

Repairing trigger style litter pickers with internal metal rod.

These instructions apply to the type of picker as illustrated on the right. There are several similar designs on the market, from different companies, but they are basically the same, having one fixed jaw and one moving, fastened together with a pin. The handle has a moving trigger also fixed with a pin.

Inside the jaw end is a toothed bar which acts on the teeth on the moving jaw and inside the handle end is a piston which fits into a spring. The two are fixed together by a metal rod which either hooks onto the plastic parts or a thicker rod which fits into each plastic part and is held by a small pin.

The trigger part of the handle pulls the piston back which pulls the rod and toothed bar, closing the jaws. When the handle is released the spring pushes the assembly forwards to open the jaws.

The commonest problem is that the teeth of the moving jaw part slip out of alignment with the teeth on the bar. All that needs doing is to remove the moving jaw part, lubricate internally if it is a bit stuck and then reassemble.

Sometimes teeth on the bar or jaw are damaged. Reassembly still works in some cases but not all. If the toothed bar is too badly damaged it can only be fixed by replacement with a donor part from another picker damaged in a different way.

The piston sometimes breaks where the handle fits onto it. If that happens the only solution is to replace with a donor part from another picker.



The tools needed are pretty basic – a light hammer, a nail (round or oval) and a piece of scrap timber with a hole drilled in it. The last isn't strictly necessary but it supports the picker whilst removing/re-inserting a pin and captures the removed pin so that one doesn't have to scabble round the floor looking for it when it flies away (voice of experience).

To separate the jaws, place the tool on the piece of timber above the drilled hole and knock out the pin with the hammer and nail. The pin is neatly captured in the hole.



Separation of the handle parts is a similar operation.



With the parts separated any damage to them can be seen. If the toothed bar or the piston need to be replaced it is necessary to pull the fixed jaw from the aluminium tube and to remove the handle trigger first. Replacement of internal parts is a reversal of the removal process. Replacement of the fixed jaw is a simple push fit.

If the problem was merely misalignment, or once parts have been replaced, reassemble by aligning the jaw properly and tapping the pin back into the holes. Again, re-fastening the handle parts is a similar operation.

Removal/replacement of the small pin on the thicker rod is similar (use a panel pin rather than a nail). A cut down panel pin can be used to replace a lost original pin.



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