A Good Gas Can Spout Replacement

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I have been frustrated over the past few years with the new gas storage containers available to us on the market. In particular the spouts and caps they come with have seemed to change every new season as they try to improve the self-closing feature required by the EPA. Most of the time the feature (regardless of season vintage) either locks up and will not open to dispense the fluids within, or they simply break off and/or leak while trying to dispense fuel.

Finally (and for me the most frustrating) if they do work, they tend to seal the can up tightly and allow no vapor to escape. While that may be good for the EPA's check list of things they can pat themselves on the back about, in reality it causes other problems. If a new model fuel storage container is closed up on a warm day and put in the shed, it will collapse upon itself like a water bottle left in your car overnight. This collapsing and re-inflating causes stress cracks to form in the plastic which will ultimately form a leak. I guess the EPA didn't mind the inevitable fuel leaks as long as the vapor doesn't get out of the can... (switching sarcasm off now).

Anyway, out of frustration from purchasing replacement cans and new spouts that fail, I have stumbled across a solution. It is called the EZpour Spout. They are available in some hardware stores but not most. I found mine on Amazon.com for \$12 each, buy 3 and they can ship for free. (see pic)



The spout kit comes with 2 different types of locking rings with the 2 most popular thread types to fit your storage container. One is yellow with a course thread pattern, and the other is black with a slightly finer thread pattern. It also contains the flexible spout with a cap for the end, a retaining strap for the small cap, an old fashioned can vent (missing from modern fuel cans), an extra spare cap for the spout, and an instruction card.

Installation of the spout kit was fast and simple. The picture below is of my three fuel cans that I have been attempting to salvage from destruction.



The 2 cans on either end are two years old and were purchased from Home Depot with the thumb activated valves. The one in the center was purchased three years ago from Tractor Supply. It has a spring loaded spout that is supposed to open when the spout is compressed. It hasn't worked for more than 2 years. The 2 cans from Home Depot were branded "Blitz" and the one from Tractor Supply was branded "Scepter". The only can that was still sort of working at the time of this photo was the one with the green thumb lever.



As you can see in the picture below, the new EZpour Spout does NOT have the ratcheting ring locking mechanism around it's collar. This should make opening the container for filling much easier. The rings are also made in the familiar octagon shape that is easier to grip for opening than the little raised bumps on the original rings.



INSTALLATION:

According to the instructions you should only need a ½" paddle style drill bit to make an opening in the top of the container for the vent. However, I found it useful to have a hammer and something to cushion the vent while tapping it in to the hole (I used a leather glove for this).

This is the type of drill bit they are referring to in the instructions: (and it does make a difference)



The two Blitz fuel containers were easy when it came time to identify an appropriate location for the Vent to be installed. You will want to make sure it is above the Max Fill Line on the container and as far to the rear of the container as possible. The Scepter fuel container was not as obvious due to the shape of the back of the container. A little common sense and forethought about how the fuel in the can will be positioned when pouring/dispensing the fuel will help in your decision. You don't want to have it squirt out the vent hole when pouring.

The pictures below are a very simple description of how to install the Vent.

- 1. Drill the hole (remember to dump out the drill shavings that drop into the container)
- 2. Gently tap in the new Vent (the glove was used for a cushion)
- 3. Installation complete.





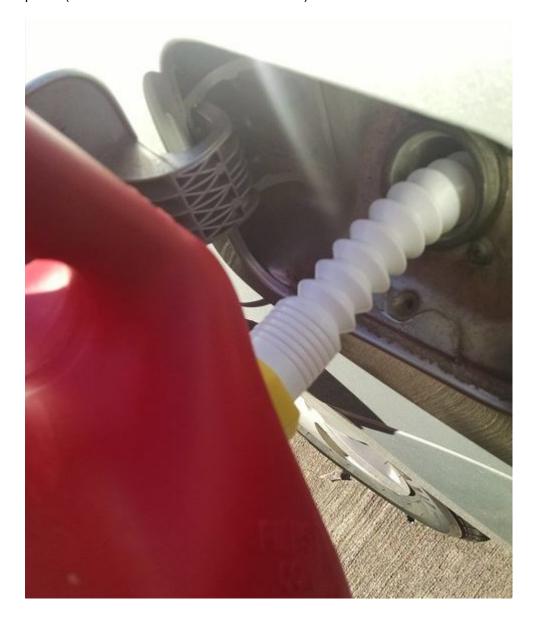


Here are my newly rejuvenated fuel containers!



The new spouts and rings work great. I actually emptied a full 5 gallons into my car with one of the containers and the flexible spout along with the properly placed vent allowed me to transfer the entire five gallons in under 2 minutes. Anyone that has tried that with one of the original spouts will know it would have taken at least 7 to 8 minutes to do that and still have the problem of leaks and holding the spout valve open.

Here is a quick pic of me dumping the fuel into my car. The container was almost empty by the time I was able to get the camera out and take the picture while still holding the container in place (but at least I had a hand free to do it).



Well, I hope this was helpful to those individuals that have unusable fuel containers due to bad or broken auto-valve spouts. If I ever get new containers in the future, I will also be ordering more of these kits. I think one of the most important part of these kits are the little yellow vents. You can store your fuel with the tiny vent open and not have the problem of the container collapsing or ballooning out of shape. The vent allows the atmosphere to slowly regulate the pressure in the container without causing damage. It also is small enough that it does not allow enough air into the container to cause water condensation.

Have fun and be prepared. 73 all