700 Series Touch & Sew
Slide Plate History

Just to bring all up to speed on a little Slide Plate history for the 700 Series T&S machine.
When first introduced…approximately in 1970, the 700 series T&S was originally fitted with a slide plate that had the left side wider in relation to the right side where it fasten to the machine. The slide plate springs that held the slide plate to the machine bed were first introduced with a little more width than later release models.

The theories behind all this, in my opinion only mind you, and seem to be logical in thought…
Lets first look at the early release 401A & 500A Slant-O-Matics.
Those two machines had a tapered slide plate spring of equal length/width that retain the slide plate to the machine bed.
As the Touch & Sew was released in the 1960's, the introduction of the "Auto Reel" bobbin winder appeared.
This feature first showed up in the first release 600 Touch & Sew, and the winder activation was located over by the stitch length lever on the bed of the machine. Given that location, the first release T&S 600 continued to utilize the standard slide plate & spring that was used on the early Slant-O-Matics. Later in the 600 T&S release, the activation was moved to inside the bobbin case area. The 600E made its debut then with this feature. A push downward lever was installed inside the bobbin case area, and the theory of closing the slide plate would deactivate, or turn off, the bobbin winder was introduced. The original slide plate spring design continued to suffice and turn the unit off as desired. This explains why there are different 600 Series Touch & Sews first released, and those later released with a different bobbin winder configuration.

Over time, the bobbin winder feature went from "Auto Reel" to "Auto Wind", and the activation underwent several changes, which started appearing in the 620 series Touch & Sew. Those started off with a Rocker type activation method, and later progressed into what is commonly used still today, the lever that one pushes to the left to activate bobbin winding in any later style T&S released machine. As the bobbin winder feature advanced from the "Auto Reel" to the "Auto Wind" and the lever being placed inside with the ability to deactivate the system when closing the slide plate…it was perhaps discovered that over time and due to wear, the left side of the slide plate might require a little more of a beefy retention. This would allow the machine to hold the plate down firmly as one closed it, and efficiently deactivate, or disengage the bobbin winder lever. Hence the first release 750 series T&S was introduced with a slide plate with a little bit wider left side retention area.

I suppose over time, it came to a manufacturing design, cost factor, and standardization of parts that would bring the narrow plate retention system design back into production. Common sense only dictates, use a little less material to save in production & material cost, made the production process fit one, fit all, and perhaps was found that the system really didn't require the beefed up left side retention after all. The new snap, or slide release system, push to the left lever continues to be utilized, and the common failure now is either a worn lever, or cracked lift cam. The actual retention utilized with the wider side slide plate might have even promoted premature failure in the lever itself, and hence the narrow slide retention was put into production over the wide left side style plate. Of course, I am purely making a guess about that feature design change. I would continue to suggest that a wider left side retention of the slide plate would promote a more solid disengagement of the bobbin winder, and reduce wear on the lever.

Anyway, there you have my 2 cents on the theory of it all, and if I am totally off base, please feel free to let me know.
I certainly am open to entertain you opinion to it all ☺

Plus, as I have failed to cover the main purpose of this documents intention…my point is:
If you only require a slide plate, and the slide plate spring is in good condition…ensure you acquire the proper slide plate to match the slide plate spring you have currently installed. If you are uncertain at any point, it may be best to fit the machine with a new slide plate & matching retention spring. All this for that…☺

Regards & Happy Sewing to Everyone,
Terry
www.tandtrepair.com