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EC 71-2012

Lady Fair

DOES ELECTRICAL REPAIR

NEW CORDS and PLUGS

Extension Service
University of Nebraska College of Agriculture
Cooperating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture
and the College of Home Economics
E. F. Frolik, Dean J. L. Adams, Director

NEW CORDS and PLUGS

By Norm Teter
Extension Agricultural Engineer

Plugs and cords on electrical appliances can become broken and damaged. Exposed wires (Fig. 1) can cause unpleasant shocks, fires, or serious injury if someone touches a power wire and has a good contact to ground. You can repair cords and plugs to look like new (Fig. 2) and even make your own heavy-duty extension cord by following these steps.

A good electrical cord connects the electric wires firmly and keeps them from contacting one another. It also gives sufficient mechanical strength so that wires are not easily pulled loose from their connection.

This pamphlet illustrates repairing a cord and installing a new plug.

You will need:

Screwdriver

Sharp knife

Pin-nosed pliers

New pronged plug

1. Cut cleanly across cord just behind the frayed part.

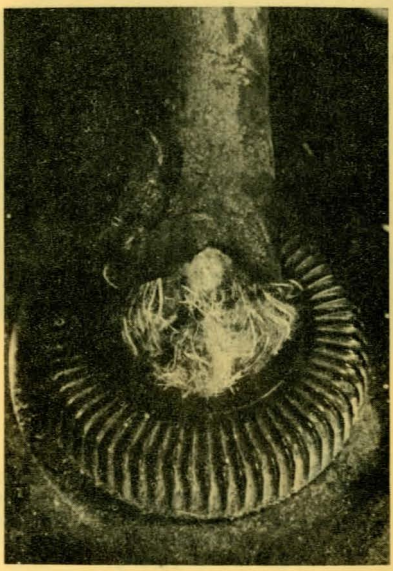

Figure 1

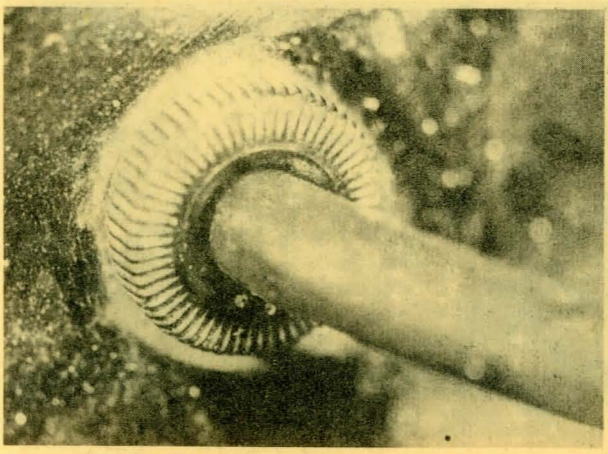

Figure 2

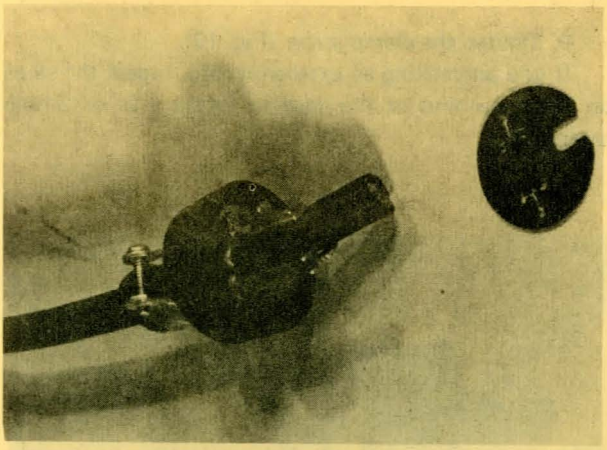

Figure 3

2. Place the electrical cord in the new plug to judge how much insulation should be removed from the end (Fig. 3).

3. Using a sharp knife, carefully remove the insulation that surrounds the wires inside. Use a slanting cut on the outside insulation (Fig. 4).

4. Remove the extra material that surrounds the three inside wires. One wire will be black, one white, and one green (Fig. 5).

5. Carefully remove insulation so enough wire is exposed to go around the screw. About 5/8 to 3/4 inch should be enough (Fig. 6).

6. Insert wire into plug (Fig. 7).

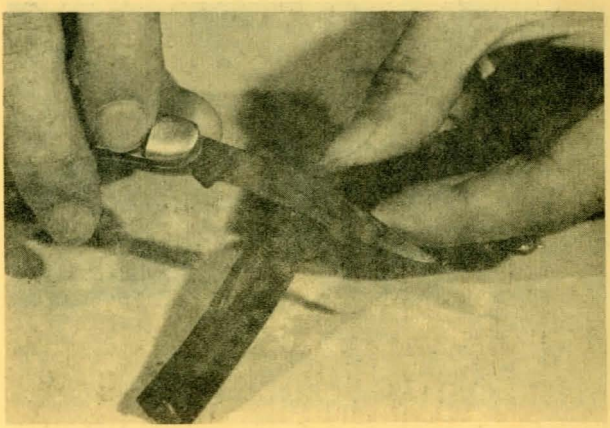

Figure 4

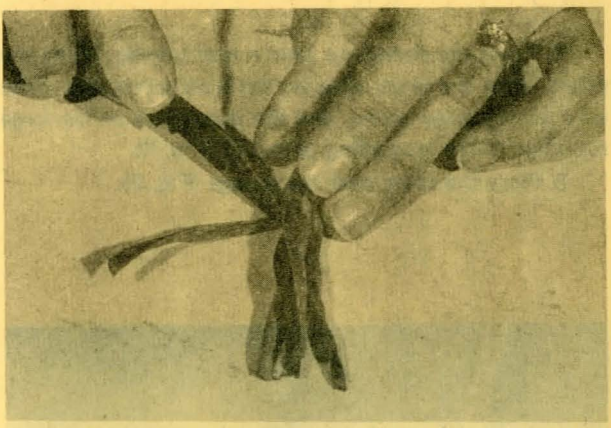

Figure 5

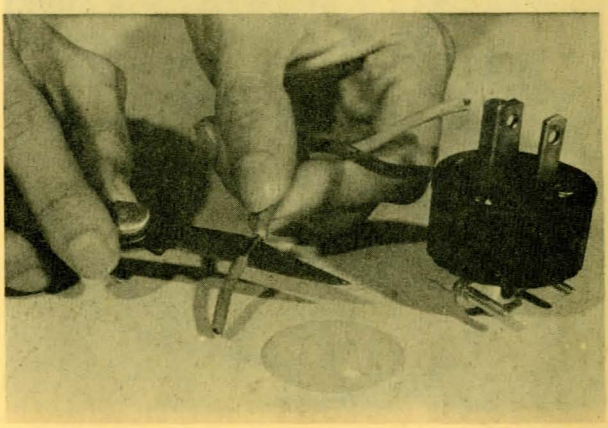

Figure 6

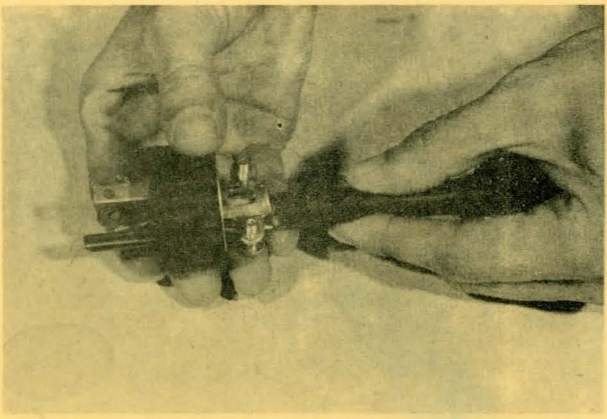

Figure 7

7. Twist the strands to form a neat bundle. Using the pliers, wrap the black wire on the brass screw, the white wire on the silver screw, and the green wire on the large round post (the grounding terminal) (Fig. 8).

8. Place the cover over the prongs (Fig. 9).

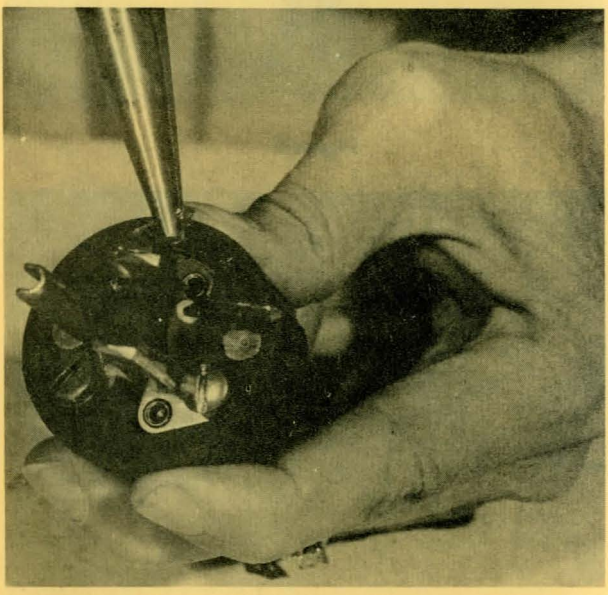

Figure 8

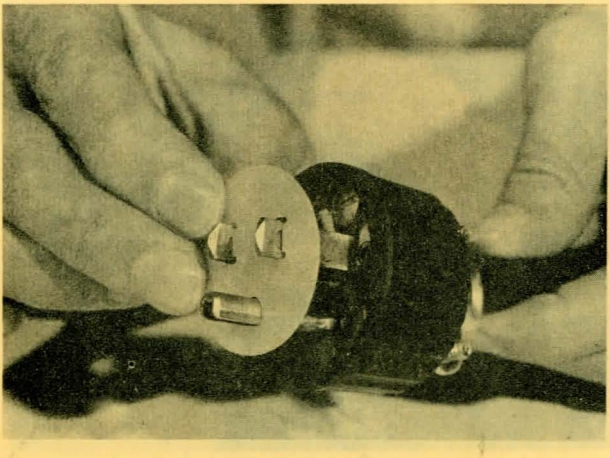

Figure 9

9. Tighten the clamp screw (Fig. 10).

If you are making an extension cord, repeat the steps on the other end of the cord to install a 2- or 3-hole receptacle.

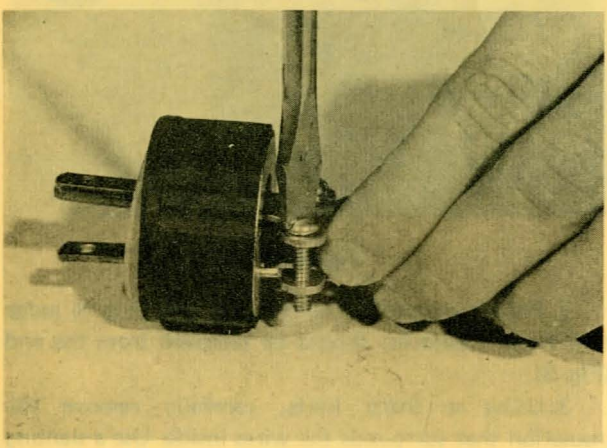

Figure 10