

Separating SMPS transformer core halves

I read Keith Farmer's letter on the subject of separating SMPS transformer core halves with much interest (Mailbag, July 2004). I have rebuilt several computer power supplies and as Mr Farmer found, not all transformers come apart after soaking in paint stripper. I found that after the paint stripper treatment, dunking the transformer in boiling water released the glue holding the core halves together.

I would be reluctant to put an SMPS transformer core in a microwave oven in case the microwave energy caused high enough flux densities in the ferrite to produce an irreversible change in the magnetic characteristics. However, if Mr Farmer's treatment worked and the power supply subsequently operated without a problem, well and good.

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