

Screwdriver Handle Repair

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Have I mentioned that I dislike plastic?

This screwdriver would still be functional, but the crummy plastic handle has splintered and crumbled to pieces. I'm going to see if I can fix it.

My first step is to break off the remaining plastic from the broken handle, which I managed by smashing it with a hammer.

The shaft is still in good shape, and the blade is still reasonably crisp. The opposite end has a flattened flange to help ensure that the blade will turn along with the handle rather than simply rotating inside it. Now all I need to do is find something to serve as a new handle.

I'm going to use a length of 5/8" dowel with a hole drilled in the centre; it's just the right size to receive the shaft of the screwdriver.

As it happens, I didn't even have to drill a length of dowel, because I had the exact right one already on hand.

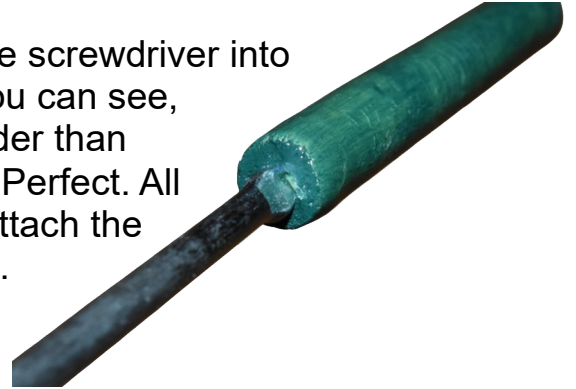
It's actually a salvaged handle from a foam brush. When the brush gave out, I peeled off the foam and saved the dowel. At the time I wasn't sure what I would do with it, but I kept it because I thought it might come in handy down the road. And in this case, it's just what I need to save my broken screwdriver from the landfill. Serendipity!





This salvaged dowel has rather a rough surface, so I sanded it lightly before covering it with a coat of acrylic varnish to give it a smoother finish. And because my dowel still had some remnants of green paint on it, I rubbed some of the same paint into the surface before dipping it in the varnish. The smooth finish will be easier on the hand when the screwdriver is in use.

All that's left is to fit the shaft of the screwdriver into the drilled hole of the dowel. As you can see, the flattened flange is just a bit wider than the hole in the dowel. Perfect. All I have to do now is attach the new handle.



To do that, I clamped the shaft of the screwdriver into my bench anvil, then used my hammer to tap the dowel handle onto the shaft. Easy-peasy. It didn't even need glue.



My restored screwdriver is ready for service.

Ideally I'd have liked a wider handle, which would be a bit more comfortable to use. However, this dowel piece was already on hand and drilled, and the original handle was fairly narrow, so I'm not too far off the mark.



For now at least I'm satisfied with my repair. I made the screwdriver usable again, and also I was able to make use of an item that I'd previously salvaged. Win-win, if you ask me.