

*Searchwords: oil cap leaking, oil in spark plugs wells, oil in spark plugs*

I've done this on my D8 V6 today during a 20 minute oil change, so the principle is the same regardless of engine.

I was talking to Johnno about this, so I hope I've got the procedure right.

Mine must have been weeping for a long long time, given the right hand side of the engine block has oil residue on it, so it's not coming from anywhere except the weak oil seal under the oil filler cap.

First of all remove the oil filler cap. There's a metal bar going through it. Towards the centre of the bar is a piece of metal that is pushed downwards to stop the metal bar coming loose & dropping into the engine. What I did was used a small thin screwdriver to gently ease up the tabs that stop it moving so I could get it out. It's a fiddly job so just take your time. One side is wider than the other, so remove it by pushing towards the wider side.

Once you've managed to get it out you'll be left with this:





Top view of the metal piece. Notice the wider right side, it obviously comes out -----> way:



What you need to do is put a gentle bend right in the middle of it, so the sides are pointing downwards. It only has to be a light bend, nothing major:



These 2 pics show where the metal has come from:

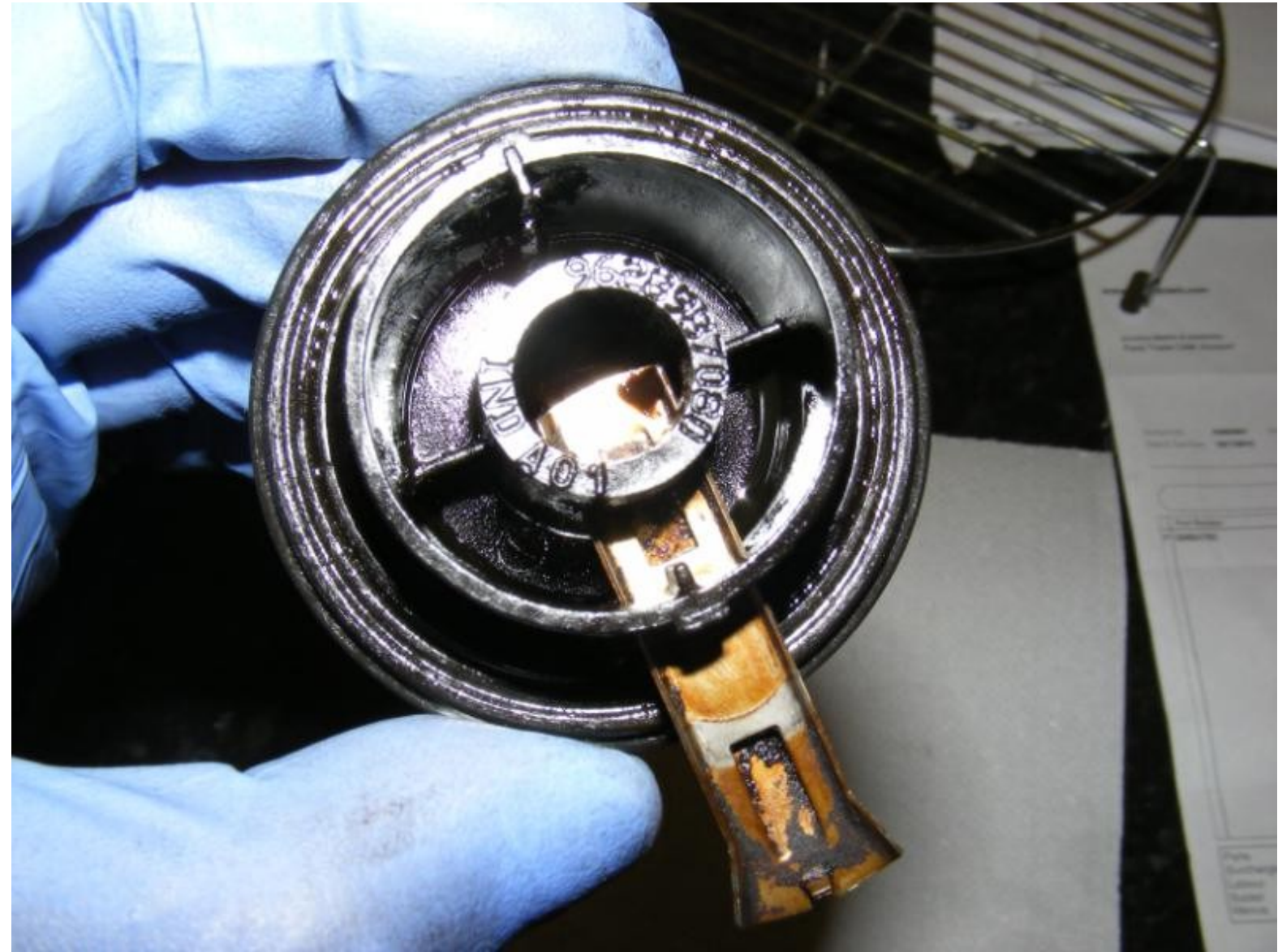




The metal piece out of the oil filler cap with the screwdriver used:

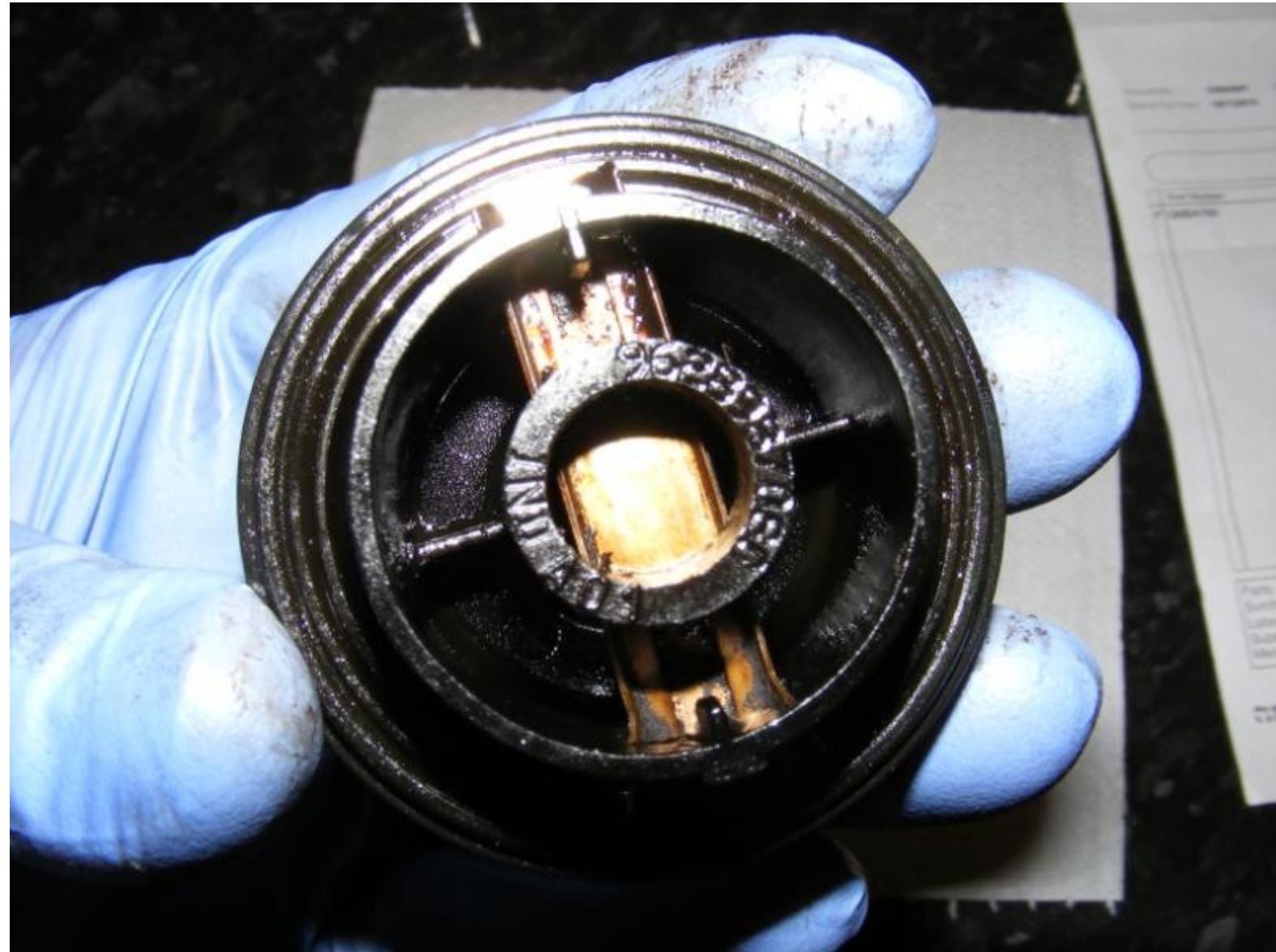


Once you made a slight bend in the centre of it, put the piece back gently. You'll have to do some wiggling around as it's not straight:



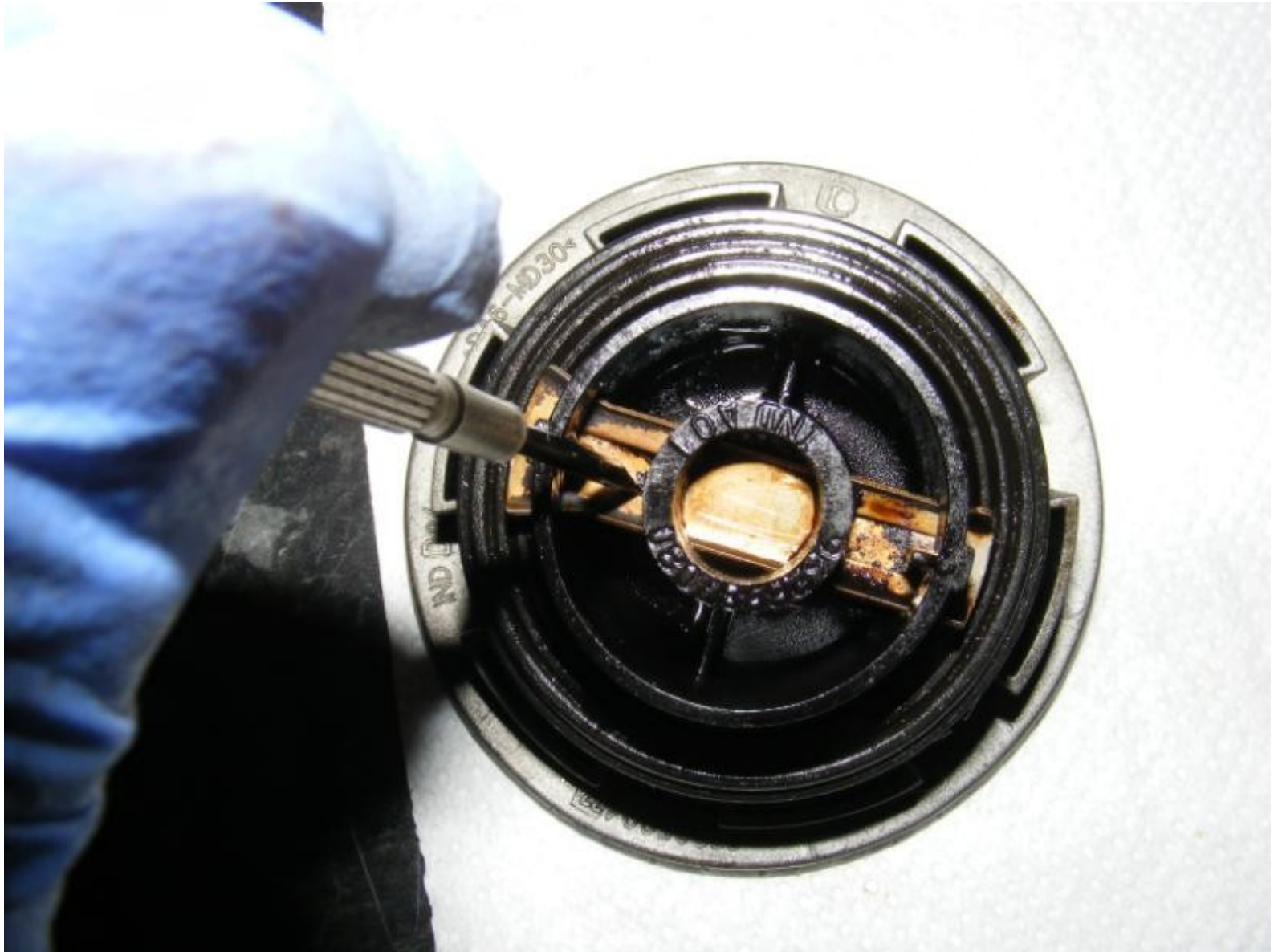
Once it's back you're left with this:







Now, remember the parts of the metal piece from above, where it has tabs to stop it moving out of place? These need to be gently, very gently pushed downwards to stop the piece moving out of the filler cap. So gently push down using a small screwdriver each of the tabs to the point where they're just below the gap where they came out of:





The mistake I made was pushing them too far, so they bent, I had to remove it, straighten the clip out & redo it.

The result was a noticeably tighter fit on the oil filler cap. After a run out to the local shop & back, I removed the oil filler cap & found that no oil had seeped past the seal. I'm not sure how long this fix lasts for, but initial tests show a good seal.

Please make sure that you hear the side clips 'snap' back into place once you've pushed the bar back in.

What it seems to do is the edges of the clip are bent so the gap between them & the rubber seal is narrowed, this makes the seal tighter.