

How to Make Light of Lighter Repair

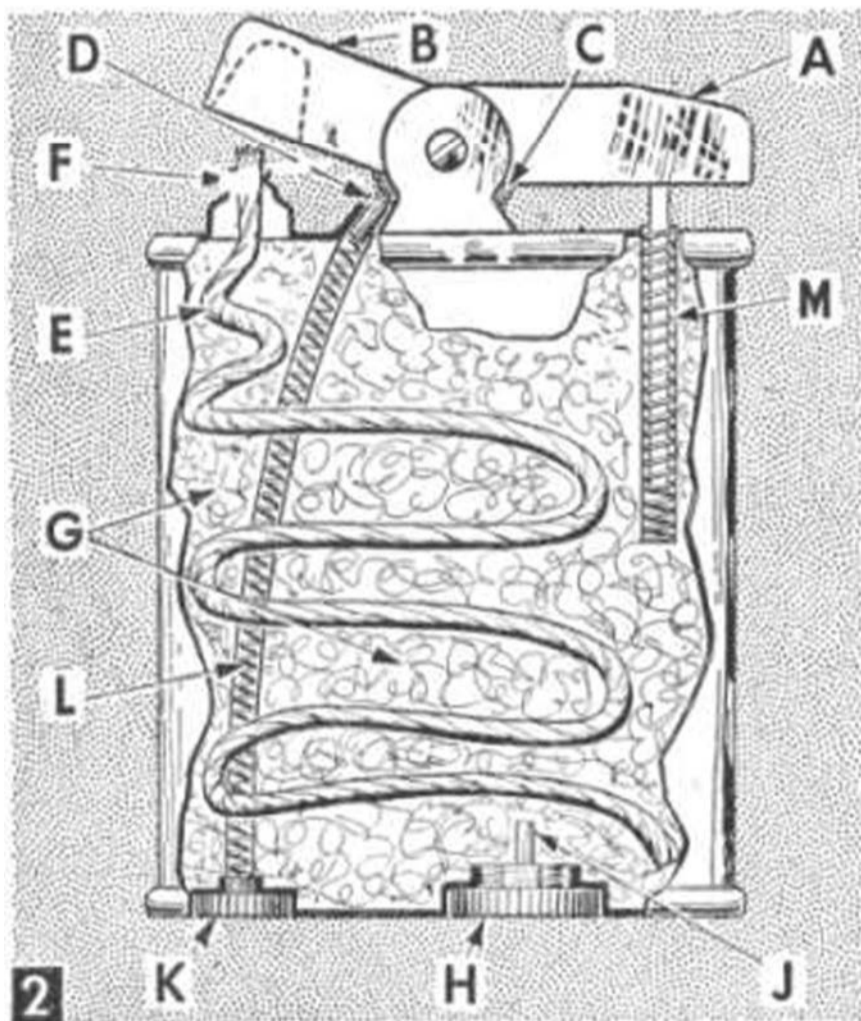
Nine easy steps will restore the spark to lazy cigaret lighters

THE next time a favorite cigaret lighter refuses to light up on command, don't consign it to the ash heap or send it on a lengthy visit to the manufacturer for repair. Chances are that all it needs is a simple overhaul and cleaning job that you can easily do yourself as explained in the captions of Fig. 1 and Figs. 3 to 10.

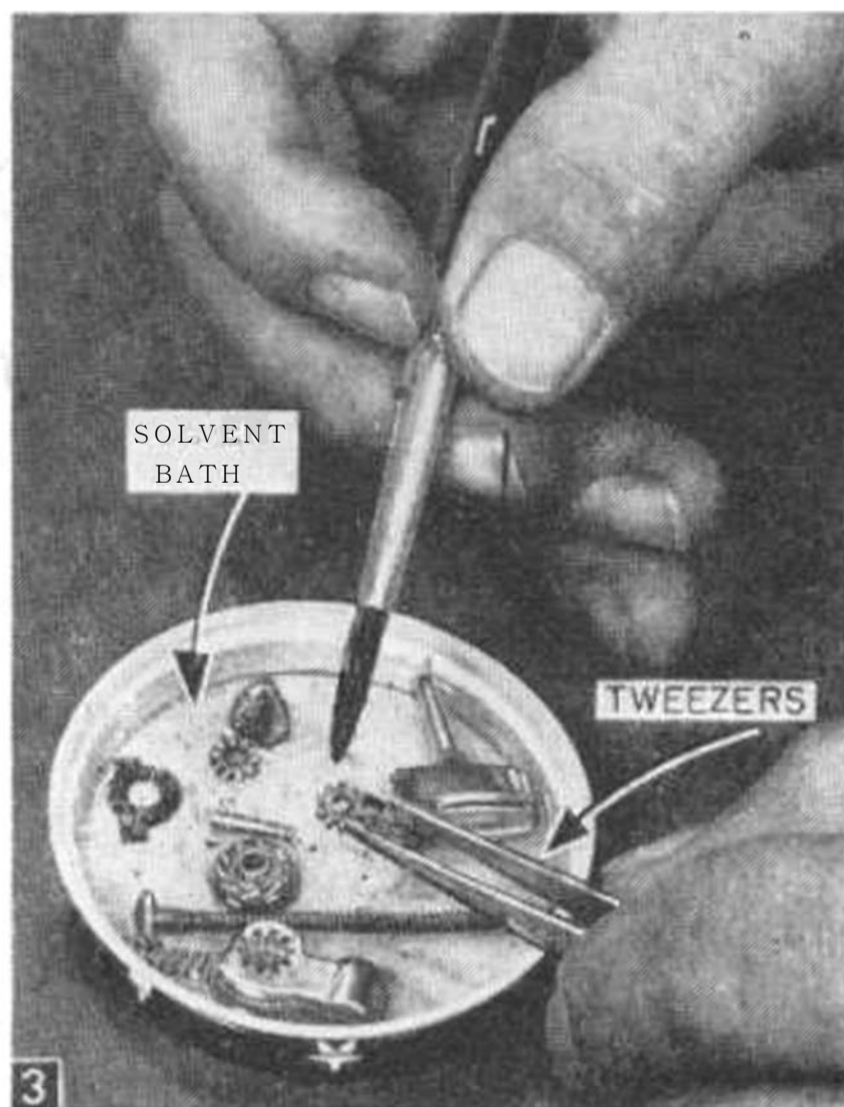
The tools you'll need can usually be found around the house; for example, tweezers, a screwdriver and a small crochet needle or a stiff piece of wire hooked at one end which can be used



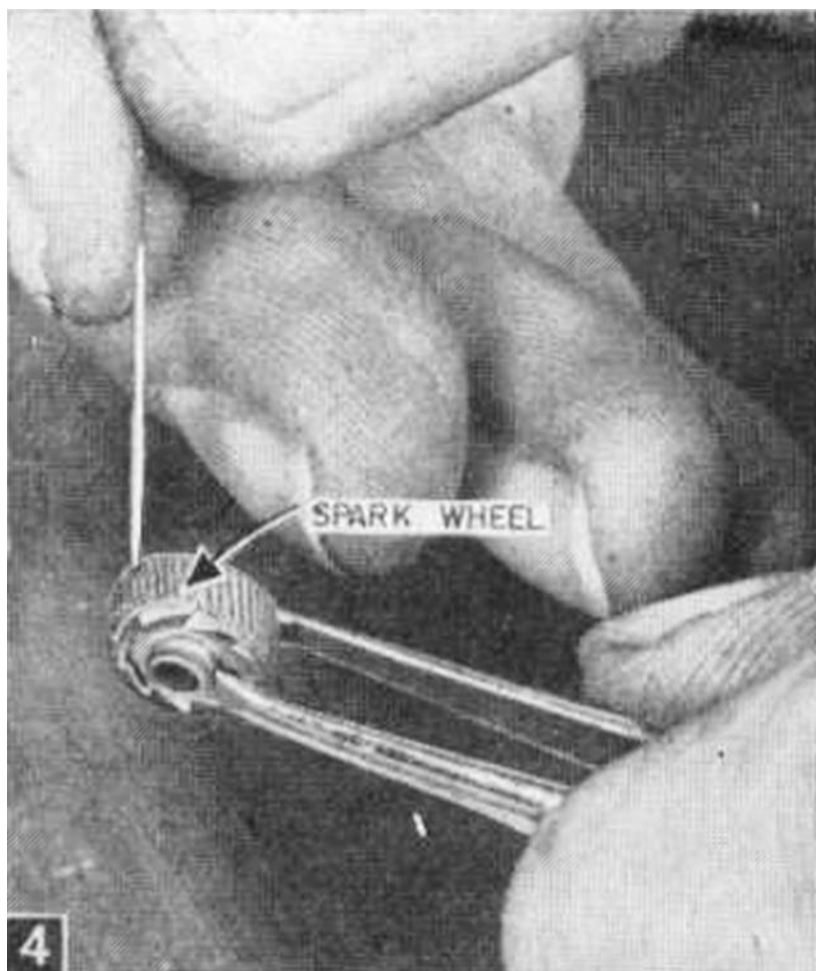
First step in overhauling a cigaret lighter is to take it completely apart. Use a small screwdriver for this job. Remove flint screw cap and pressure spring before taking off spark wheel, or flint may pop up in your face when no longer restrained by spark wheel.



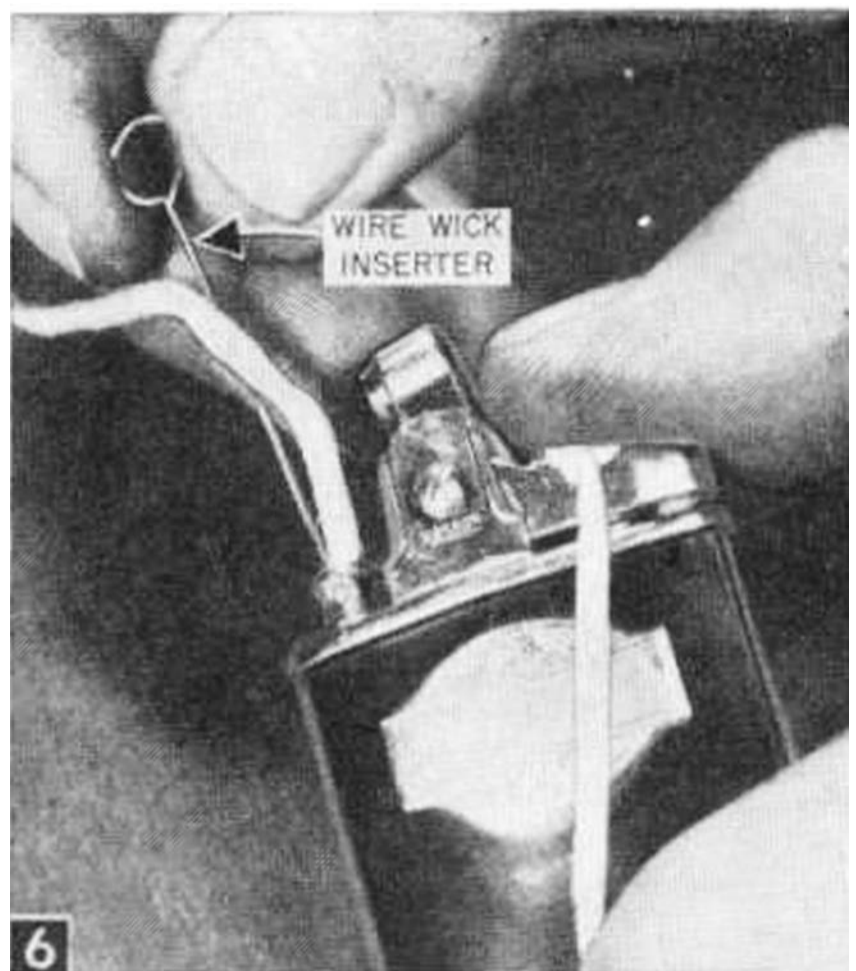
How a Cigaret Lighter Operates: (A) WHEEL LEVER is depressed to lift (B) SNUFFER CAP and rotate (C) SPARK WHEEL against (D) FLINT, providing spark to ignite (E) WICK, which emerges from (F) WICK NOZZLE. Wick is kept saturated with fuel by (G) COTTON WADDING, which absorbs and stores fluid. (H) FUEL CHAMBER CAP prevents evaporation. Cap also holds (J) EXTRA FLINT for replacement purposes. (K) FLINT SCREW CAP maintains pressure on (L) FLINT PRESSURE SPRING, which holds flint against spark wheel. (M) WHEEL LEVER SPRING automatically returns wheel lever to "off" position, seating snuffer cap over wick to extinguish flame.



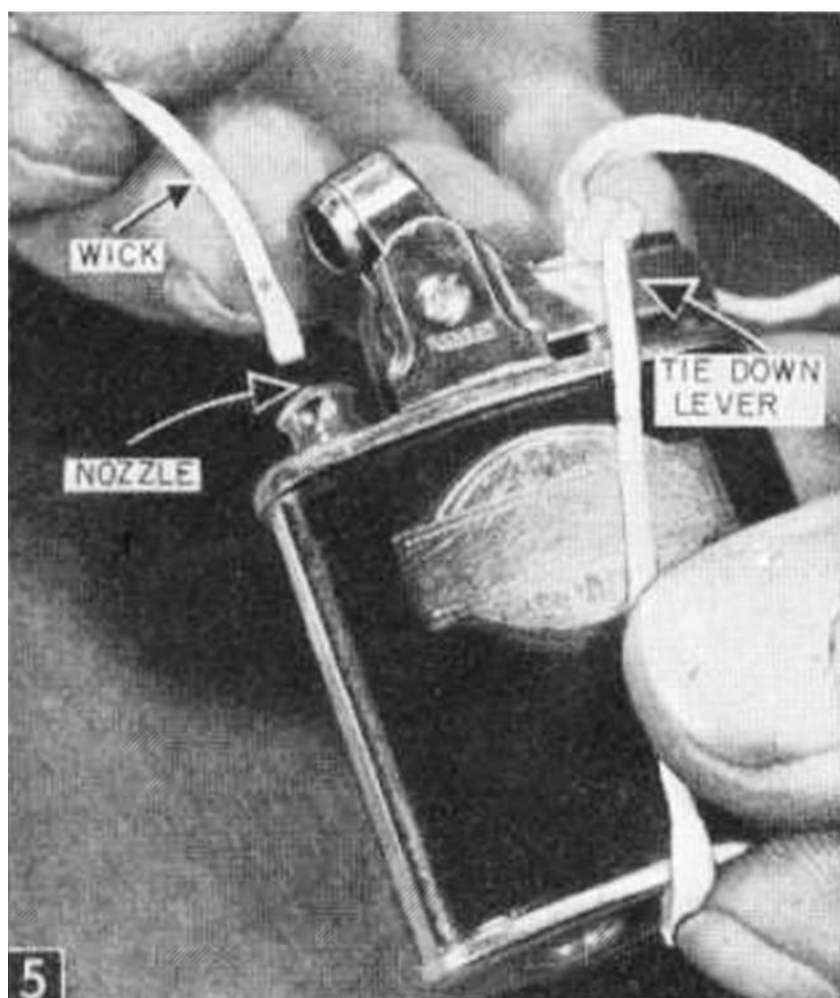
Immerse all working parts in cleaning solvent, such as lighter fluid. Scrub each part with a small brush dipped in solvent and set aside on clean paper to dry. Remove all wadding in fuel chamber and pull wick out through nozzle.



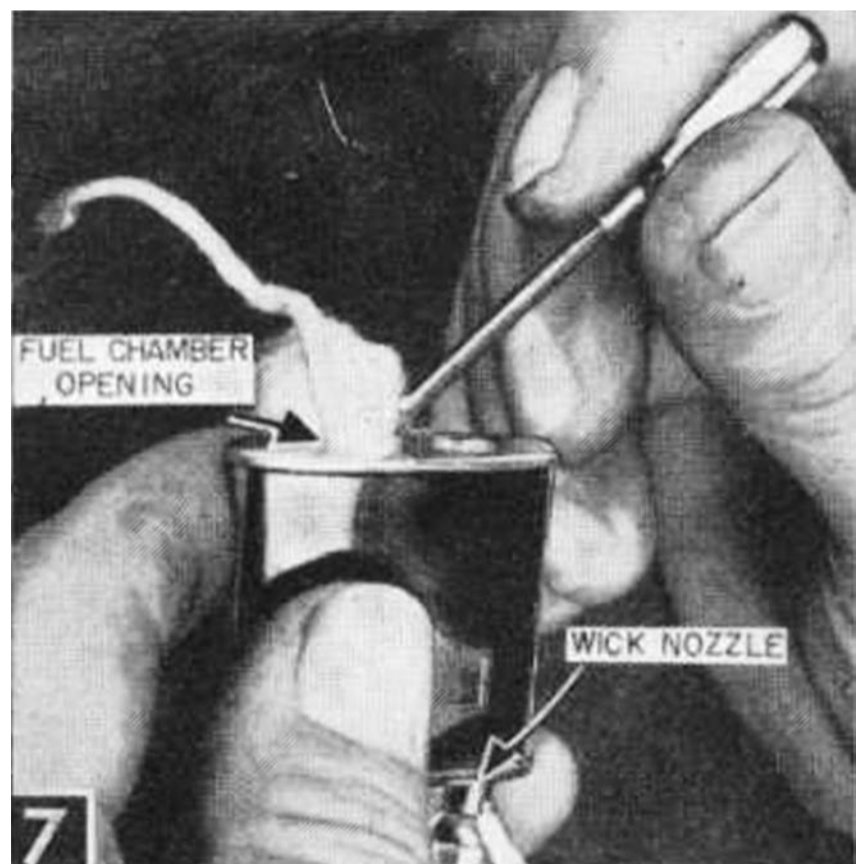
With a large needle or very sharp awl, remove grit, dirt and pieces of flint from spaces between serrations of spark wheel; again brush-clean with solvent. Replace wheel if any serrations are worn.



Push all but about 1 in. of wick into lighter, using a short piece of stiff wire. Reach into fuel chamber opening with tweezers, wire or crochet noodle to grasp other end of wick and pull it out.



Reassemble lighter except for two bottom caps, tie down wheel lever and insert new wick in nozzle. Roll end of wick between thumb and forefinger or coat with nail polish to make an insertion point



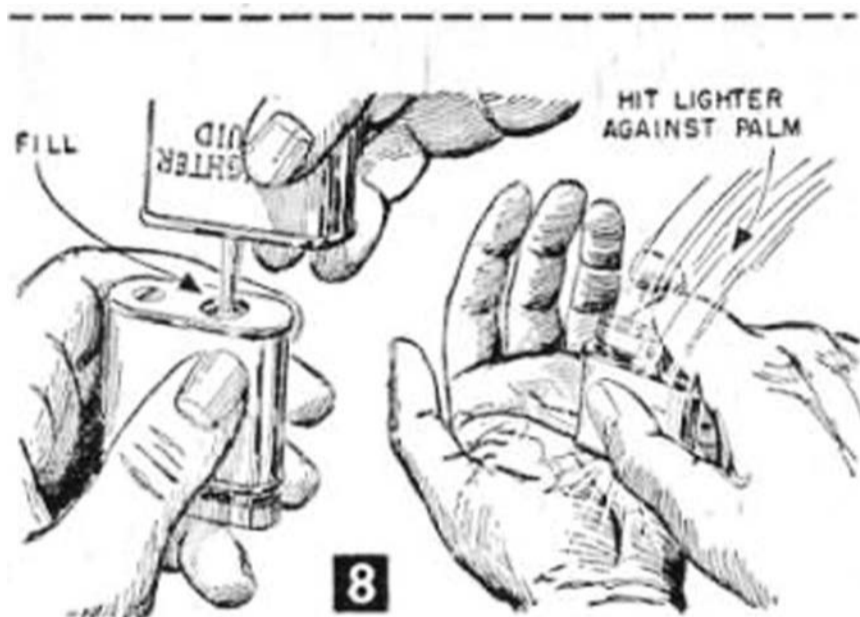
Stuff small wads of absorbent cotton through fuel chamber opening, alternating from side to side of case, until half of lighter is solidly packed. Push lower end of wick back into lighter; fill rest of lighter with cotton. Push all but about 1/16 in. of other end of wick down through nozzle.

to remove the old wadding or position a new wick. However, a lighter repair kit, which includes a wick inserter and a small, stiff cleaning brush can be purchased at stationery, drug and cigar stores for about 25\$.

Although all cigaret lighters are not designed exactly as shown in Fig. 2, basically they are all the same. The usual point of difference is in the method used to create the spark: instead of using

a lever to rotate the spark wheel against the flint (Fig. 2), direct thumb pressure on the spark wheel may be used. Otherwise, except with gas burners and gadgety lighters, you will usually be able to follow the diagram in Fig. 2 when reassembling your lighter.

There are two important cautions to observe during lighter cleaning operations: do not smoke or work near an open flame while using the clean-



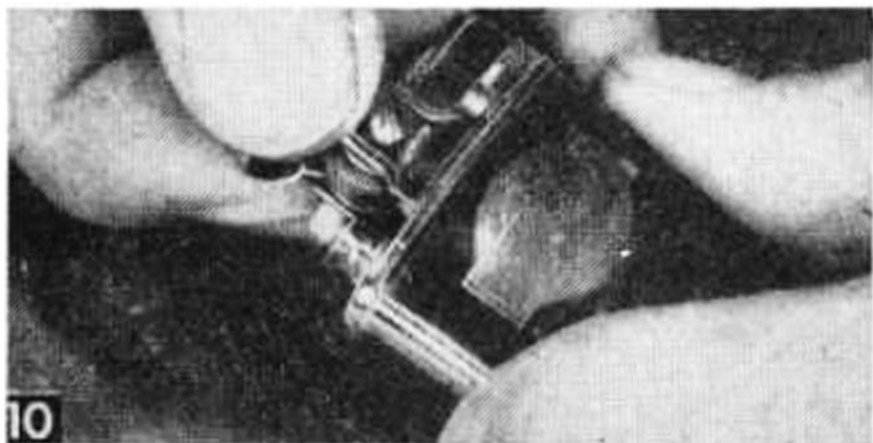
When wick is entirely surrounded by cotton so all sections will be continually saturated by fuel, fill lighter with fluid through fuel chamber opening until cotton will absorb no more. Hit lighter, opening down, sharply against palm of hand to remove excess fluid, then screw in cap tightly.

ing solvent; and do *not* use a razor blade to clean the spark wheel or other parts (Fig. 4), as pieces may snap off the brittle blade and injure you.

Complete the overhaul job by cleaning outside of lighter case and polishing it with red jeweler's rouge and a soft cloth. A buffing wheel or small hand grinder can be used for the polishing job—but sparingly since too much power polishing can work through the plating. —H. J. DE CRISTOFORO.



Wipe inside of snuffer cap with pipe cleaner or small screwdriver wound with cotton. Drop a new flint into flint cap opening, insert pressure spring and then screw in the flint cap.



Before using wheel lever, raise and lower snuffer cap several times by hand—slowly so you don't obtain a spark. This will remove the rough edges from flint and break it in to shape of spark wheel.