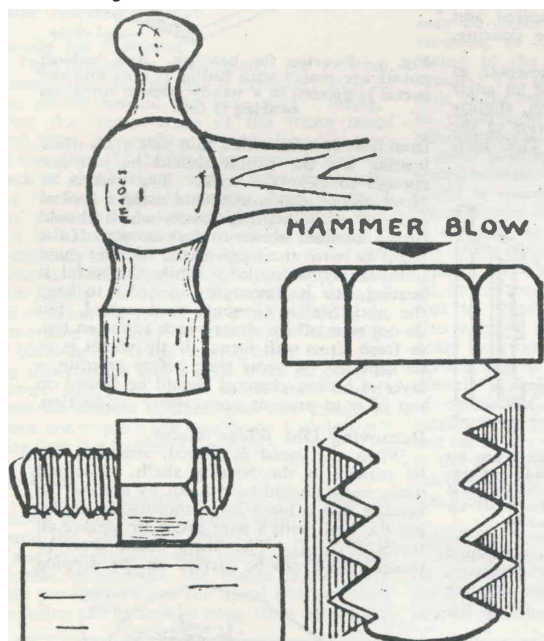


"FROZEN" THREADS BEATEN

TIGHT or rusted bolts and nuts can

often be loosened before the spanner or screwdriver is applied by tapping with a hammer. The exaggerated sketch shows that usually a screw, stud, or bolt has only one side of the thread in a state of compression and intimate contact. A sharp hammer blow on the head of the screw or bolt tends to break the thread faces apart, and a spanner or screw-driver can then be used as normally.



Loosening rusted nuts. (Left) Method of "stretching" nut which is tight on bolt. (Right) Usually only one side of thread is in state of compression: hammer blow on head of nut will free it.

Not only does this save a lot of effort, but it also prevents damaging the flats or screw slots by straining against them. Nuts which are tight on bolts can be loosed by "stretching" them. With one flat on a hard surface, tap the opposite flat with a hammer—working right around the nut—then just turn off with a spanner.—(A. J. Barnes, Dundas, N.S.W.).