

Tap Removal with Nitric Acid

Hot nitric acid will remove a broken tap from Stainless Steel. Use about a 50% mixture of HNO₃ (70%) and water. Immerse part in solution, keep hot, about 190 F, just short of boiling for fastest results.

The acid will passivate the steel tap, so it is necessary to touch the tap with a copper or brass wire for a few seconds. Vigorous bubbling should start, and in a few seconds, a black precipitate will emerge, with the bubbling stopping, indicating passivation. Touch the wire to the tap again to restart bubbling.

This should work in aluminum as well, but has not been tested.