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Subject: New use for Cable Ties

Posted by Nil on Sun, 02 Sep 2007 15:04:54 GMT

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You know the kind I'm talking about - also called zip ties; the kind that have the serrated surface on one side of the strip that fits into the little locking head-end. Anyway, the other night this band I recorded recently invites me to one of their practice sessions to hear some of their new tunes. Anyway, they're into about the 3rd or 4th song and the drummer's snare stops "snaring" - one of the straps that holds the snares had broken. It also had snapped pretty much right in the center, at a point that rendered it too short to be able to pull it out & readjust the length to get both ends of either piece to grab in the clamp. One of the guitarists yells out "Shoelace!" (which also works, but you've got to be able to wrap a couple of loops of it around the clamp for it to be strong enough & not stretch out or break).

Enter the lowly cable tie - this place still had some miscellaneous small piles of junk that the prior tenant had left laying about, and I was actually thinking about seeing if I could find a piece of heavy-gauge multistrand wire that could be substituted, and I notice that the first pile I walk over to had a bunch of snapped-off cable tie ends that were just about long enough to work - so I grabbed a couple & brought them over to the drummer & said "These should work, especially if you can thread two of 'em through there but I don't know if one would be strong enough." (they were the smaller ones that are perhaps about 1/8" across). He decided to try one at first, and lo & behold, even just one of those smaller ties was plenty strong enough! The snares held through the rest of their practice, which consisted of another ten or so tunes that night, and the tie showed no signs of breaking or stretching out.

Later it occurred to me that once I had fixed a drummer's kick drum pedal with one of the even smaller versions of these same type of cable ties, as well - a screw had snapped at the point where the tread plate pivots on the heel plate, so one side was fastened & the other side was kinda flopping around loose. Unthread the broken-off portion in the heel plate, insert cable tie, zip up tight & voila'!

Anyone got any other cool improvised fixes they'd like to pass along?

Neil

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