Tap Remover
Use at your own risk

This recipe has been used to remove broken taps from aluminum and stainless steel (300 series) with success in the past. Your results may vary.

Important- Follow these instructions carefully since you are dealing with dangerous chemicals. If the chemicals are mixed in the wrong order an explosion may result. The author is not responsible for any injuries or damages caused from using this information. Anyone mixing or handling these chemicals is cautioned to proceed at their own risk. Always wear safety glasses or a full-face shield (preferred), wear protective clothing, and work near a source of water to flush any chemicals from your body if needed.

Pour 50 cc of concentrated Nitric Acid into a clean glass beaker. Dissolve a small scrap of copper in the nitric acid (approx ¼ inch diameter X 0.032 inch thick).

In another clean glass beaker add 250 cc of cold water. Slowly add the nitric acid/copper solution to the water.

Add 1 teaspoon of Ammonium Persulphate to the water/acid solution and stir with a glass rod until dissolved.

Clean all oil and grease off the broken tap with solvent followed by Acetone. Allow acetone to evaporate, then rinse thoroughly with clear water.

If necessary form a dam around the broken tap with modeling clay. Fill the hole with tap dissolving solution to cover the broken tap. The solution should start bubbling in a few seconds. It may be necessary to activate the solution by touching the immersed tap with a clean copper wire and scratching for a few seconds. The tap should be dissolved within 1-2 hours, and may be etched small enough to remove in less time. Heating the metal part will speed the rate of removal, but use caution not to reach the boiling point of the liquid.

The remaining solution may be stored in a sealed glass container for a few days, but may lose its effectiveness if stored for long periods of time.