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REF: Tools - 176

Removing / Installing Light Bulbs

Here are some ideas to help with small bulb removal and replacement.

Bulb Extractor by ZTatZAU,

While working on my 73 XLH's charging system issues, I found it quite difficult to remove and install the oil & gen light bulbs with the headlight visor installed. I thought a small suction cup on the end of a stick would work well. I never found a suitably sized suction cup in any of my "stuff", but did come up with this solution.

The little blue condoms are actually called lamp booties and are used to change the color of instrument panel lighting for night flight.

I happened to have several on hand, but a small circle cut from an old inner tube wouldn't be as convenient as these booties but would probably work just as well.

Removal: Once the bootie is pushed over the top of the bulb, the 5/16" nut driver is used to gently depress and rotate the bulb out of its horizontal locking slot.

The loop of safety wire is then used to extract the bulb with the bootie installed.

Installation: Installation is the reverse, except for the last step.

Once the bulb is inserted and rotated to the locked position, the small hooked end of the safety wire is used to snag the edge of the bootie and remove it from the bulb.



1)

Bulb Extractor by needspeed, This is a similar idea to the one above.

I've had success with a piece of 3/16" ID fuel hose. Made a shallow cut with a 3/8" drill bit to enlarge the opening a little and cut 4 slits to allow the hose to wrap around the bulb. Putting something tacky on the hose for grip might help but I didn't need to. Push down and turn with the hose to unlock from the socket and then stick some tape on it to pull it out. Crude but it worked for me.



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1)

photo by ZTatZAU of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/63858-special-tools/page20?t=395586&highlight=bulb&page=20>

2)

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<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/63858-special-tools/page20?t=395586&highlight=bulb&page=20>

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