

Zenith Carburetor Tip

by Tom Endy

Quite often the drain boss threads on the bottom casting of a Zenith are found to be striped. This is caused by people over-tightening the drain plug. There is a reason why people do this. When the float valve does not hold sufficiently, the fuel level in the reservoir rises. At the same time the fuel level rises in the main jet and cap jet until it spills over the top. It then runs into the throat of the carburetor and out through the small drain hole in the bottom of the throat. From there it runs back to the hex plug on the drain boss and drips off of it leading people to believe there is a fuel leak at the drain boss; hence over-tightening.

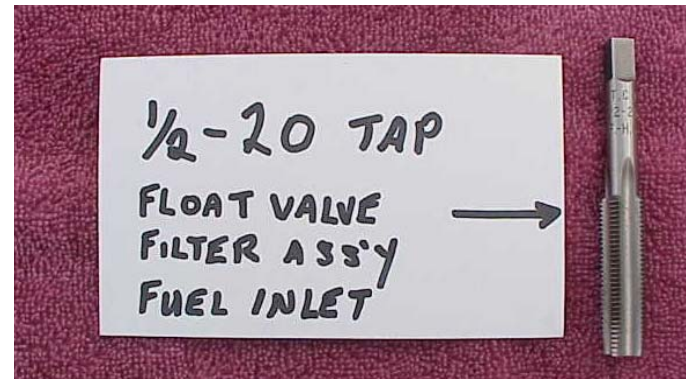


There is an easy repair. Salvage a filter screen assembly from a top casting. Unsolder the screen from the hex. The hex is cup shaped as is the original drain boss plug to act as a small fuel reservoir. The difference is the original drain boss plug has a 1/2" hex and the filter screen has a 5/8" hex and larger threads.



The new plug will look exactly like the old one except it will have a larger hex, but it will work just fine. You might even fool the judges.

Drill the drain boss out with a 29/64 size drill bit being careful not to drill into the seat for the main jet. Tap the hole with a size 1/2-20 tap and follow it with a bottoming tap.



Follow with a bottoming tap

The fuel level in the main and cap jets is always at the same level as the fuel in the reservoir. If the float valve allows the fuel in the reservoir to climb it will also climb in the two jets until it spills over the top.

