

***Never work on the unit when it is connected in to a source of electricity.***

***• Use a “chicken stick” (QST September 2003 – see graphic) to make sure every contact that you intend to touch with your hands is not “alive”. This is especially important around the high voltage section where electrolytic capacitors could be still charged if the bleeding resistors have not dissipated the stored voltage. Often the “bleeder” resistors are non functional or the solder joints have come undone leaving the capacitor charged with very dangerous voltages. (Tim Reynolds WA9EEH suggested that a 10 ohm 20 watt resistor should be placed in series with the shorting wire to avoid damaging charged electrolytics.)***

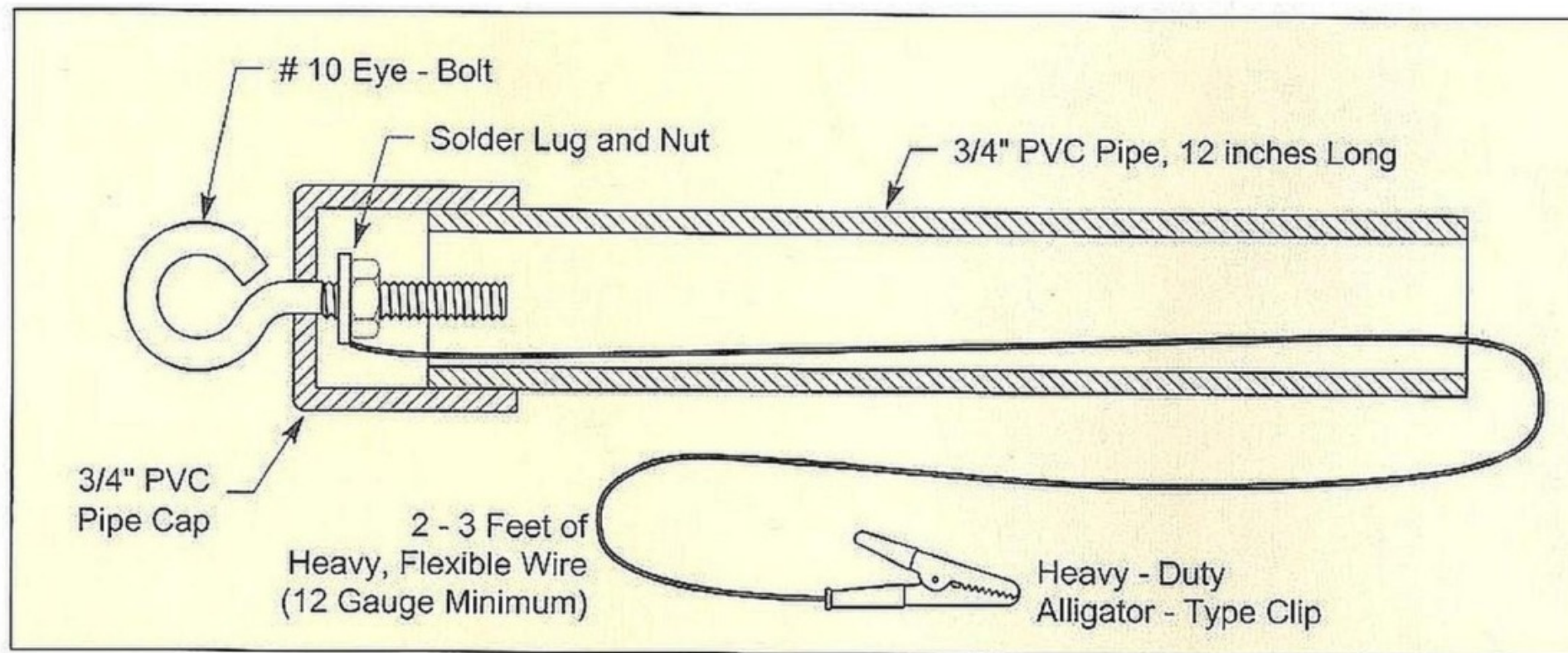


Figure 1—The “chicken stick” is a great way to ensure that everything inside the amplifier that should be discharged actually is. It can be a life saver.

- I wear rubber soled shoes so that my feet are not grounded. I never stand on a wet surface for obvious reasons.***
- If possible, I only use one hand keeping the other more or less behind my back. If this is not possible I do a double grounding check with the “chicken stick” to once again make sure there are no voltages present on the areas that I may contact.***
- I never work on amplifiers if I am tired.***
- When possible I have a friend help.***