What Do You Do With A Broken Servo? or How to Cannibalize Robotic Parts
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# What Do You Do With A Broken Servo?
# or How to Cannibalize Robotic Parts

Cannibalize:
to take salvageable parts from (as a disabled machine) for use in building or repairing another machine
to make use of (a part taken from one thing) in building, repairing, or creating something else

In our robotic class we have lots of different robotic equipment. Over the years we have acquired a collection of broken parts. Servos and motors make up a large section of this collection. One of our students in the advanced robotics class became interested in these broken parts and decided to dismantle them. He felt that there may be something of value still inside. He was right.

So what do you do with a broken servo? Our class had a lot of ideas. For instance, if you take four broken servos and a lot of UGlu you can make a pretty good paper weight. Glue a pine sprig to a servo and you could use the motor wire to hang it from your rear view mirror - instant air freshener.

But, of course, there are better things to do with a broken servo. Do you know what's inside. We do. We've taken them apart and figured out how to cannibalize them and salvage some working servos for our program. It was also very educational to discover just how they work by studying the inside parts. We might just be able to create an autonomous robot that can salvage usable parts from broken equipment.

Come to see our project and we'll show you all the wonderful things you can do with a broken servo.