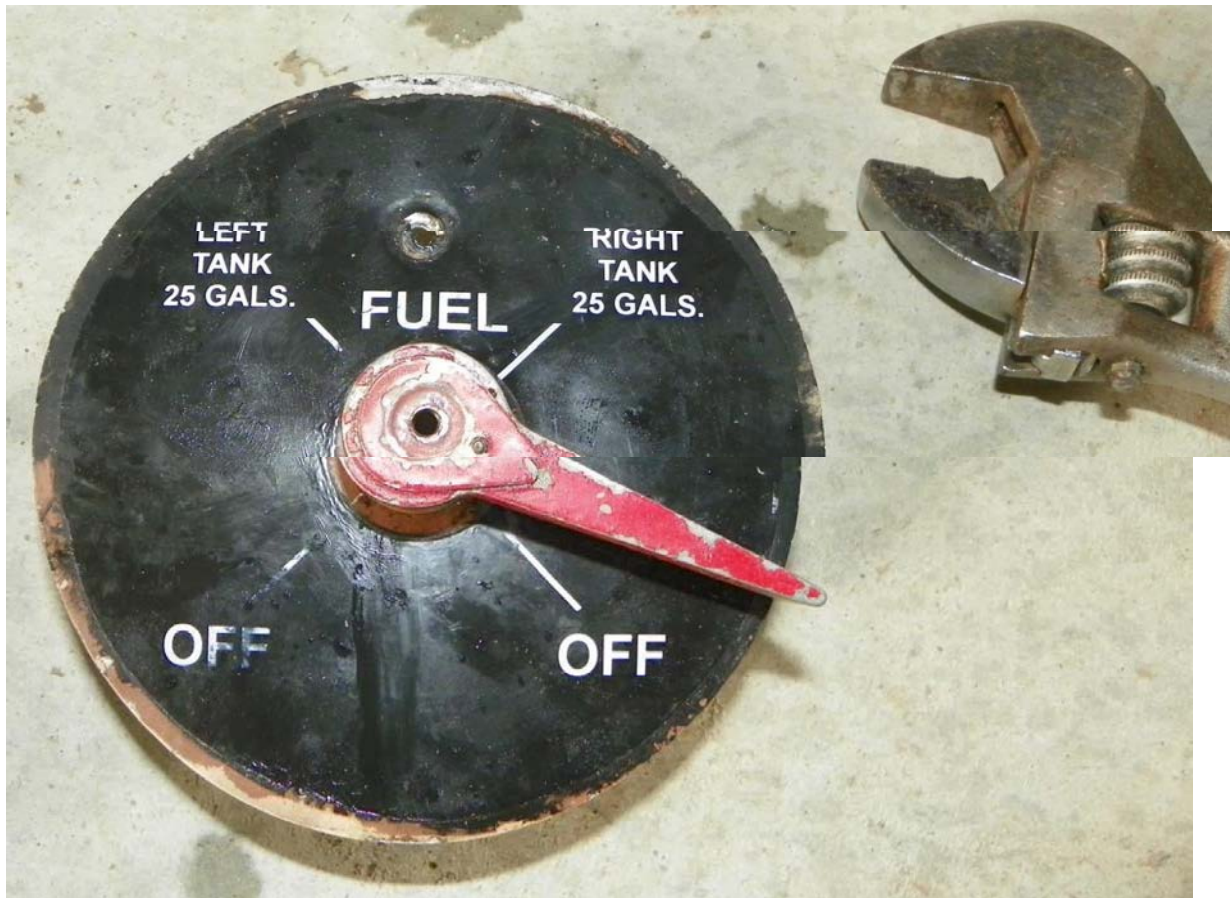


Piper PA28-180, Worn Fuel-select Valve, ATA 2823

A general aviation mechanic writes, "When the fuel tank selector valve (P/N 756645) was rotated it was stiff to move, and the detents could not be felt at each position. A teardown showed the valve was very dirty inside, and the detent ring was worn. A review of Airworthiness Directives (AD's) and Service Bulletins (SB's) revealed two bulletins that directly involve problems with this valve. This defect (worn and dirty) led to improper fuel selection (position), greatly reducing fuel flow and causing stoppage of the engine.

"1. SB 0355: Fuel Selector Valve Lubrication. I was unable to locate a sign-off in the maintenance records of (compliance) with this bulletin.

"2. SB 0840: Fuel Selector Valve Cover Replacement. I was unable to locate a sign-off in the maintenance records of (compliance) with this bulletin. This bulletin deals directly with preventing the pilot from inadvertently moving the valve to the 'off' position. Piper considers this SB to be mandatory. No AD was found."



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(Note: the last photo was stretched horizontally to fit the page—and the editor's sense of "symmetry"—Ed.)

Part Total Time: 6,961.0 hours