

Oil Filter Cutting Tool

By George Killishek

It's a good idea to cut open the used oil filter every time we change oil to inspect for metal particles. Once an engine starts to make metal, it's a fairly short while before big problems are likely to occur in the most inconvenient circumstances.

Aircraft Spruce sells tools for cutting open the filter canister starting at about \$50 and going up well into the three-digit range. The Pilot Shop at Addison Airport sells a good tool for about \$120.

I built a workable tool in about two hours for a total cost of \$0.00. The two pictures below show it: very ugly but serviceable.

Materials include a piece of scrap 3/4" plywood, a length of 3/4" aluminum angle, a 2 1/2" "C" clamp, assorted nuts, bolts, washers and screws and the cutting blade and guide rollers from an old tubing cutter. All were found lying derelict in my garage. The pictures are self-explanatory, except to note that the aluminum angle supporting the cutting tool is supported off the surface of the plywood to make the cut at the appropriate height on the filter canister.



