

DON'T SCREW INTO THE CONDENSER!

HAND ME ONE OF THOSE AC COVER SCREWS, WOULDJA?

I LOST 'EM, BUT HERE'S ONE WE HAD SITTING AROUND.

FINE, FINE. LET'S GET THIS DONE AND GET OUTTA HERE!

AHHH! NO! DON'T USE THOSE SCREWS!



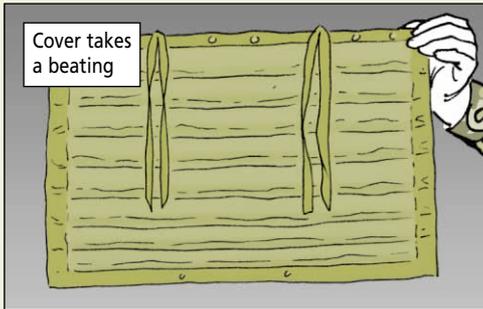
Dear Editor,

A lot of commo shelters use the 18,000 BTU horizontal air conditioner, NSN 4120-01-327-1316.

That air conditioner has a fabric cover, NSN 4130-01-268-2163, that rolls down to cover the condenser side of the unit. This cover takes a beating and since it is needed to protect the condenser, it often gets replaced. That's where the problem starts.

To replace the cover, six small screws, NSN 5305-00-984-6195, need to be removed. Unfortunately, during removal, a screw or two usually gets dropped or lost. Replacement screws are grabbed from the "extra" screw bucket kept in the shop. If these screws are longer than the originals (a good possibility), you're going to create a world of hurt for yourself and the AC unit!

Cover takes a beating



Keep track of screws you remove



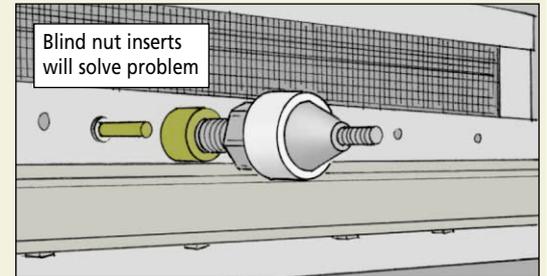
There is *nothing* between the pointed tip of the screw and the top of your condenser coil but air. And not much of that! If the screw is too long, it will puncture the condenser. Not only will you ruin the condenser, but you just might get a face-full of coolant! Neither prospect is a good one.

To solve the problem, I put 8/32 blind nut inserts into each of the screw holes. These inserts bottom out a screw before it can reach the condenser coil. You'll have to use the right-size screw because the longer ones won't fit!

Jason Hannah, Ft Gordon, GA



Blind nut inserts will solve problem



From the desk of the Editor

Great job, Jason. We at PS support any effort to save equipment and in so doing, time and money.

Another solution is one that CECOM has recommended and that is to put a strip of metal between the condenser and the screw holes.

Here at PS, we recommend you keep track of the original screws and keep some right-size replacements on hand. Also, don't forget to wear goggles anytime you're working around the AC condenser. An eyeful of coolant could take your sight.