TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Dremel Tool



Have you ever wished for a small power tool to reach those tight places where air tools just wouldn't fit? This tool should be lightweight, inexpensive, and have several different functions to help you get those tough jobs done. The Dremel 4100 Automotive Service Kit and accessory Flex Shaft may be what you're looking for.

The Dremel's small size, variable speed motor, and wide variety of specialized tips make it a very versatile tool. And the Dremel runs on standard house current. That means the tool's electric power cord is easier to maneuver in tight places than a bulky air hose.

The 4100 Kit includes a Dremel 410 Automotive Tool (motor and chuck), several specialized grinding stones, deburring tips, polishing tips, wire wheels, and a drill bit. Several other tip designs are also available.

When combined with the Dremel Tool's 5,000 to 30,000 RPM motor, these tips can be used to do many different jobs. The Dremel will remove paint or corrosion, clean battery terminals and spark plugs, reslot stripped screw heads, repair damaged threads, remove carbon deposits, polish chrome, and sand rough surfaces.

We've been using the Dremel 4100 Kit for the past several months, and we're still finding new uses for it. We'll demonstrate some of those uses for you here. Maybe you can think of a few of your own.

Dremel Circle No. 200



1 Many electrical problems are caused by poor ground connections. Cleaning these connections can be difficult because they are often located in hard to reach places. The Dremel's small size and tapered grinding stone let you remove corrosion in tight areas where larger grinders can't reach.



3 Remnants of old gasket material always seem to stick around studs and alignment pins, defying all cleaning efforts. This tapered wire brush tip can be used to reach into the tightest areas to remove the gasket leftovers. The wire brush will last longer if you use a slow motor speed during cleaning.



2 We used the Dremel to remove this stubborn bearing race without damaging the transmission input shaft. Use the small cutting disc to cut a deep notch into the race, without nicking the axle. Insert a chisel in the notch, then hit the chisel with a hammer. The race will split, and can be easily removed from the shaft.



Occasionally, only a pry bar will separate stubborn parts. The pry bar can leave a burr on the edge of a sealing surface, causing a poor seal during reassembly. Use a flat reaming tip with a fast motor speed to remove the burr. or you'll cause another sealing problem.

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5 The Dremel can be used to trim interior panels during accessory installations. Start with a cutting disc to rough in the required shape. Use a grinding tip at low speed for finish work. Use light pressure to cut the plastic. Heavy pressure or fast cuts melt the plastic, causing it to ball up around the cutting disc.



7 Open end and flare nut wrenches can round off badly rusted fuel and brake line fittings. To avoid stripping the rusted fitting, cut through the line near the surface of the fitting. Move the line away from the fitting, then use a fresh six point socket and ratchet to remove the rusted fitting.



6 A rounded or rusted nut can be removed by cutting through the nut with a cutting or grinding disc. Cut the nut on both sides, then split the pieces with a punch. If only one side can be cut, use a chisel to spread the nut apart after cutting. With care, either method will remove the nut without thread damage.



8 A flexible extension cable is also available to reach places that are too small for the Dremel. One end of the extension cable attaches to the tool's output shaft. The other end has a separate collet nut to hold the Dremel tool bits. The cable can be flexed into different shapes to reach those really tough spots.