

a piece of fairly coarse sandpaper, rub it up against that point where you want to raise it to break the finish. Take a drop of water on your finger, put it on the dent and let it dry about 15 - 20 minutes. That will raise the wood right back up. Take 600 grit sandpaper - don't ever use anything coarser than 600 sandpaper on a shaft - I don't like to use any sandpaper, but when you have to, that's the coarsest you should use. When the wood is dry and the dent has come back up, sand off that ding over a wide area and rotate it around a little bit, then the leather - polish it up and you're right back where you started.

Not always are you going to come over here and get a new tip put on, so putting a tip on, particularly with an ivory ferrule - you get the old one off and then you, very carefully, because that ferrule now has a very straight surface on there - and it's easy in trying to clean a ferrule off to get it lopsided. You don't want to do that. What I suggest there, is, very carefully take some coarse sandpaper and clean as much of that glue off as you can without angling the ferrule. Now take a tip and put the sandpaper down on something solid and sand the bottom of that tip. Be sure and blow the dust off of that tip before you glue it. Otherwise, all you're doing is just gluing the dust together. So, blow the dust off of it, put a little white glue onto the tip and then put the tip on. Get it situated in the center of your shaft and then have a wide rubber band handy and all you have to do is stretch the rubber band over the top of the tip, hold on to the sides of the shaft and then wrap it around like that (demo). That rubber band will now stay there, hold the thing, let it glue good and solid and in a few hours you can work that tip. You can do this yourself.

If you have a plastic ferrule I suggest Super Glue with a primer stick. There is a Super Glue for leather and wood, it works real good, but it's got to have the primer stick. You put the primer stick on the top of the ferrule and also on the leather and put the Super Glue on and you can just stand there and hold it with your finger because in 30 seconds, it's ready. But don't use that on ivory, because there'll be a chemical reaction with the ivory. O.K. Now we've got our tip on here and it's wider than the ferrule, so we want to trim it down. All you have to do there is get a hard surface and a sharp razor blade and work your way around taking slicing, easy cuts straight down from the ferrule. Don't cut the ferrule, and try very hard not to rip the leather open - that's why you want to take slicing cuts across there. You are leaving a lot of tiny little ridges around there that you'll now put a piece of tape around your ferrule, take your sandpaper, cup it, smooth it up again, spit on it, polish it on the rail cloth. Now you have to crown it. Take a coarse piece of sandpaper, cup it, and then stand there and slowly rotate the shaft and hold the same angle all the way around. Remember I said spit on the side of that tip