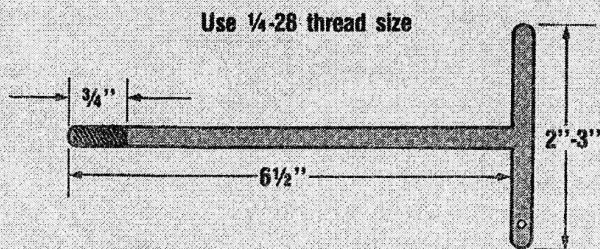


T-Handle Mast and Trunnion Damage

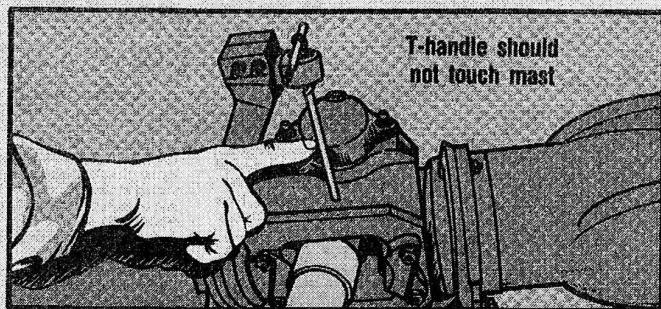
The T-handle work aid designed to help you remove Kiowa main rotor assemblies is worth its weight in gold—if it's used right. If it's misused, you may have to replace some expensive parts—like pitch horn trunnions and even the main rotor mast.

Right off the top, make sure the T-handle you're using is not too long. Like it shows in Fig 5-6 in TM 55-1520-228-23, the rod should be no longer than 6½ inches.



But Fig 5-6 doesn't show what else you can do to prevent busted trunnions. A forthcoming change to the TM says to thread the end of the T-handle (¾-1 inch with ¼-28 NF) and secure it inside the hub with nut, NSN 5310-00-167-1332, and washer, NSN 5310-00-167-0835.

You install the handle through the pitch horn trunnion and yoke, making sure it doesn't contact the mast. Either eyeball the end of the work aid with a flashlight or stick your fingers up under the yoke to feel for clearance. It wouldn't hurt to pull both checks.



If the work aid touches the mast, back it out some. Otherwise, it's sure to damage the mast when you remove the rotor assembly.

Removing Blade Bolts

Dear Editor,

The Note in Para 5-87b of TM 55-1520-228-23 says the blade retention bolt is easily removed when the blade is aligned with the grip.

Don't believe it!

In the first place, it's almost impossible to align the blade with the grip.

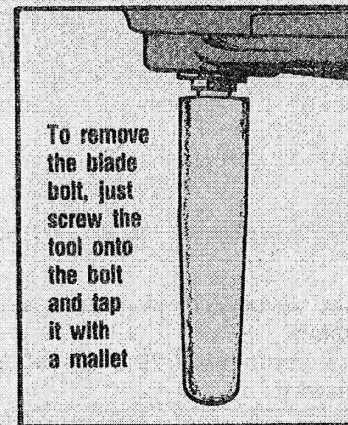
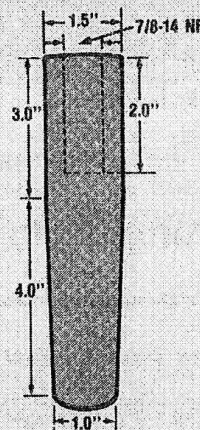
In the second place, corrosion preventive compound applied to the bolt gets gummy and makes it even harder to remove.

Most people use a brass drift to pound out the bolt, but a drift can slip and damage either the pin or the blade or both.

We solved the problem by getting our sheet metal shop to make us a couple of bolt extraction tools from aluminum bar stock.

The tool has a 1½ inch outside diameter and is threaded to screw onto the blade bolt.

Here are the dimensions:



To remove the blade bolt, just screw the tool onto the bolt and tap it with a mallet.

The bolt and tool slip through the grip and blade holes without damaging either.

SGT Larry Williamson
Hunter Army Airfield, GA

(Editor's note: Sounds like you've driven out a tough problem. Nice going!)