

Replacement Screws

Many times I have had to replace a screw on a torch because it was either missing or broken. The difficulty is in trying to find the correct one in a box of nuts, bolts, and screws, or possibly finding one on a "Parts" torch. You could also buy a new one but it's still difficult to get the correct size and the screw also looks brand new and shiny.

For me, the answer has been to buy a new screw, make it look old, and cut it to size. The typical screw used on blowtorches is a steel 8/32 slotted machine screw. This size screw is used for drip cups, wind guards and most other attached components. To make a new screw look old, do the following:

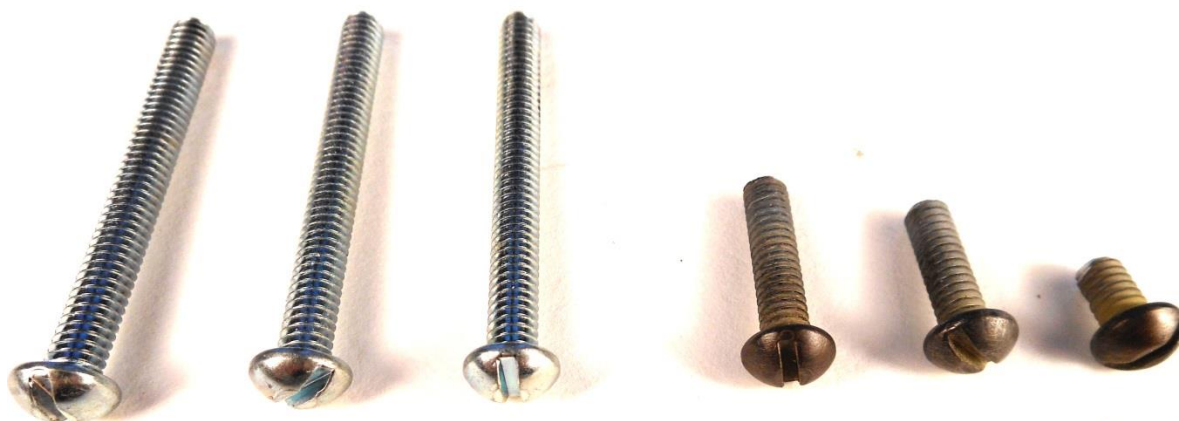
Hold the threaded portion of the screw with a pliers.

Heat the head of the screw with a propane torch until it is red hot. This burns off any of the cadmium plating that might be on the screw and turns the exterior of the screw blue/black.

Use a wire brush to clean the ash and oxidation off the screw.

If you choose to do so, you could use Gun Blue to darken the color.

In the picture, the three screws on the right started out looking exactly the same as the three on the left.



To cut the screw to the proper length, I use a Dremel tool with an Emery cutting wheel attached (see picture). While holding the screw with a pliers, I cut the screw straight across at the proper length. Then I bevel the cut edge of the screw by holding it at an angle against the side of the cutting wheel and rotating the screw (I do this by hand). This will make it easier to get the screw started into the threads of the hole.

I have used the Dremel tool for many things. It comes with an amazing assortment of attachments. I find that the small wire brushes are ideal for cleaning the inside of drip cups. The little wire brushes come in various types such as wheels and cup shaped. They are also produced using different materials such as steel, brass, and stainless steel. I use the small buffing wheels with compounds to polish places that I couldn't reach with large buffing wheels. The little buffing wheels also come in various forms. This tool has endless possibilities and I depend on it greatly.

