



Ford T Tips



By Douglas Dachenbach

Penetrating Oil Comparisons

Machinist's Workshop Magazine (March/April or May/June, 2007) tested penetrants for breakout torque on scientifically rusted nuts. They arranged an objective test of all the popular penetrants with the control being the torque required to remove the nut from a "scientifically rusted" environment. These are averages of multiple tests for each product. The significant results are below.

- Penetrating oils Average torque load to loosen
- No Oil used 516 pounds (control)
- WD-40® 238 pounds
- PB B'laster® 214 pounds
- Liquid Wrench®* 127 pounds
- Kano Kroil® 106 pounds
- PSF-Acetone mix 53 pounds (PSF = Power Steering Fluid)

The PSF-Acetone mix is a "homebrew" mix of 50 - 50 power steering fluid and acetone. Note this "homebrew" released bolts better than any commercial product in this one particular test. Several anecdotal reports show that automatic transmission fluid (ATF) can be substituted for power steering fluid (PSF) with apparently the same results. Similar results are obtained if you substitute lacquer thinner for acetone. This homebrew product does tend to separate easily, unless you find an older petroleum-based PSF/ATF, hence it needs to be shaken before each use. Most of these fluids are now synthetic. A word of causation, this homebrew will damage most paints rapidly, so don't use it on a painted surfaces unless you plan to repaint it. The author assembled this information from a variety of bulletin boards and couldn't access the real article quoted. I have tried this on a brass oiler that I couldn't break free by hand and didn't want to damage the surface. I left some on over night and it was finger tight the next morning. I'm impressed!

*Note also that "Liquid Wrench®" is almost as good as "Kano Kroil®" for about 20% of the price.

2/9/2014

