

Repairing Plastic Sunglasses

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DH and I both like these polarized fishing glasses, especially for driving – they are great against the merciless glare of the prairie sun. But being plastic, they are prone to breakage, often snapping along the arms or at the bridge.



I don't like throwing things out if they can be repaired, but plastic is notoriously difficult to repair satisfactorily – glue typically won't hold, and the item just re-breaks at the same spot.

There is a solution, though. I have successfully repaired many pairs of plastic sunglasses that snapped across the thin part of the arm, or at the bridge, as this pair has done.



Since glue alone won't withstand future wear and tear, I make my repairs with a combination of Goop and household wire, along with heat-shrink tubing if the break is along the arm of the glasses.

Here's a close-up of the most recent repair – these glasses snapped along the bridge, which is a little unusual. Most of the time, the break is along the narrow part of the arm.

I applied a thin layer of Goop along the break, but by itself, the glue is not sufficient for the repair to hold

during use. To strengthen the join, I drill tiny holes using a fine drill bit in my Dremel. Then I shape a “staple” from wire, and insert it through the holes, bending the ends flat.



Once the wire is firmly in place, I cover the lot with a thin layer of Goop for added strength. Then I'll use a black Sharpie to colour the wire so it won't be as visible. On the arms a single staple is usually enough; for the bridge, I've used two.

When the repair is along the thin arm of the glasses, I generally slide on a length of shrink tubing before I glue and wire the pieces. Once the Goop is dry, the shrink tubing can be moved to cover the repair and then shrunk using a mild heat source. You have to be careful not to soften the plastic of the arm as you shrink the tubing.



I know from experience that this repair will add years to the life of the glasses and save me from having to buy another, at least for a while.