

Sundry Snippets 20 - A Tip on Tap preservation by Mike Sharman

Cases often occur where you would like to tap and fit a small 14BA - 16BA bolt to hold parts of a model together, except that you have either broken your small taps or feel that they are too expensive to risk.

“Studs” are the answer.

Drill a clearance hole in your component, take a screw and cut the head off leaving as much thread as possible, and solder or ‘superglue’ the thread in place (*Figure 1*).

The easiest way to fit the nuts to this is to make a ‘socket’ spanner from a small engineering screw. These screws are the type which have a hexagonal hole in the head and are tightened with an Allan key.

Grind the surplus head away - but beware: it will get hot, so have some water handy for cooling.

Don’t worry if the screw turns blue, as any loss of temper in the steel will *not* be a problem!

