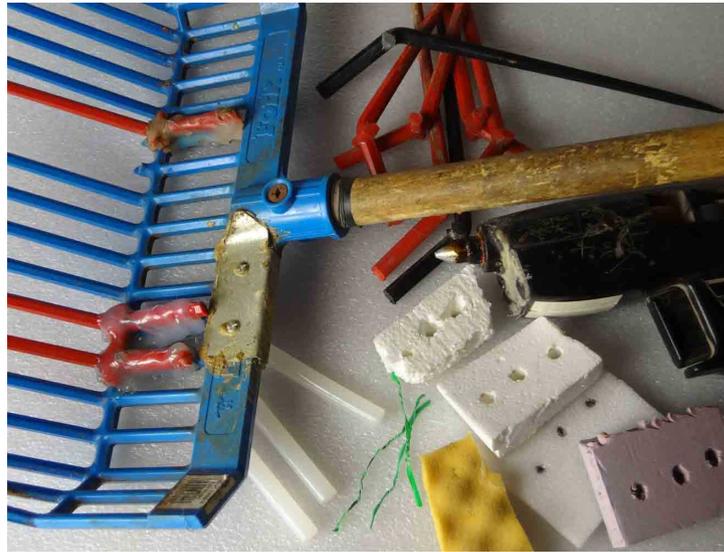
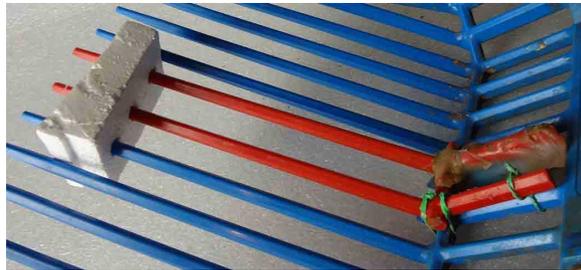


# Manure Fork Repair: Tine

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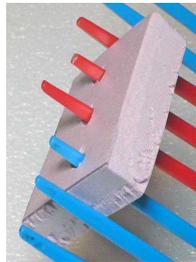


Repair the broken tine of a plastic manure fork with a tine from an old fork, a scrap of foam, hot melt glue, and wire or twist ties.



Hold the new tine's tip with a foam clamp bridging the tines adjacent to the lost one .

Tie the new tine to the fork head. Then coat together the shafts of the old and new tines with hot melt glue. The glue will sag. So, start with a little, and turn the fork as you add more, to help keep the glue in place.



When cooled, remove the foam, and trim the tip of the new tine in line with the others.

I've found that replacement tines behave as well as do original ones. The fix works because the glue loves to stick to itself.

It's easiest to repair a fork with the same brand tine. I find the DuraFork by Miller Manufacturing to be extremely good. From an old fork, maybe one with a broken spine, cut some tines free from each other, and from the spine. I use 22 ga. wire cut in 8 and 4 inch lengths, but twist ties from bread wrappers (used for the illustrations) are ok. With twist ties, for the joint at the tine arms, twist three in line, to 8 or 9 inches. The tie at the top of the repair I work in a figure eight.

The foam clamp can be a scrap of packing material, insulation, carpet pad, sponge, about three inches long. Mark the foam for three tines. For rigid foam, drill ¼ inch or smaller holes, and for softer foam twist the point of a small blade screwdriver, or a pencil, or a hot nail through it.

Don't get burned. Hot melt glue is 380° F and will drip away from where you put it.

One and a half sticks of ½ inch diameter glue is about all it takes per repair. And for the nineteen years before this ultra cold winter, there have been no glue joint failures. This winter's problem has been glue cracking, which probably comes from having tried to join hot glue with relatively cooled glue.

Get glue in the joint area, filling crevices, beginning to coat the shafts. The glue shifts position until it cools, so rotate the fork to keep the glue where you want it. But, it's all in slow motion. You'll figure it out.

And, as of the sixth tine repair, having lived a good life, having gained a little weight, the fork is semi-retired to the riding arena, or the wash pit.



If a replacement tine snaps, the only way I've found to remove the glue is to carefully soften it with a small propane torch.