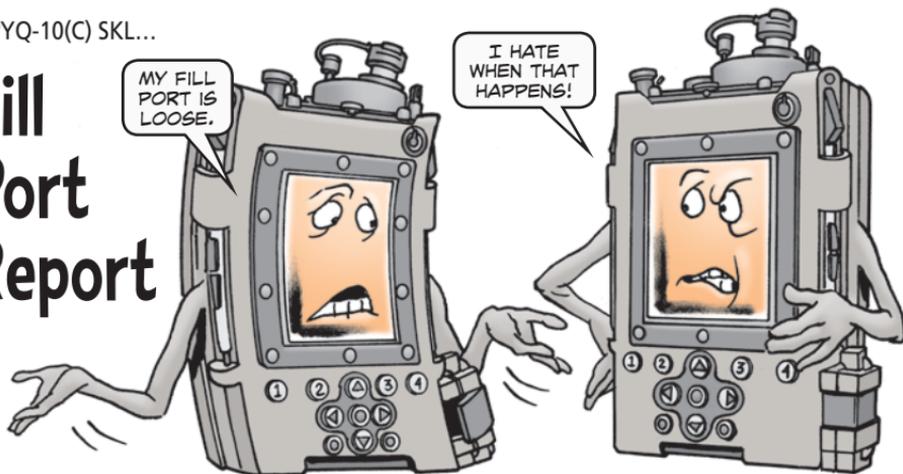


Fill Port Report



Dear Editor,

I am a communications and electronics maintenance technician. I have seen a recurring problem with the 6-pin fill port on the AN/PYQ-10(C) simple key loader (SKL). Under prolonged use, the connector will loosen and eventually "fall out." I think it's due to the removing and replacing of the W4 fill cable. My suggestion is to keep the cable connected to the device during active use. This will limit much of the twisting on and off motion that causes wear on and loosening of the receptacle.

CW3 Jon Bates
and the Soldiers of the C&E Maintenance Section
308th BSB
Iraq

Editor's note: Thank you, Mr. Bates. We also got some advice on this issue from Kim Dorman, the SKL expert at Ft Huachuca. Kim thinks the main problem is mishandling and recommends these handling tips:

- Make sure the cable connector and fill port are clean and free of contamination or dust. A dirty connector can make the mating tough.
- Make sure the O-ring in the connector is in good condition with no cracks and seated well. A dab of silicone compound to "grease" the mating area is helpful.
- The fill cable connector should be mated to the SKL fill port by hand, using your thumb and first two fingers.
- Make sure the red dot or lines on the cable and the port are aligned.
- Turn clockwise, but don't turn too hard. This is a finger operation. Don't use wrenches or other tools to tighten.
- Never, ever, ever, carry the SKL by the fill port cable.

Thanks, Kim, and thanks again, Mr. Bates, for bringing this problem to our attention and offering this great advice.