them built a bit more rugged? Or at least buy the cheap version of something that can be replaced with something more solid.

I've had my MnM for a year and the knobs've always been wiggly, I would preemptively replace them with something more solid if it were possible.

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by maelstrom - 2011/02/04 06:17

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this thread gets even more creepy to me. i have a broken encoder on my MD - i just don't dare opening it, circuit bending a toy keyboard for 30 â,- is one thing, but that...

@daren, hertzian

kudos guys, now i know whom to ask for that indepth knowledge about the HARDware. :)

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/04 06:36

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A steady hand and a methodical outlook comes in handy.

If you see a bit of dust under the glass and you want to clean it - think.

Seriously.

The last thing you want to do is take those knobs off.

We are inquisitive folk, we take things apart - for no good reason, thinking it will make things better.

It seldom does. Thats why I went to college and did electronics for a while. (I say a while, I stopped after a year - incredibly dull time)

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by RubixGroove - 2011/02/04 06:46

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While not the tech-head... I can honestly say:

Holy f\*ck! The board looks sexy with the daylight pouring through it.

100% sci-fi psychedelic art. :)

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/04 06:54

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RubixGroove wrote:

100% sci-fi psychedelic art. :)

Yup. Thanks.

I was looking at that for quite a while, thought it would make a good snap.  
You can get a better picture through flickr if you want.

Careful, you'll end up going to Cyberdog.  
:laugh:

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2011/02/04 07:48

Let me know when you got it Maelstrom, then I'll take it down, feel a bit cheeky.:side:

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by RubixGroove - 2011/02/04 16:51

Damn Flickr and not allowing me to save pictures!

Was trying to get them as I thought they'd make a nice wallpaper on my computer!  
If you're so inclined, drop 'em at rubixgroove@gmail.com homie :D

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by maelstrom - 2011/02/04 18:32

Ah Hertz,

Thank you very much, got it! :)

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Duncan - 2011/02/15 00:18

Thanks Daniel.

[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5217/5444971059\\_57806ef154.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5217/5444971059_57806ef154.jpg)  
DSC\_0362 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5257/5444972829\\_5e84b909fc.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5257/5444972829_5e84b909fc.jpg)  
DSC\_0364 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5295/5445574902\\_39b5f4a2b3.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5295/5445574902_39b5f4a2b3.jpg)  
DSC\_0366 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4150/5445576212\\_a7e0f9326b.jpg](http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4150/5445576212_a7e0f9326b.jpg)  
DSC\_0368 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
[http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5174/5444977297\\_508212518e.jpg](http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5174/5444977297_508212518e.jpg)  
DSC\_0370 by Hz-C, on Flickr  
Good time to change contrast if necessary.  
[http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4101/5444978149\\_c2eec7c55e.jpg](http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4101/5444978149_c2eec7c55e.jpg)  
DSC\_0371 by Hz-C, on Flickr

:cheer: :beer:

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by darenager - 2011/02/15 00:30

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Nice neat job!

Still waiting to hear back from HQ for mine, but Daniel is on it, asked about a screen too.

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Duncan - 2011/02/15 00:36

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Cheers Daren,

The clips on the encoders required quite a bit of push to locate into the holes, they kind of snap into position - which makes you tighten up a bit.

I'm glad I know I can do it, don't want to do it again soon.

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by maelstrom - 2011/02/15 20:05

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Duncan, I sure believe that :laugh:

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by 486 - 2012/02/11 12:49

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I have never removed a knob from my Octatrack. Only had it since last April. And it has seen only the gentlest studio use. It get's used every day though.

My encoders are starting to loosen up from the board. It feels like the chassis is coming un soldered. I have not opened it up, but after seeing this thread, I'm thinking oh shit! I so wish these little knobs were built better, and surface mounted to the front plate!!! So it seems that the fragility of these ultra important controls on elektron machines has been an issue all along. I was wondering if it was just a recent thing with the octatrack build. My assumption is that it's the same exact encoders.

I'm looking to Electron to fix mine. Forget opening this machine up myself!

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Duncan - 2012/02/11 17:47

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I very much doubt that the solder is coming free. There is just so much of it with the mnm encoders. Get elektron to look at it maybe some screws are coming loose or the knobs are getting looser with use as usual.

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Duncan - 2012/02/11 18:38

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New (on the left) vs Old (on the right)

New encoders are full of lube, so they don't wobble about like encoders that have had a bit of running in. Both work 100%, but feel different.

wobbly knobs

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by 486 - 2012/04/21 05:58

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You were right.. It wasn't the solder. I took the Octatrack apart and found the metal tabs were loose. I pressed them back into position and added a small bit of epoxy to keep them in place. It worked... sort of:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqU2nqG6L4I>

Then a month of use went by, and 3 live performance. (after all, this is a Performance Sampler, no?)

In the middle of my 3rd performance, before a huge audience, one of my encoders failed!!! :angry:

I took it apart after that gig, and found that the traces under the encoder top had a gotten moisture / perspiration. I assume that possibly salt, from the perspiration had fouled it up. I attempted to clean it out with contact cleaner, and reassembled the machine. But alas.. the values are not consistent and jumppy.

I am waiting to hear back from Daniel about replacement encoders. :blink:

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by 486 - 2012/04/21 06:18

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You were right.. It wasn't the solder. I took the Octatrack apart and found the metal tabs were loose. I pressed them back into position and added a small bit of epoxy to keep them in place. It worked... sort of:

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by riri - 2012/09/20 21:45

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Hello,

I am looking at this thread as I would like to change the PAD of the Machine Drum. They are very noisy.

I would like to replace those pads by softer one (less noisy).

Do you think it is possible?

Looking at the video, I guess yes :-)

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Now I would like to know if I will succeed in making the pads less noisy.. do you have any advices?

- Shall I change and buy new pads?
- Shall I add some cotton between the pads and the electronic board?

Could you help me and tell me if I can change the pad to make the whole machine less noisy :-)

Thanks!

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by cosmosuave - 2012/09/20 21:54

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Srsly I think you would be wasting your time...

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by riri - 2012/09/20 22:02

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why? I won't be able to reduce the noize of the pads?

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by Daisuk - 2013/02/21 06:41

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riri wrote:

why? I won't be able to reduce the noize of the pads?

Not quite sure what you mean by "loud", but the "pads" on my Monomachine make quite a lot of noise as well, but I think they just do that, made out of plastic. Adding cotton between the buttons and the electronic board could potentially soften the noise, but I imagine it being quite a job, and if not done precisely could spread lots of cotton within your machinery, which could probably disturb something in there in the long run, or overheat something or something along those lines.

I really don't have a clue, that's just my uneducated guess. I personally don't really notice the sound of the pads when making music with my Monomachine, be it on headphones or on monitors.

The pads make some noise, I don't think buying new ones will necessarily help you out. :)

Edit; Woops, didn't see that this thread was five months old, just followed it from another link and replied absentmindedly. Feel free to delete this post if you're a moderator. :p

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## Re:DeEncoding (or why you don't want to take the knobs off)

Posted by markoff - 2013/05/05 11:08

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Thanks to OP for this thread, pretty helpful. I am about to replace the datawheel encoder on my MD, already received the new encoder from elektron, and am wondering if anyone has any specific tips for this. I'm a total noob when it comes to soldering and didn't want to just jump in.. may have a more skilled friend do it. Seems like a fairly easy job but this is a pretty pricey machine to be taking chances with

I've already got the faceplate, and datawheel off. From the looks of the photos in this thread, I should just pry the legs away from the encoder, remove encoder and then pull the legs out? Do I need access to the bottom of the board or it can all be done from the top?

Thanks in advance for any help, a bit nervous touching this machine's insides :lol:



