



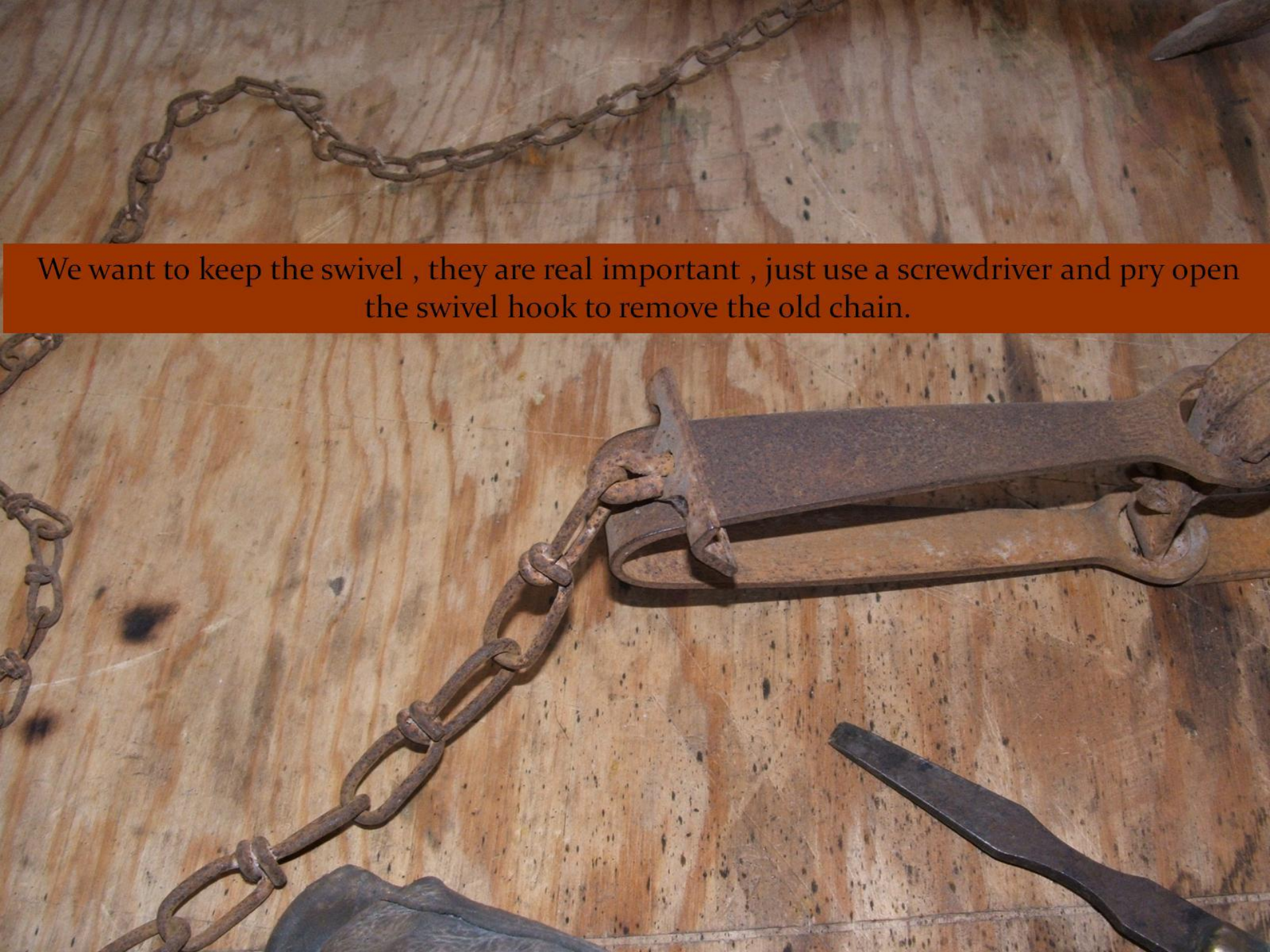
A common Victor Oneida #3 trap , it's been hanging on the wall for many years now. It's time to give this trap a new life and make it look like it's ancestor.



First we want to make sure the trap springs are still good , set it a few times to make sure they still have strength.



Knock all the dirt and rust off with a wire brush, and lets take that old chain off.



We want to keep the swivel , they are real important , just use a screwdriver and pry open the swivel hook to remove the old chain.



Lets leave this like it is for now , we'll add the chain when we are done.



I wiped it down with WD-40 to make it cleaner to work with, notice the notches filed into the cross piece, this is something I did back when I was a kid so I could tell my traps apart from someone else's. I think I got the idea from the government marking on their traps.

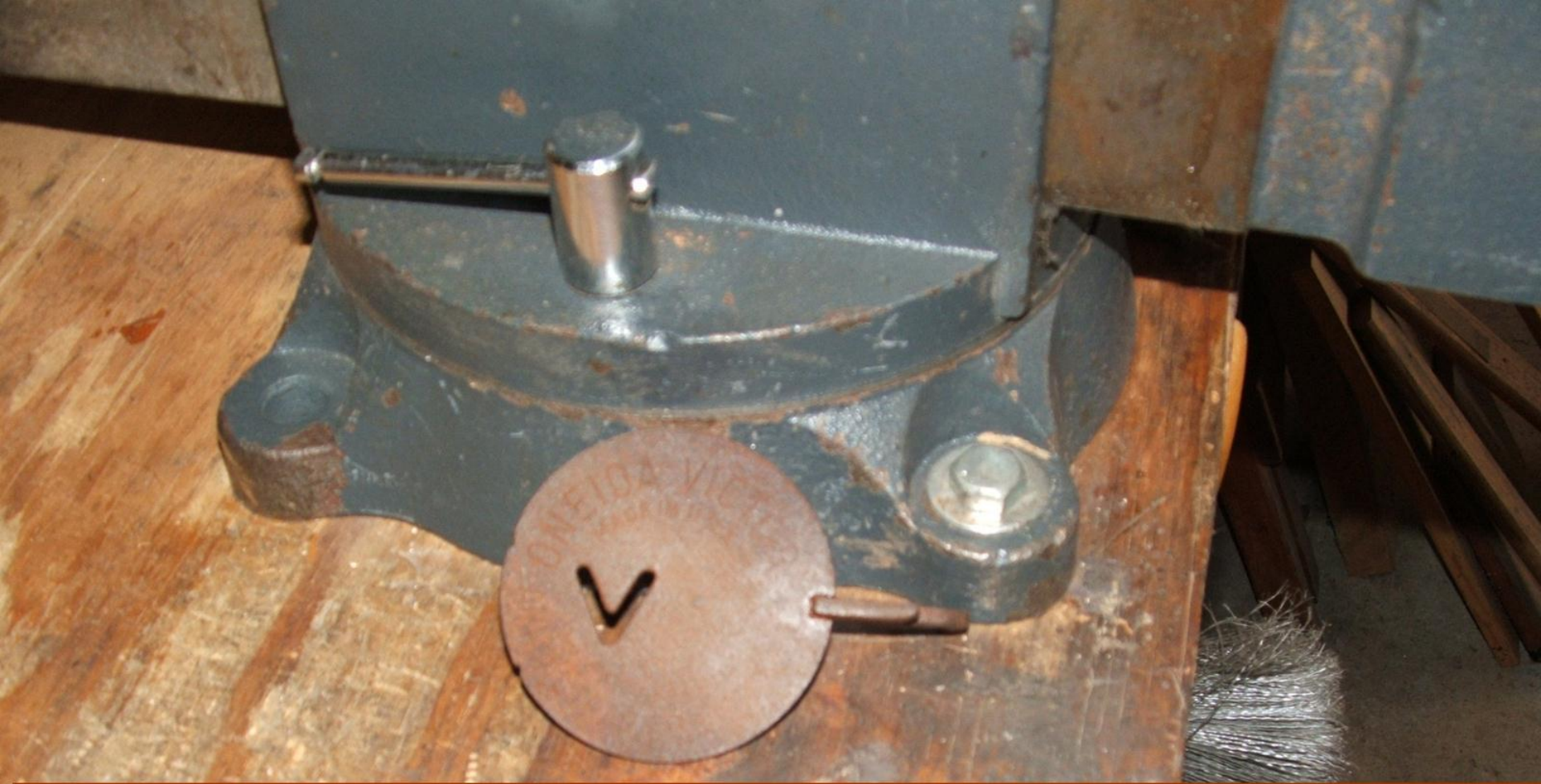


The most obvious part to change on the trap is the pan, lets remove the trigger by prying the hinge, a screwdriver should be all you need.





It shouldn't take much to open the hinge, be careful not to break this.



The pan is attached to the trigger with spot welds. It would be pretty hard to attach a new pan without welding.

I cleaned it up so you can see the spot welds, there are two on each side of the trigger arm. Have no fear, there's a fix for this.





You may have noticed I switched pans to a #4, it's the same size pan , I just didn't want to use the other one yet. I'll cut this one out with a hacksaw leaving enough of the old pan to attach the new pan to.



Now you can see what the new trigger will look like.

Drill two holes on each side of the trigger, 1/8", here I'm using a welding rod for pins.



The new pan needs to be real thin. You should be able to go down to any hardware store and buy a thin bar stock like this one, 1/16" is about the normal and probably the nominal size they will carry.





You might have one of these around too, this is an old smoker that needs to go to the dump, but I could salvage out a pan from this, it would be plenty thin.



For now, I opted to use a piece of scrap plate metal I had laying around.

Set the trap and hold the jaws with wire, get a measurement for the pan size you want, I place the old pan inside this so I could see how it sets normally in the trap. I'm going with a 3 1/4" pan.





You should be able to cut this out easy with a hack saw, if you don't have a vice you can do this on the porch steps. After cutting it out , take a file and work over the edges.



After you get it cut out, notch a slot just enough to slip over the trigger, this way the pan sets center on the cross piece.

Use a center punch, or pencil,
set the trigger onto the pan
and mark just one hole for one
pin.





Drill just one, we can attach the trigger and drill the second without misaligning anything.

Here's the welding rod and the trigger lined up. I'll cut the rod just a little longer and hammer it over.



Here's the pin after setting with a hammer. Now to drill the second hole.




Now, both pins are in place and finished. Looks like any original. Just don't turn the pan over and reveal the underside....



Right away I knew I had a heavy pan, so I cut the corners off this.






Since this is a different trigger, the pan sits too high with the springs down, now is a good time to fix this.



Just use a crescent wrench and bend the bar inward just a little.

A close-up photograph of a rusty metal trap on a wooden workbench. The trap has a circular pan that has been replaced with a new, flat metal piece. The trap's frame is made of thick, rusted metal bars. In the background, there is a workbench with various tools, including a tape measure, a chain, and some metal discs. A piece of light-colored fabric is draped over the back of the workbench.

Now the pan is sitting ok, and we are done with the pan replacement. Lets move on to the next easiest thing we can do to modify this trap.

The chain, it makes a big difference. One option is to find an old trammel chain, I bought this one at a junk store for a few bucks.





I went ahead and used this modern chain, the welds on each link can be filed down to look better.

Now, to go back to the first trap , I removed the pan from the trigger by filing off those spot welds, and then cut a new pan.





I used a propane torch, heated the end of the trigger and reshaped it on the anvil like this. Now to drill two pin holes and attach the new pan.



You can see the pins on the bottom of the trigger, all done here.

Here are both traps now finished



