

## Disassembling Preliminaries

One of my biggest fears when I disassemble and restore a torch is losing parts. Some torches have very small components. I have always been concerned that if I lose a part it would certainly be difficult to find another just like it or to fabricate one. It would be especially upsetting if I had lost it due to negligence or not taking the proper precautions. In order to safeguard the small torch parts I have developed a process. I don't remember ever having lost any parts so it must be working for me.

The first step of the process is to loosen all the parts of the torch until they are at the point that they can be removed by hand. Whenever possible, I use a box or socket wrench where appropriate to prevent damage. I do this outside because you never know what kind of fluids may remain in the tanks and chambers of the torch. The next step can be done inside. I have a porch that I use as a workshop. When I separate the individual parts such as the feed tube from the tank and the pump cylinder from the lower support, I do so over a rectangular plastic food storage container. The container I use is 11"L X 7" W X 3 ½" D. This way, if any small parts drop out of the lower support or any other place, they drop into the plastic container. Many early torches have springs in the lower support and if dropped could bounce anywhere. I chose the size I mentioned previously because it will hold all the parts of the disassembled torch as I go through the restoration process.

I have also tried to keep a neat and tidy work area with everything in its place on the workbench and a spotless floor. I have never been able to accomplish this but I'm still trying. Hopefully you will have more success and be able to find a part if you accidentally drop it on the floor. It is much better to drop a part in a confined area than it is to potentially lose one outside