

Dental Pick Recap

<jensoriginalsewembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

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I like these little portable capped dental picks, and I have a couple of them that I carry in a purse or pocket.

The picks are really handy, but the caps have a tendency to split. When that happens, they no longer stay on, so that they get lost, leaving the hook unsheathed.



The tool can still be used without the cap, of course, but it's not really safe to carry in your pocket or purse, since the unprotected hook is quite sharp and could give unwary fingers a nasty jab.

The obvious answer is to replace the cap with some kind of substitute or with a tube like the ones I used to re-cap my seam rippers (see my post from 2023 March 17).

It probably won't surprise you to learn that I have a collection of caps from various bottles and tubes, pens and markers; they've often come in handy as replacements for lost or damaged product caps.

My dental pick is about the diameter of a stick pen, so I was hopeful that one of my salvaged pen caps would fit. Unfortunately, most of them – like this



red one, were too large and wouldn't stay on. Rejected!



But persistence paid off: one of the salvaged caps from a Papermate stick pen turned out to be exactly the right fit, clicking snugly into place.



I don't need the cap tail for this application, so I just used my heavy-duty hardware scissors to snip it off.

Ta-da! My pick now has a snug-fitting cap that's sturdier than the original, and won't split.



The original cap featured a keychain, but since I don't carry the pick that way, I probably won't bother restoring it. If I did want to do that, there's enough clearance at the top of the cap for a chain to pass through without interfering with the hook. All I'd have to do would be to drill a hole through to accommodate the chain.



This project, though simple, is actually pretty useful if, like me, you've ever lost the cap to a small gadget, or to a container.

I keep a selection of caps and have used them to replace broken caps like this one, or broken ones from glue bottles, paints, dish detergent, water bottles, and even a tube of GOOP. The caps are often a weak point and can give way before the product is used up, so it's nice to have a substitute at hand.

Now I'll just pop this pick into my pocket and be on my way