

TALKING SHOP

In addition to the set of general purpose screwdrivers, there are other types designed for electrical and instrumental work. Some of you are familiar with the small screwdrivers with a clip for fastening them to your pocket. A mechanic's kit isn't complete without a couple of these small size screwdrivers.

PHILLIP TYPE SCREWDRIVERS have become very popular in recent years because of the many Phillips head screws used by automobile and truck manufacturers, especially on mouldings and other trim. The heads of these screws have two slots which cross at the center. Their advantage over screws with standard slots is that the screwdriver can't sideways out of the slot and mar the finish. However, more downward pressure must be exerted on the Phillips screwdriver to keep it in the cross slot than to keep a correctly ground standard screwdriver in a standard screw slot. Three sizes of Phillips type screwdrivers, a 4, 6, and 8 inch, will handle all Phillips head screws used on automotive vehicles.

Now and then a mechanic has need for an OFFSET SCREWDRIVER when there isn't sufficient space to work a standard screwdriver. The offset screwdriver has one blade forged in line with the shank or handle and the other blade at right angles to the shank. With such an arrangement, when the swinging space for the screwdriver is limited, the mechanic can change ends after each swing and thus work the screw in or out of the threaded hole.

One medium and one extra large offset screwdriver should be in every automotive tool kit. The extra large size is used on drag link and tie rod ends in automobile and truck steering mechanism.

A word of caution--never use a screwdriver to check an electrical circuit where the amperage is high. By that, I mean where the electrical current is strong enough to arc and melt the screwdriver blade. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't use a screwdriver to find which spark plug is causing an engine to miss. Current to the spark plugs is high in voltage but low in amperage and won't damage a screwdriver.

This hasn't anything to do with the use of tools, but we might put in a word of caution here on a closely related subject. Don't wear rings when working around batteries or starting motors. There have been some bad burns because of this. When a ring comes in contact with a starter terminal and the starter housing at the same time, there are rapid and painful results.

If a screwdriver blade becomes damaged through misuse or if a corner chips off because the blade is too hard, the screwdriver can be made serviceable again by grinding it on an emery wheel. When grinding a damaged blade, first grind the tip straight and at a right angle to the shank. Never hold the screwdriver against the emery wheel very long at a time and keep dipping the blade in water to keep it cool. Unless this is done, the heat caused by friction against the emery wheel will draw the temper and the blade will become soft. After the tip is ground square dress off a little at a time from each face. Be careful to keep the blade thick enough to make a fairly tight fit in the slot of the screw for which the screwdriver is intended. Keep the faces parallel for a short distance or have them taper in a slight amount. Never grind the faces so they taper to a sharp edge at the tip.

A B C's of HAND TOOLS

CLASSIFIED ADS

Help Wanted: All member superintendents with a flare for writing newsy articles for the association bulletin are needed at once. No experience required. Send in your copy to the Editors Desk.

For Sale: 16 mm Bell & Howell moving picture camera, includes leather cases for camera and tripod. Equipment is in very excellent condition. Write to the Editor for further information. 470 Phillips Ave., Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME: Now is the time for each member to contribute something of lasting value towards the welfare of the Association. It will pay large dividends of satisfaction if you will invest a little time.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The summer of 1949 in this area was the second hottest recorded in a century.

The National Greenkeeping Superintendents Association needs the support of every local member to make its purpose effective.

Adding a small amount of lysol to DDT solution will make it more potent in killing flies.

The BULL SHEET would appreciate contributions of interest pertaining to course maintenance operations.