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Workgauge SKILL REQUIRED TIME (Minutes) COST (Pounds) 0010 0003

Toolbox

You will need

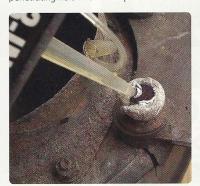
- Plasticine, Blu-Tack or equivalent
- Penetrating fluid

REMOVING SEIZED NUTS

Dismantling rare components sometime calls for a delicate touch and patience.

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GARY STRETTON

eized nuts and bolts will get the best of all of us at some point. Usually a quick attack with an angle grinder or hacksaw does the trick. However, if access is limited, or the component can't be damaged in any way, then a different approach is called for. This is a simple technique that can be used in most instances such as head bolts or on instruments. If the component isn't vertical, then the Plasticine can be shaped accordingly to hold the penetrating fluid in the best position.



Fill 'er up
Gently fill the reservoir with the penetrating fluid. Wait until the fluid has been absorbed and then try to undo the nut. If necessary, repeat step 2 at daily intervals.



Rolling around
Clean as much debris and rust from the nut and bolt, exposing any threads. Soften the Plasticine by rolling it between your fingers.



Off it comes
Eventually the nut should undo.
Thoroughly clean all threads if being reused. Use copper grease on reassembly to avoid further seizure.



Wrap around
Form a reservoir using the Plasticine.
Ensure there's good adhesion
between that and the component.

GOT ANY CLEVER TECH TRICKS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE? Get in touch!