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## Fogger Repair

If you are like a lot of us you probably have purchased a fogger, used it during Halloween, cleaned it per the manufactures instructions and stored it only to find out next year it doesn't work!!! Yep, you guessed it, this has happened twice to me. My fogger is / was a MBT Brute II FM-850 and the pump died. The first time I went as far as to purchase a new pump for about \$45.00 and it worked fine for one season but when I got it out this year...the pump was dead. See my Fogger Pump Surgery page for my first attempts on fixing one of these things.

I get a lot of emails asking where I got my replacement pump at. I went to [MBT Lighting](#) and called their Customer Service at 1-800-641-6931. At that time they could not sell me a pump but gave me the number to a music store in the local area that could order it for me. It got here in about 1 week. An individual emailed me saying his Radio Shack fogger had the same pump and they sold replacement pumps for \$20.00. You can get the [Radio Shack](#) part number here.

\*\* Update \*\*

A gentleman sent me some information about the Radio Shack pump.

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I just installed the pump that I got from Radio Shack and it works great. It even came with the proper connectors. Seems to be that Radio Shack is using the same pump. I went to my local Radio Shack on 12/08/03 and ordered their # 12192449 PUMP SP-12A. It shipped from Texas on 12/09/03 and received exactly what I needed on 12/13/03 in the mail. Needless to say, I was pleasantly surprised. Total cost was \$ 25.31 pump \$ 19.99 shipping \$ 3.50 CA Tax \$1.82

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For the price of the pump vs the price of a new fogger it may not be worth the money to get a pump unless you really hate to part with your fogger. The one thing I have learned is DON'T CLEAN YOUR FOGGER!!! Cheap Lights recommended their fog cleaning fluid which is basically watered down vinegar as far as I could tell. This killed the first and SECOND pump!!! Now I just leave my fluid in the fogger and fire it up about every 6 months and about 1 month before Halloween. I have been told the cleaning fluid should only be used for foggers that are used for weeks at a time and not the occasional

30 or 40 hours that I do. Someone said if you want to clean them just run some distilled water, not tap water, through the fogger but I just leave the fluid in the tank and don't clean them.

For about 8 dollars you can still get some use out of your fogger provided the pump is the only thing bad. All you need is a cheap aquarium pump, some standard airline tubing, and a small check valve. All these items can be purchased at Wal-Mart in the pet supply section.

First things first. **UNPLUG THE FOGGER!!!!** Since you know the pump is bad cut the two wires coming from the pump. You can cut them anywhere because you won't be using them any more. Remove the copper tubing from the brass connector on the pump. This should allow you to totally remove the fog juice tank. If you grab the brass elbow on the pump it should unscrew from the pump. I removed the two little parts below so they wouldn't restrict the flow of the juice. Once you remove those screws the brass fitting back on.



Cut the plug off the end of the pump. The pump comes with about 4 or 5 feet of cord and you can leave it all or just it to a desired length. Feed the cord into the fogger chassis in any open hole. Mine had a nice opening on the bottom of the fogger so I just ran it through that. Strip the ends of the cord and take two terminal lugs and crimp them on. I can't remember the name for these lugs but they are the ones that fit over a connector and are not a screw down type. You could solder the wires on if you want too but I chose to do it this way.

Now take one lug and slip it onto the connector where one of the old pump wires used to go. You can see in the photo this is where the red lug is at. This one comes right off the heating element.



Next take the other lug and connect it to the other terminal where the pump was connected. This is blue lug. This is right on the plug where your remote would go.



Drill a hole in the cap and insert the airline through the hole. I left enough airline so it will go to the bottom of the fog juice tank but I don't know if it would make much of a difference if you just stuck it in an inch or two.. One nice thing about having the line go to the bottom of the tank is you can hear it bubble when the pump is activated so you know it's actually working. Take some silicone sealant and seal the line in the cap.



Hook up the pump and put the check valve in place.



As usual before you piece it together test it first. Hook up your remote and power it up. The pump may hum a bit before you actually push the button because there is a bit of voltage on the line while it's warming up. Once you get the ready light push the switch. This should work just like before and you will not be able to trigger the fogger until the ready light is on. After you find it's working fine put everything back together.



A couple of draw backs to this method that I can see is since the pump is now sort of a straight shot to the heating element you will always have some fog coming from the fogger because there is nothing to stop the juice since the old pump would stop this. Maybe leaving the second little springy piece in the pump might help but I'm sure it would restrict the flow a bit. You might use more fog juice than normal but I wouldn't think a whole lot more. Also, the force doesn't seem to be the same as the old pump. Maybe a larger aquarium pump but we wanted this to be a cheap repair and not cost you an arm and a leg. You might have to put a little pin hole in the cap because mine would sort of build up a vacuum and the fog would continue even after I let off the trigger. If anyone should improve on this repair method please send me (Mr. Death) the link and I'll add it to the page.

My plans are to take a good piece of Velcro you can get from Wal-Mart, the kind that has the adhesive on the back, and put one side on the fogger and the other on the pump so I can secure it but what ever works for you I'm sure will be ok.

As I stated before I cleaned these prior to putting them up for the year. I purchased my Brute II from [Cheap Lights](#) and they sell a product called UnClogIt which from what I can tell is just distilled water and vinegar. That is what I used and the dang thing still didn't work. I did notice that the spring had some rust on it so this year I'm not going to clean my good fogger. I hate to say this but foggers are getting so cheap it's almost easier to throw them away and buy a new one.

This method would probably work fine for an outside prop because of it's problem of the constant flow but if you run this in your house you might find it gets to foggy.

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