

Rob's Briefings : Bicycle Renovation & Refurbishment



A series of easy-to-understand guides to help enthusiasts repair or rebuild bicycles

Crown race

- removal & refitting

Great care must be taken not to damage the crown race surfaces - these methods only apply to steel forks.

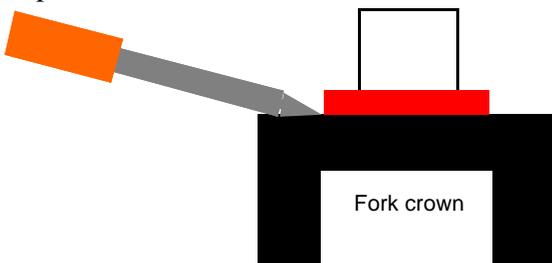
Removing a crown race

Remove the forks from the frame - and the crown race may just lift off the fork crown with finger pressure - if not

Position the fork upside down with the top end on a block of soft-wood on the floor (*if the fork is threaded, refit the nut that holds it into the frame, screwed right down until the lip engages the top of the threaded section - this is just to protect the end of the thread*)

Hold the fork steady (between the knees is the best way) and **gently** tap the underside of the crown race with a large flat-bladed screwdriver and a hammer - tap either side of the fork crown in turn with gentle blows until the crown race slides off the shoulders of the fork crown.

Depending on the shape and size of the fork crown and race it may be necessary to use the flat-bladed screwdriver as a lever to get the race away from the flush position on the fork crown shoulder.



The tool to refit a crown race

The "tool" here is made from an old bicycle frame - you will need a frame that has at least 100 mm of head tube, with the lower headset cup left in place.

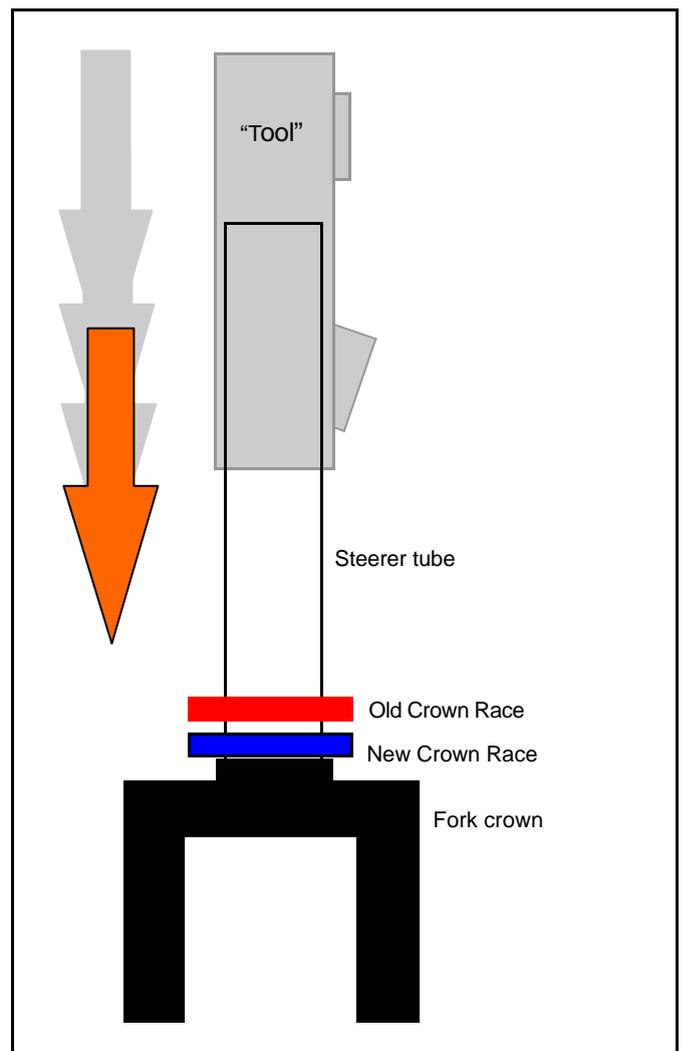
Cut the head-tube off the frame* (cutting through the top [crossbar] and down tubes as close as possible to the head tube) file/grind the cut edges of the new "tool" (and perhaps cover the raw edges with tape)

Refitting

Position the new crown race on the shoulders of the fork crown, applying a little grease to the surfaces. Then position an old crown race (perhaps the one you are replacing) on the new crown race.

The tool is used as a "sliding ram" to force the new crown race onto the fork crown grasp the tool, slide it up the steerer tube and then drive it down with some force towards the fork crown - it may be necessary to repeat several times until the race sits squarely in position on the fork.

* Discard the rest of the frame !



If you have any ideas or tips that you would like to share then e-mail : cyclebriefings@beewee.co.uk

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