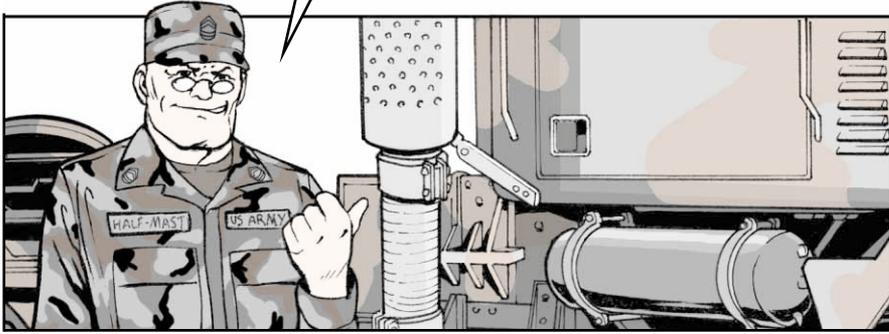


LIVING WITH

EXHAUST FLEX PIPES

ARE YOU EXHAUSTED TRYING TO KEEP FLEX PIPES FROM LEAKING?



Most of you probably figure an exhaust leak at the flex pipes is a fact of life for M915-M920 and M915A1 trucks.

That's because every truck you've ever worked on has had an exhaust leak at the flex pipes at one time or another.

But it doesn't have to be that way. The problems are known—and so are the solutions:

Problem 1

The flex pipes don't fit over or inside the exhaust pipes. They butt up against them, held in place by couplers. When the flex pipe and exhaust pipe separate, you get leaks at the couplers. Tightening the couplers won't help. All that does is make the leak worse.

Solution

Make sure the exhaust pipe and flex pipe are in good condition. Look for cracks, distortion or burning at the edges. Make sure the pipes fit against each other evenly. If there's damage or they don't fit, replace them. Always use a new coupler when you put things back together.



Cracks, distortions or signs of burning?

Problem 2

Are you exhausted trying to keep flex pipes from leaking? You may notice when you check out the pipes that the diameter of the flex pipe is larger than the diameter of the exhaust pipe. This messes up the fit between the pipes, and the coupler won't seal the joint.

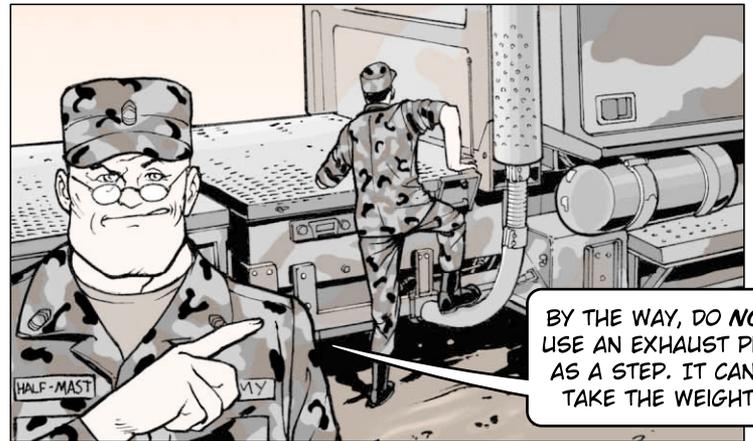
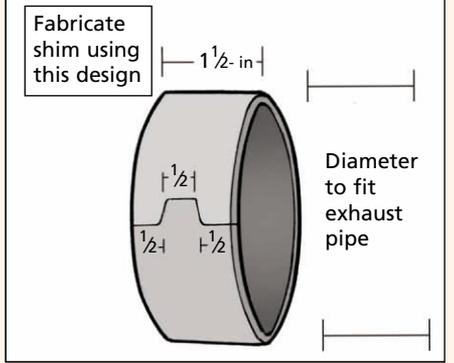
Solution

If the flex pipe is too big, you can fabricate a metal shim to use until you get the right-size pipe.

Make the shim from any 1/16-in thick metal that's easily bent. Cut and form the shim as shown.

Wrap the shim around the end of the exhaust pipe and butt the flex pipe up to the shim. Secure the pipes with new couplers.

Since the couplers are sensitive to too much tightening, torque them to 45 lb-ft and no more. Eyeball Para 4-35 in TM 9-2320-273-20 for the full picture.



BY THE WAY, DO NOT USE AN EXHAUST PIPE AS A STEP. IT CAN'T TAKE THE WEIGHT.