

Fixing the rubber ends on Hillbrush/Ranger litter pickers.

The tong style pickers which many of us use have one minor design fault – if we do much picking in shrubbery we soon find that the rubber ends catch on the shrubs and are pulled off. Some people recommend gluing the ends on but that could cause problems if the ends have to be replaced because they wear out or are damaged. This is an alternative method using self tapping screws.



Clamp one arm of the litter picker in the jaws of a Workmate or vice and mark a point central to the width of the rubber end and about 2.5 cm from the flat top end. The point isn't critical but having a more or less standard measurement could be useful if replacing worn out rubber ends in the future.

For a larger job (16 pickers for a group) I cut a 25mm x 9mm piece from a vinyl floor tile offcut as a guide rather than measuring every one of 32 pieces.

Carefully drill a pilot hole through both the rubber end and the upper side of the arm of the picker using a small metal bit. The size of the bit needs to be smaller than the self tapping screw to be used. Again, the screw size isn't critical but needs to be short enough to be contained within the arm.



For the size of screws I happened to have in my toolbox when first doing this job (pan head No 4 1/2") I used a 2.5mm bit. For the larger job mentioned above I bought some No.4 x 3/8" (2.9mm x 9.5mm) screws, plenty long enough and well contained within the arm.



Screw the self tapper through the rubber end and into the arm. If the hole is too small simply use a slightly larger bit to enlarge it and try again (better to start small and enlarge than drill too big a hole in the first place).

Simply repeat for the other arm and that's the job done.