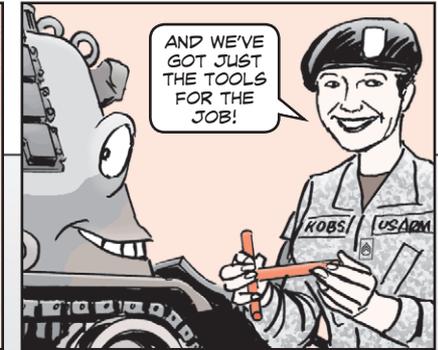
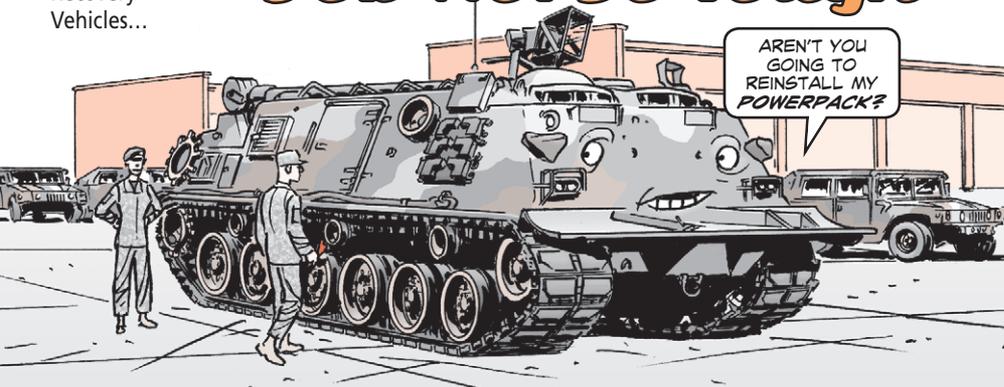


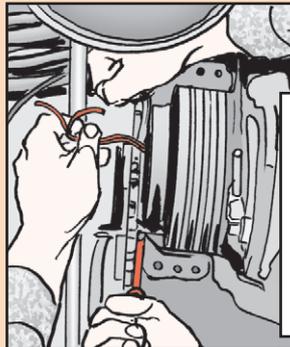
Job Not So Tough with New Tools



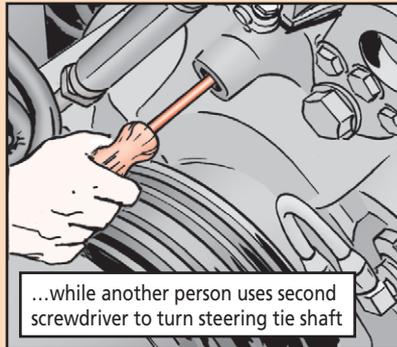
Dear Editor,

Installing the powerpack on an M88A1 recovery vehicle is a tough, time-consuming job for mechanics. The last thing you need is anything that makes the job harder.

Unfortunately, the procedure for meshing the final drive and transmission is difficult and cumbersome. Steps 25 and 26 in WP 0098 00-16 of TM 9-2350-256-20-1 (Nov 05) have you use a screwdriver and a piece of wire to lift and push the coupling flange toward the steer clutch housing while also using a second screwdriver to turn the steering tie shaft to engage the gear teeth.



One person pulls up on coupling with wire while wedging with first screwdriver...

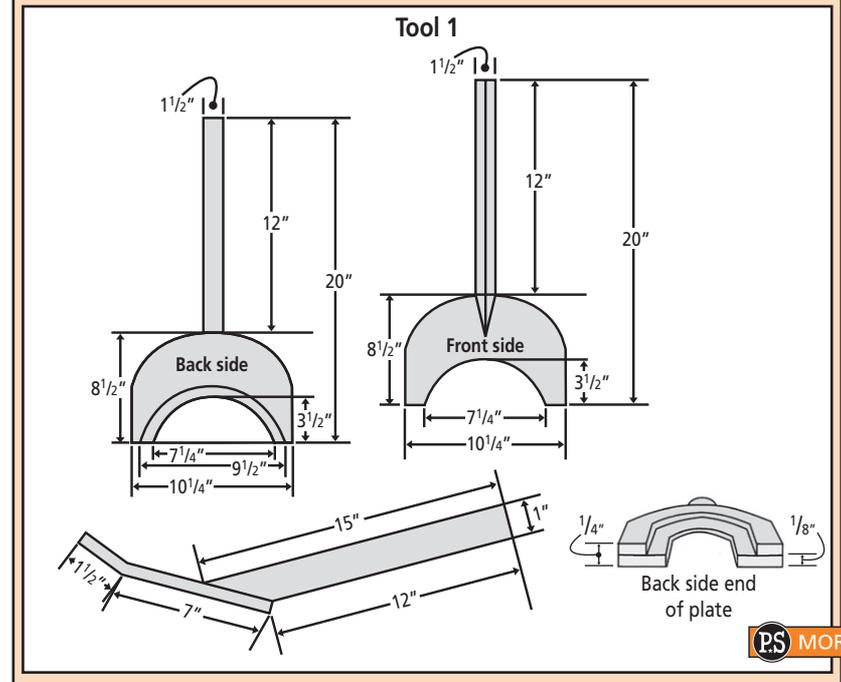


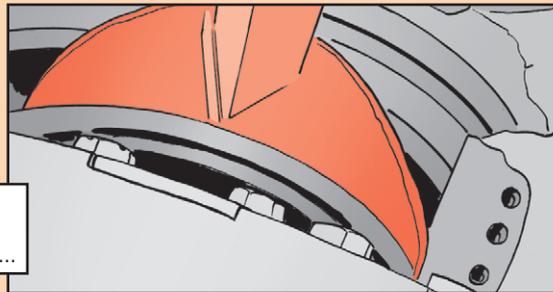
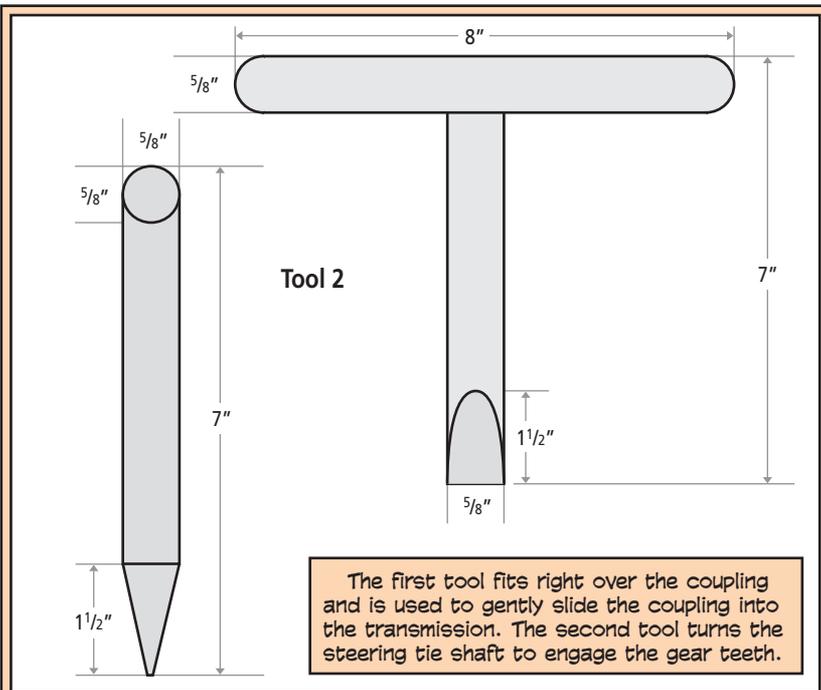
...while another person uses second screwdriver to turn steering tie shaft

It's a tough job in a tight space, especially because it takes more than one person to do it. Prying with a screwdriver is a good way to scar the coupling. It's also easy to accidentally drop one or both of the screwdrivers into the hull. If you can't fish the dropped screwdriver out, you have to pull the pack and start all over again.

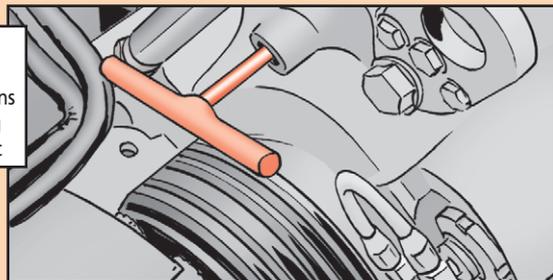
We've designed two special tools that makes this job much easier. And there's no danger of scarring the coupling or having to worry about dropping a tool into the hull.

The first tool is made of 1-in angle iron and two pieces of 1/8-in thick steel plate welded together for support. The second tool is made of 5/8-in steel rod. All measurements are in inches.



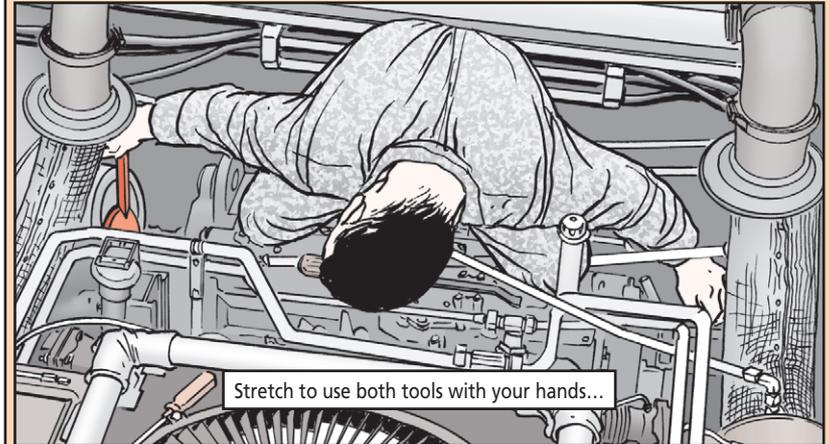


First tool fits over coupling...

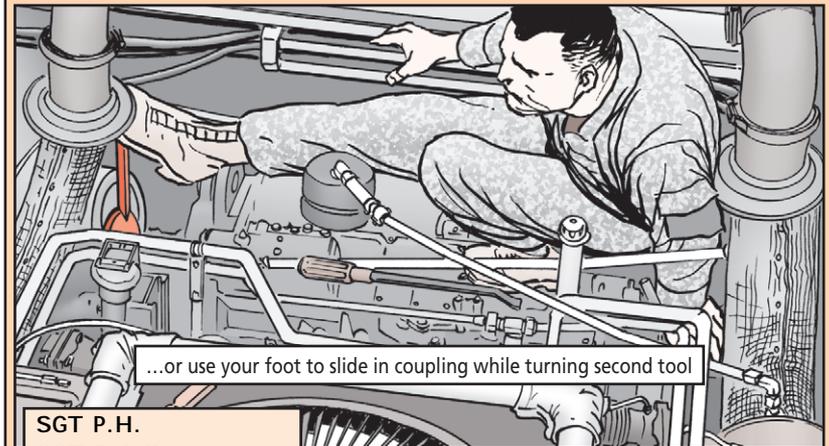


...while second tool turns steering tie shaft

And, it takes only one person to do the job. You can stretch to do it with one hand on each tool, or use your foot to slide the coupling in place while turning the second tool.



Stretch to use both tools with your hands...



...or use your foot to slide in coupling while turning second tool

SGT P.H.
SGT R.A.K.
OR ARNG
LaGrande, OR

Editor's note: TACOM knows a good idea when they see one! They've decided to add your tools to the fabricated tools section of the TM.

This idea was submitted and approved through the SMART suggestion program. If you have a time- or money-saving idea, submit it to SMART online:

<https://aeps.ria.army.mil/smart/smarthome.cfm>

Not only can your idea help others, but you may make a few bucks, too!

