

Fresh Outlook on Door Screws



Your day will be completely ruined if one of the side doors on the M7 forward repair system (FRS) falls on your head. And that's exactly what can happen if you don't pay attention to the piano hinge screws at the top of the doors.

Vibration and use can loosen the screws. The door weighs about 220 pounds, so the door can collapse if enough screws fall out.

TM 9-4940-568-10 does not tell you to check those specific screws during PMCS, but it's a good idea. If you find any that are loose, retighten them. Missing hardware should be replaced.



NSN 5305-00-225-3842 brings 100 of the screws that mount the piano hinge to the door. Individual lock nuts come with NSN 5310-01-505-0247 and 100 of the flat washers come with NSN 5310-00-809-4058. The screws that mount the piano hinge to the M7's frame come individually with NSN 5305-00-081-6728.

If you have to replace the piano hinge, NSN 5340-01-475-3527 (green) or 5340-01-517-3333 (tan), you'll need to caulk it in place with some 3M marine adhesive sealant, PN 051135-06520. No NSN is available, so you'll need to order it from the manufacturer. Check out 3M Marine's website to find a retailer near you:

https://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/Marine/Home/

You can order a full hinge kit that includes the hinge, screws and adhesive sealant with NSN 5340-01-525-6346.