

Repairing the Watering Can

<jensoriginalsewembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

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My large green plastic watering can is old enough now to be considered vintage, but I like it, and it's still useful.

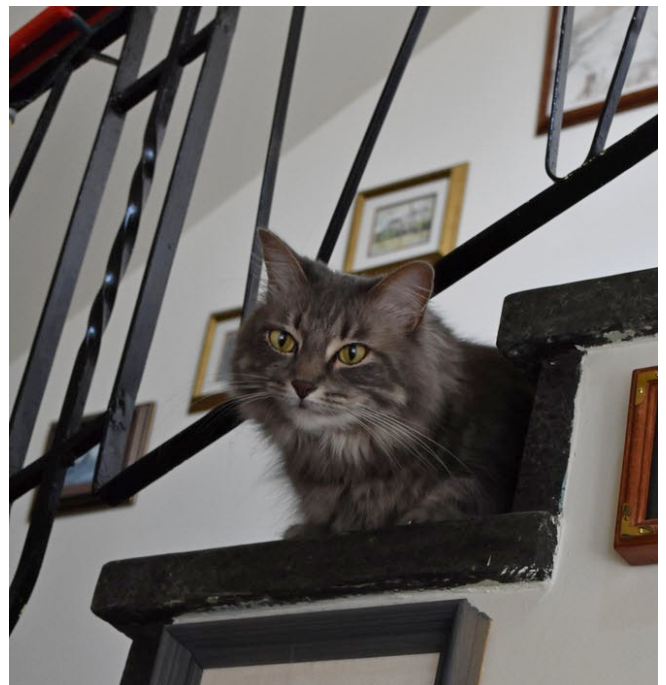
Or at least it was, before it developed a split in the funnel part of the spray nozzle, which had begun to leak badly and would no longer stay in place.



Of course, I could toss out the can and just buy another one, since they aren't expensive: similar ones can currently be had from Canadian Tire for around \$15, but . . . you know me. I thought the split in the funnel shaft would be a simple fix with a bit of Goop and a clamp. And it would have been, except I wasn't figuring on Scampers.

When I came in from outside, I set the spray nozzle on the steps up to the loft, intending to take it with me when I next went upstairs.

Scampers had other ideas, as he usually does. He discovered the nozzle and decided that it didn't need to be there, so he pushed it over the edge of the stair tread, where it ricocheted down two flights of stairs, all the way to the basement . . . hitting concrete all the way.



Suddenly my repair became a lot more complicated, made doubly so because we didn't turn up the missing piece, which had disappeared enroute down the stairs.

Amazingly, the funnel section of the nozzle was not any further damaged, so I could still repair the split the same way I'd originally intended. I decided to go ahead . . . after cleaning it, of course.



I started by snipping off the flanges that buttress the shaft of the funnel, to allow my clamp to fit snugly against the shaft.

That done, I cleaned inside the nozzle, then added Goop along the split section.



To hold the split closed while the glue dried, I used a hose clamp around the tube part of the funnel. To protect the clamp from the glue, I caught a piece of paper between the clamp and the funnel shaft, then used a screwdriver to tighten the clamp snugly around it.



Once the Goop had set, I removed the hose clamp. The glue by itself isn't strong enough to hold the shaft together against the pressure of use, so I applied a zip tie to keep it held tight. I could have left the hose clamp in place, but I thought the zip tie would be sufficient in this application, and it's plastic, so it won't rust.

Now to turn my attention to the sprayer part. There is no way to repair the existing sprayer because of the missing piece, so I cast around for a possible substitute.



I quickly realized that a large mason jar snap lid is an exact size fit for the wide part of the funnel. I happen to have a lot of these around, since we do a bit of home canning, and I save the used lids for craft purposes.



To make the sprinkler, I used a heavy-duty metal punch to put holes in the lid. To help space the holes, I just drew some quick lines on the inside of the lid with a pencil.

The punch is a little unwieldy to use, so the hole pattern isn't perfect, but that's okay – my make-shift sprinkler will fill the bill.





To attach the punched lid, I spread a generous bead of Goop around the edge of the funnel and pressed the lid into position. As you can see, it's a perfect fit.

Once the Goop was dry, I re-attached the nozzle to the watering can to give it a test.

The repaired nozzle, screwed securely back into place. I was careful not to over-tighten, so as to avoid putting too much strain on the funnel shaft.



Now to see how well it works. Although my new sprinkler piece is flat rather than convex like the original, it gives a decent enough flow of water.

This repair took only a brief time, and since I already had both the discarded lids and the Goop on hand, it cost nearly nothing. And my watering can won't be headed for the landfill.



It now occurs to me that I might have used a plastic jar lid to make the sprinkler, instead of this metal snap lid . . . if I'd had one the right size. (I'll stash the next one I come across, so I'll have it on hand in case I ever have to renew my repair.) For now, though, the water's still flowing nicely and the plants are happy, so it's all good.