

RETAINING RING REMOVAL

It's a tough job to remove the spiral retaining rings on Huey and Cobra tail rotor drive shaft and gearbox couplings using a knife blade, screwdriver or awl, like it says in TM 55-1500-204-25/1.

Removing the rings this way takes time, causes you to scratch the coupling's cover plate and jab your hands in the process.

So make it a snap to remove the ring by making this tool.

Salvage a broken No.2 cross-tip, offset or standard screwdriver, or use $\frac{3}{16}$ -in or $\frac{1}{4}$ -in bench stock 4 to 6 inches long.

Grind the last $\frac{3}{16}$ inch to $\frac{5}{16}$ inch of the metal shaft to $\frac{3}{16}$ inch across. Shape that part of the shaft like an hourglass with the middle $\frac{1}{8}$ -in wide.

Taper the tool to $\frac{1}{32}$ -in thick at the end.

Put the tool's tip into the slot between the retaining ring's exposed tang end and the recessed groove at right angles to the ring and coupling face.

Bear straight down on the tool, turning it clockwise about $\frac{1}{8}$ turn.

The tang pops out and up, free from the groove. Complete the removal by grabbing the snap ring end and peeling it out. Be sure to hold the cover against the internal spring load.

