

Stropping Deadeyes for Small Scale Models

The April presentation featured a tried and true method for stropping small scale deadeyes. Bob Filipowski admitted that nothing he was going to show the membership was revolutionary, but that it would certainly be of interest to newer members.

The Power Point started out by describing various deadeye assemblies used during different periods in history.

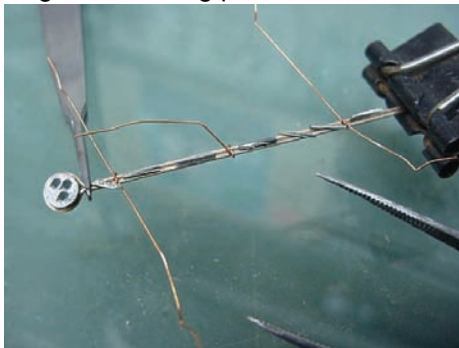
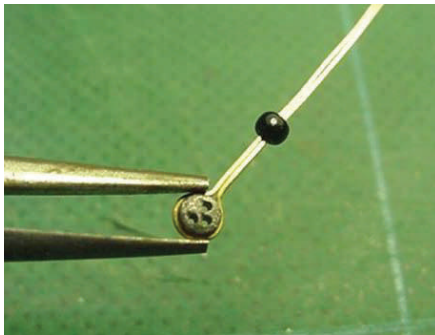
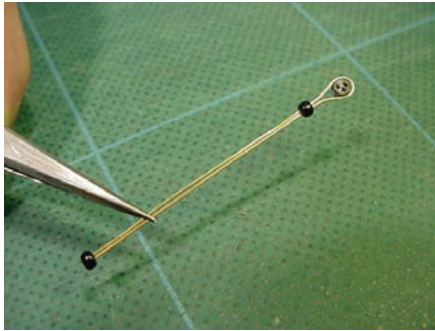
Bob stated that the presentation would focus on the more simplistic version that was popular in the 19th Century.

The first step involved annealing a pre-cut piece of wire, which made it more pliable. A candle worked well for this purpose. Filipowski demonstrated two variations for crimping the wire around the deadeye, but stated that he preferred the version described here.

After cleaning the wire, it is wrapped around the deadeye, and held in place with the help of some plastic beads. Using needle nose pliers, the wire is then crimped as tightly as possible against the deadeye. Fine wire salvaged from an old transformer (.005" diameter) is then tied around the two legs of the strop. This type of wire normally has a coating on it that prevents solder from sticking to it during the soldering process.

Flux and small bits of solder are then laid along the strop. If Britannia deadeyes are being used, a heat sink will be needed to prevent the deadeye from melting. (Notice the fine tipped tweezers in the photo.)

Heat is then applied with a low wattage iron, starting at a point furthest from the deadeye, and moving toward it as the solder begins to melt.

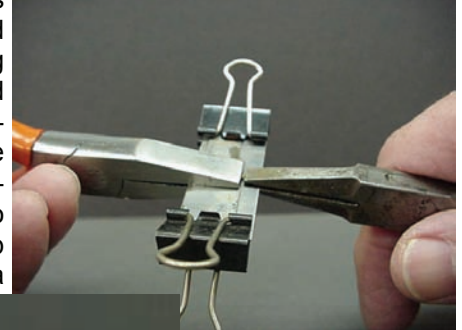
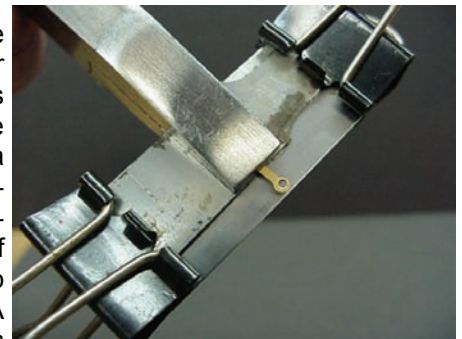
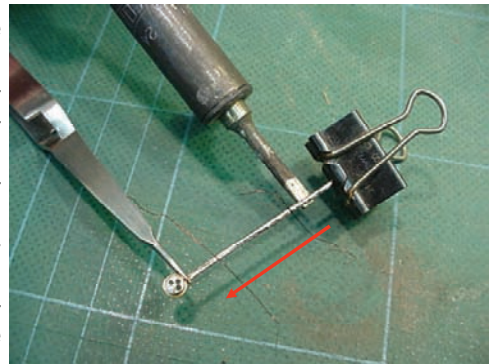


When cool, the assembly is filed down, which removes the transformer wire and flattens the surface of the strop.

A common device used on deadeye assemblies was the preventer plate.

These had a small offset that compensated for the thickness of the chain plate. On his *Staghound*, Bob used a commercially available fitting for this purpose. The offset was accomplished by clamping two used knife blades together, so that a step existed between the top and bottom blades.

After making sure that the preventer plate was flat, it was held on top of the upper blade with a pair of duck-bill pliers, so that it overhung the edge of the step enough to create the offset. A second set of pliers then compressed the overhanging portion and created the offset. Bob cautioned everyone that getting the second set of pliers too close to the step could create a



shearing action, which would cut the fitting in two!

As far as the *Staghound* is concerned, two different thicknesses of wire were used to strop the deadeyes. Consequently, the offset for some of the preventer plates had to be decreased.

The rest of the installation was pretty straight forward.