

Cleaning the Points

by David DuBois

Start with removing the upper set of contacts, by loosening the screw at the back end of the spring blade and sliding it out. Use a fine sharpening stone or some 400 grit sand paper on a flat piece of steel or glass and scrub the contacts until they are bright and shiny, then wipe them with a cloth soaked in some solvent. The lower set of contacts are harder to deal with since they are blocked by the pedestal. Remove the two pedestal mounting screws and carefully fold the pedestal back, letting it pivot around the pin through the back legs and the lower toggle. Once the pedestal is out of the way, scrub the contact the same way you did the upper ones (if you are using sand paper, wrap it around a narrow, flat piece of metal), followed by wiping them off with a solvent soaked cloth. Reassemble everything and the pump should work for you.