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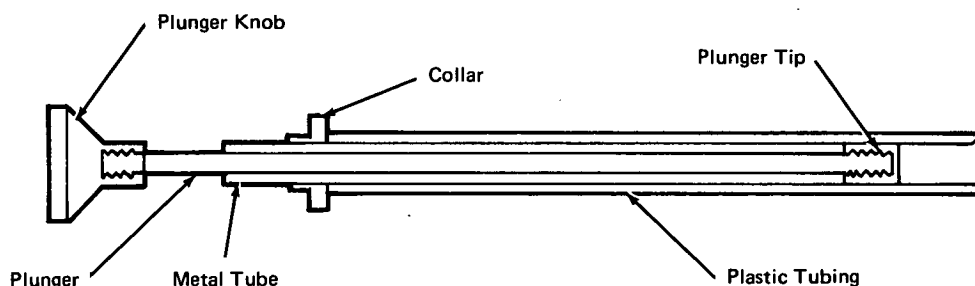
NASA TECH BRIEF

Langley Research Center



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Tool for Installing or Extracting Small Bulbs in Limited-Access Spaces



Tool for Installing and Extracting Small Bulbs

A new tool has been designed to assist in the installation or the extraction of small light bulbs, in spaces where access is too limited for the use of fingers or pliers. This tool is of simple construction; and it could be used also for the removal of screwdriver-loosened capscrews, in areas where retrieval could be troublesome. The installing and extracting component of the tool (see illustration) is plastic tubing with an inside diameter of a size to provide a snug fit over a bulb. The other components, which provide sturdiness and ease of operation, consist of a metal tube, with a collar near one end, and a plunger, with a knob on one end and a Teflon tip on the other.

An aluminum collar is pressed onto the metal tube, and then the plastic tubing is pressed over the tube up to the collar. The plunger, with threaded ends, is slid inside the metal tube. The knob and the Teflon tip are then placed on the plunger ends to complete the assembly. Plastic-tubing length and diameter are determined by bulb access and bulb size. The metal tube must provide a tight fit with the tubing and a sliding fit for the plunger.

To install a light bulb with this tool, insert the bulb in the end of the plastic tubing, place the bulb in the socket, and retract the tool from the bulb by placing two fingers on the collar and pressing the plunger with the thumb. To extract a light bulb with the tool, push the end of the plastic tubing over the bulb, remove it from the socket by gripping the collar and twisting or pulling, and eject the bulb from the tool by pushing the plunger.

Note:

No further documentation is available. Specific questions, however, may be directed to:

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Patent status:

NASA has decided not to apply for a patent.

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(LAR-11543)

Category 07