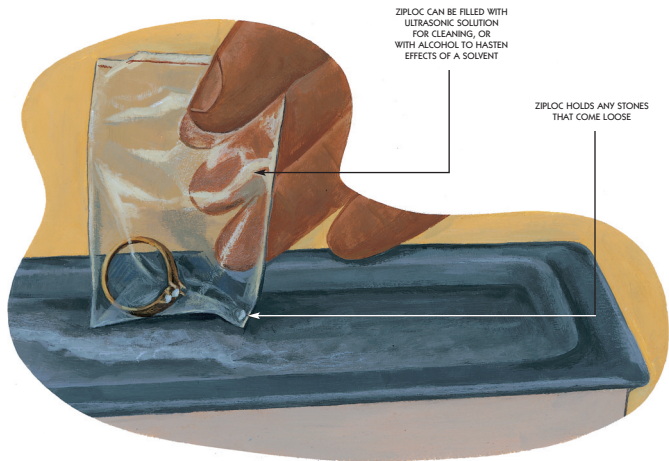


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Zip It!

AVOIDING LOOSE STONES IN THE ULTRASONIC



Ziploc bags can be found all over the jeweler's shop: small parts come in them, gems are stored in them, and they work great for collecting everything from gold dust to solder chips.

But here is a new use, one that will make you marvel again at the mind that figured out how to make a resealable, airtight bag for only a penny.

Suppose you have to clean your customer's old diamond ring—one worn so much that the diamonds are held in place only by dirt. The prongs appear worn down to the girdle, and you're afraid that if you put it into an ultrasonic cleaner, half of

the melee will wind up at the bottom of the tank.

The solution? Grab a Ziploc bag, fill it with ultrasonic solution, seal it, and then float it in the ultrasonic tank as you flip the switch. If anything falls out, it stays in the bag.

This procedure can also be used to hasten the effects of a solvent, too. For instance, if you just set a brooch and you don't have 10 minutes to wait for the shellac to dissolve into a jar of alcohol, place the piece in a Ziploc filled with alcohol. Seal the bag and float it in the ultrasonic bath. The added ultrasonic waves will activate the solvent and clean the piece down to bare metal in a jiffy.