



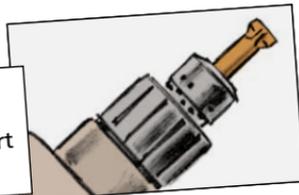
INSERT THIS FIRST!

Dear Editor,

Every Avenger unit spends lots of time replacing screw inserts on the turret because they pop out easily when screws are overtightened. Many inserts are lost because they aren't held securely in place while the epoxy—used to glue them in—hardens. Before we do the insert replacement procedure in Para 14-6 of TM 9-1440-433-24-2, we start at the bottom.

We've found that a 5/16-in diameter bolt that's at least 1 1/2 inches long works perfectly for cleaning out the old epoxy from an insert hole. Just stick the bolt in your electric drill and go to work on the old epoxy.

Use bolt to clean out insert hole



Another big help has been the suggestion you ran in PS to use a piece of fiberglass to hold the insert in place while the epoxy hardens. Can you run that again for other Avenger crews?

SPC James Baulch
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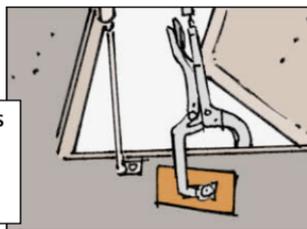
From the desk of the Editor



No problem.

Once you have the insert in place, fasten a 2x4-in piece of fiberglass or something similar over the insert with tape or a clamp. Leave the fiberglass in place for 24 hours while the epoxy hardens. If the insert wiggles to the touch after 24 hours, put the fiberglass over the insert for another 24 hours. That's usually long enough.

Fiberglass holds insert in place



But units can save on insert repairs by not forcing the turret screws in the first place. That's what pops them out. The torque you need is listed Appendix F of the -24-2 TM.)