

## CLEANING DQMOP by Jim

Recently, I managed to acquire a rather nice yellow DQMOP fairy lamp with a matching lamp cup. I have others very similar to this, but none in yellow.<sup>1</sup>



When the lamp arrived, I was somewhat disappointed with how extremely dirty it was, so dirty that I considered sending it back. However, I have cleaned many dirty DQMOP fairy lamps in the past with good results and decided this one would clean up just fine.



Every open diamond air trap in both the shade and lamp cup was filled with grime

– the worst example I have ever seen. So, how to clean it?

I suspect there are many ways, but I have had good success with the following process.

The first step is to get as much water as possible into the air traps. The kitchen sink hand sprayer seems to be somewhat effective, depending on how large the openings are.

I use a solution of Pine Sol and water for the next step. I suspect Lestoil would work just as well as both products are a good detergent and serve to make the "water wetter" allowing the solution to get into the air traps.



The solution is put into an ultrasonic cleaner. This model was designed to clean Rapidograph ink pens, but we use it to clean jewelry and, of course, fairy lamps.

Since the cleaner is too small to soak the entire shade at once, only half the shade is cleaned at a time. After 15-20 minutes in the ultrasonic cleaner, the shade is removed and rinsed using the hand

<sup>1</sup> A similar example in blue is illustrated in R-169

sprayer to rinse the air traps. You may have to repeat this process a few times to get all the dirt out.

*Now a word of caution:* Since the ultrasonic cleaner uses vibrations to loosen the grime, I would not recommend trying to clean a previously cracked shade. It could make the crack much worse. In addition, the ultrasonic vibrations tend to make the solution hot. I would not leave the shade in the cleaner for extended periods of time.



As you can see, this process worked very well on this extreme example.

I would like to say that this process works well each and every time, but that is not the case. While every case shows some degree of improvement, only a few show such dramatic results as this one. There are many variables, the most important of which is the size of the openings to the air traps.

So, what I have learned in my many attempts to clean DQMOP – the dirtier it is, the more likely you will be successful in cleaning it. Good luck.