

REMOVING PARKER JEWELS FROM THE TOP OF CAPS

To get a jewel (Parker called them "clip screws") off, try any and/or all of the following:
First, put the cap with the stuck jewel / clip screw into an ultrasonic cleaner and run it several times for 3 minutes with several minutes of cool-down time between runs; you may want to then let it soak overnight in the ultrasonic cleaner with a detergent solution in there without it running and then in the morning hit it with a few more 3 minute runs. I have an ultrasonic cleaner that runs for 3 minutes each time the start button is pressed and then it shuts off. So I hit the button several times in the course of a day when I walk by.

Secondly, after you take it out of the ultrasonic cleaner, wave and rotate it around in a 150 degree Fahrenheit airflow (DON'T USE A HEAT GUN) for 1/2 minute or so; you don't want to get it too hot or the threaded stem of the jewel/clip screw can break off in the next steps while you are trying to turn it out.

Now, before it cools off, try some of these tricks:

----- Note ----- Parker tool #8057, if you're lucky enough to have one (Pentooling sells them), fits up and inside the inner cap and gives you a good, non-slipping grip on the body of the cap and has a big handle which you can use to bear down on the jewel / clip screw.

Idea 1, shown to me by a grouchy old timer at the Chicago Pen Show decades ago: take a short piece of tape, almost any kind, about 1 1/2" long. Make a cylinder out of it so that the sticky side is out and then fold it flat. Stick it to the tip of your opposable thumb and press and try to turn the jewel with that.

Idea 2, that I use a lot: get a piece of latex or sticky rubber and put it on a sort of firm surface. Something else on the market called "Gooney Cubes" works really well also, without a top layer of latex or rubber. Experiment with this; some surfaces work better than others, but if the second surface is sticky too, that will help. Press the jewel into the soft, sticky rubber while trying to turn it. Be forewarned: Gooney cubes, at first glance, don't look like anything that would work. They are not wet or necessarily that soft. In fact, they appear to be dry. But they are the best thing I've found for this job in almost 3 decades of pen repair.

Idea 3, layer the materials used in the above two steps together.

Idea 4 (and this is the most helpful), start over with the ultrasonic cleaner followed by heat and the rest of the steps. SOMETIMES IT TAKES ME A WEEK OR MORE OF REPEATING THE ABOVE STEPS, but I can usually get that sucker off by going through the sequence over and over.

Any good source of supplies for working on pens can provide most of the above tools.

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