

Tue, 10 Jun 1997

Fresh Water Pump Fix

When I first purchased my 1991 Westfalia in the summer of 1997, I discovered that the pump that delivers fresh water to the sink was not working even though I could hear the pump motor running.

I was able to fix the pump (it's still working after four years - knock on wood). Turns out the impeller had come disconnected from the shaft (I could tell it was flopping around in the housing).

Reasoning that I could do it little further harm (the worst that could happen is I would have to buy a new pump - the only other alternative), I got a hold of the bottom of the housing with a pair of channel lock pliers, and popped it off. The hole in the impeller (where it fits on the shaft) looked melted - did it jam? Was it run dry, heated up, and the plastic and metal separated?

Well, I cleaned up the enlarged hole with a drill bit held by hand, all the while trying to keep it centered. I inserted a piece of Evergreen brand styrene tube (I "play" with trains and usually have a lot of goodies around), glued it in place with Testor's liquid cement, cut off the excess, and reinstalled it on the shaft.

Once I got the impeller positioned on the shaft at the correct depth, I placed the housing back on the pump and flowed more Testor's cement around the joint. Let it set up for a few minutes, tested and reinstalled the pump. Water almost immediately.

Sure beats dropping several dozen bucks for a complete replacement!