



Check out our website for more information & photos: <http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/>

Well, the word has been given – We will be the hosts for the AMPS 2016 International Convention, April 6-9, 2016 at the Sumter County Civic Center!

It's been a long haul to get to this point, and your Convention Planning Committee has worked long and hard on your behalf to put together a winning bid. The competition was tough, too. The Northeast Military Modelers' Association (NMMA) guys had a damn fine plan and bid, and I'm sure the decision by our AMPS E-board was hard. But in the end, our bid was selected. So, congratulations "Wildcats"!

At this point, it's customary to say something to the effect that "Now the hard work starts..." But, I have to tell you, your Convention Committee has done such a thorough job, that all of the really heavy lifting has already been done. This means, that our convention should be an ENJOYABLE EVENT for EVERYONE in the club.

To be sure, we'll definitely "need all hands on deck" for the actual show. There will be more jobs to do than we will have people to do them. But this is just to be expected as with any large model show. Set-up, registration, tear-down, etc, etc, etc. As long as everyone makes the time to be there, though, no one will have to work too hard, and everyone should have plenty of time to enjoy the show.

So, now's the time to fence off those dates on your personal, long-range planning calendar so that you can support the club and the convention AND have the time of your modeling life!

Last Meeting's Minutes:

Our last regular meeting was held 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 14 January, 2015 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia. We had 21 members in attendance and 16 models brought in for Show & Tell. The raffle prize was DML's "German Pontoon Bridge with Troops" which was won by Ben Brandes. The winning raffle ticket was picked by Noah Brandes, so we know who really wants to build this kit! We welcomed one new member, Phil Cavender, into our ranks. Welcome aboard, Phil!

1. M-47 Somali 1990 (Italeri + Eduard PE, DEF Models S. Korean Upgrade), 1/35 – Dave Varettoni
2. BMD with Ukrain Troops (Panda + Masterclub Resin Tracks), 1/35 – Dave Verattoni
3. Sd.Kfz.186 Jagdtiger Porsche Production Type (DML + Spade Ace Tracks, PE extras, scratch Radiator & Fans), 1/35 – Tom Wingate
4. Tiger I E Command Version (DML 3 in 1 + Attak Zim, Pettinghouse Decals), 1/35 – Tim Darrah

5. Bundeswehr Wiesel 1 Mk 20 A1 (AFV Club + Eduard PE), 1/35 – Tim Darrah
6. German E-100 Super Heavy Tank (Trumpeter, OOB), 1/35 – Trevor Edwards
7. Mk. I “Female” British Tank, Somme Battle Period, 1916 (Master Box), 1/72 – Tony Abbott
8. Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. J (DML Armor Pro), 1/72 – Rebecca Hettmansperger
9. Panzerhaubitze 2000 (Revell Germany + Aluminum Barrel), 1/72 – Rebecca Hettmansperger
10. U.S. Tank Destroyer M36 Jackson (Tamiya), 1/35 – John Melton
11. U.S. Light Tank M5A1 (Tamiya), 1/35 – Noah Brandes
12. Sd.Kfz. 171 Panther G Late Production (DML), 1/35 – Ben Brandes
13. P-40E Warhawk (Academy), 1/72 – Ben Brandes
14. M35 WWII US Army Prime Mover & Long Tom M59 155mm Cannon (AFV Club), US Tank Crew (Miniart), 1/35 – Michael Child
15. Sturmgeschutz III Ausf. G (SdkFz 142/1) Fruehe Version (Tamiya + Aber PE, Fruel Sprockets, Jordio Rubio Barrel, Royal Model Stowage), 1/35 – Josh Orenstein
16. Loyd Carrier No. 2 Mk. II & British Ordnance QF Mk. IV A-T Gun 6 Pdr (Bronco & Riich), 1/35 – Mike Roof

Photo Album on our webpage: <http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/MemberPhotos.php>

During the meeting: 1) Treasurer’s report that with cash on-hand, our current balance is \$4220. 2) Brief update on the status of our 2016 AMPS convention bid. The bid was officially submitted on 18 Dec 14. We have been informed that the Venue Selection Committee will make a decision NLT 30 Jan 15. There are two bids in for the 2016 convention, ours and a bid by the Northeast Military Modelers Association (NMMA). 4) Update on the preparations for our club’s local show, 19-20 June, 2015. We have completed the lease agreement and paid the Richland County Recreation Commission (RCRC) for the venue and placed a deposit with Party Reflections for the tables. 5) The club voted to approve the expense to order additional G-S-B medals and to purchasing the special awards for our local show. 6) We discuss and selected “Go Trackless” to be the contest theme. 7) There was no new business.

Next Meeting's Agenda:

Our next regular meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 11 February, 2015 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – 1) Bank balance ending 31 Jan 15 - \$3357.00 after deposit for additional G-S-B medals) 2) Update on our bid for the 2016 AMPS International Convention – We won the bid and will host the convention Wed-Sat, April 6-9, 2016 at the Sumter County Civic Center. 4) Update on our 19-20 June, 2015 local show: Show poster and flyer have been made and will be on display and distributed at the Atlanta AMPS show this coming weekend. Our deposit has been made for the additional G-S-B medals. Jeff is working on the detailed floor plan. 5) Floor will be open for new business.

REMINDER: The HobbyTown USA store will close at 8:00 pm (2000). This means that all purchases at the store must be made before then so that the cash registers can be closed.

6:15 pm (1810): Admin business and Show & Tell.
6:50 pm (1850): Break: Shopping & Social Mixer. Cash registers close at 8:00 pm.
7:10 pm (1910): Reconvene: Continue Show & Tell: Builds and WIPs
8:00 pm (2000): Meeting ends (officially)

Regular meetings are held on 2nd Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 pm (1800) at the HobbyTown USA store, 10120 Two Notch Road, Suite 5, Columbia, SC 29223, (803) 736-0959.

Up-coming Events:

Feb 11, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Feb 13-15, 2015, Atlanta AMPS Show, Marriott Century Center Hotel, 2000 Century Center Blvd, Atlanta. The AMPS show is held jointly with the Atlanta Model Figure Society show. AMPS Show theme: "Retreads" Subjects that saw service in WWII with one country and which then saw service after WWII with another country. <http://www.ampsatlanta.org/amps-atlanta-annual-show.html>

Mar 11, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.
Interclub contest: "Heavy Tanks- 47 tons and Up."

Mar 15, 2015: Coastal Carolina Modeler's Contest, North Charleston, SC.

Apr 8, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Apr 30 – Mar 02: AMPS International Convention 2015. WWII Victory Museum, Auburn, IN. Convention theme: "First in Line" Subjects that were the first "Mark" in their production series. See the AMPS website for a full explanation of theme eligibility and other convention details. <http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/conventions/showInfo.aspx?Page=Annouce&ShowID=59>

May 13, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Jun 5-6, 2015: IPMS R-12 Convention, Fayetteville, NC, hosted by Layfayette Scale Modelers.

Jun 10, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.
Interclub contest: "Germany 1945."

Jun 19-20, 2015: AMPS Central SC Show. Crane Creek Gym, 7405-B Fairfield Road, Columbia, SC. Friday (set up, judges training, and local registration) – 4 to 9 pm. Saturday – 7 am to 8 pm.

Jul 08, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Aug 12, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.
Interclub display: "Build Something from Scott's Stash!"

Sep 09, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Oct 14, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Oct 17, 2015: IPMS Salisbury Contest, Salisbury, NC.

Nov 11, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.
Interclub contest: "Militarized Civilian Vehicles."

Dec 09, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS Christmas Party at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

April 06-09, 2016: AMPS International Convention, Sumter County Civic Center, Sumter, SC hosted by the AMPS Central SC "Wildcats."

AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS"

"GO TRACKLESS"

MODEL CONTEST

7am – 8pm Saturday, June 20, 2015

Crane Creek Gymnasium
7405-B Fairfield Road
Columbia, SC 29203
I-20, Exit #70

www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org

Theme Award Eligibility: Any era or nationality. Actual or hypothetical. Scale is immaterial. Entry must be entirely wheeled, intended to run on roads and / or cross-country and must be armored. The armor may be factory designed or field expedient. The vehicle does not have to be fully armored or enclosed. Partial armor and open tops are eligible if all other requirements are also met. The wheeled armored vehicle may or may not be armed with weapons intended to be fired from under armor from within the vehicle or a turret. (I.e. armored but un-armored vehicles that meet all other requirements are eligible.) Vehicles bound only to rails are not eligible. However, armored vehicles that are primarily wheeled to run on roads or cross-country but which have supplementary rail wheels are eligible. Half-tracked vehicles are not eligible. Vehicles that are designed to run on "convertible" tracks or wheels are not eligible. Vehicles designed to run primarily on skies or skids are not eligible. The wheels of eligible armored vehicles do not have to have rubber tires. Composite or all-steel wheels, with or without spuds, pads, or other traction enhancing or ground pressure reducing devices satisfy the eligibility criteria for wheels. Eligible wheeled armored vehicles may be equipped with supplemental, removable tracks or chains intended to temporarily improve the traction of their wheeled drive systems. Any questions about eligibility will be decided by the Chief Judge whose decision will be final.

Once you do, you'll never go back!

AMPS Central SC Annual Show, 19-20 June, 2015

(Jeff does such damn fine work! That is one cool poster!)

Grab Handle Tools

Jeff Nelson, AMPS #2102

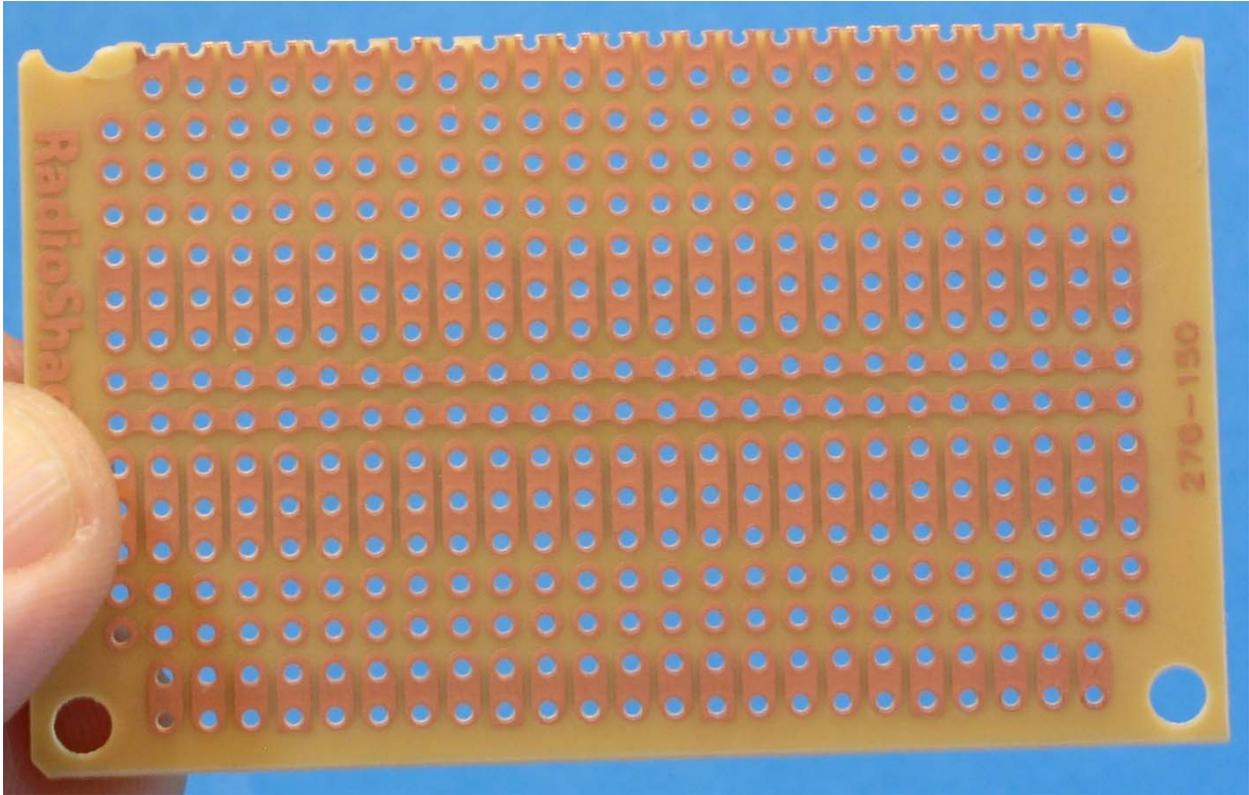
I've found a couple items that I think will work for making grab handles and wire rails for models. I apologize for the poor pictures – I should have used my “Third Hand”.

Printed Circuit Board

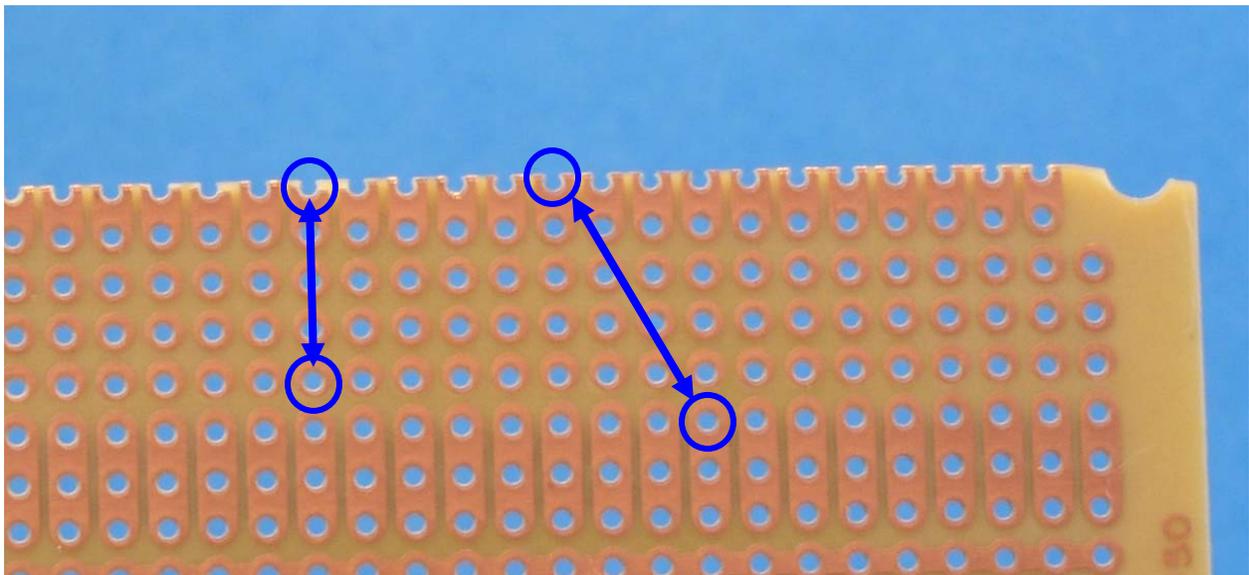


I found the first one at Radio Shack for about \$3. The Shack had other sizes and even some round boards, but this one has holes spaced the closest together.

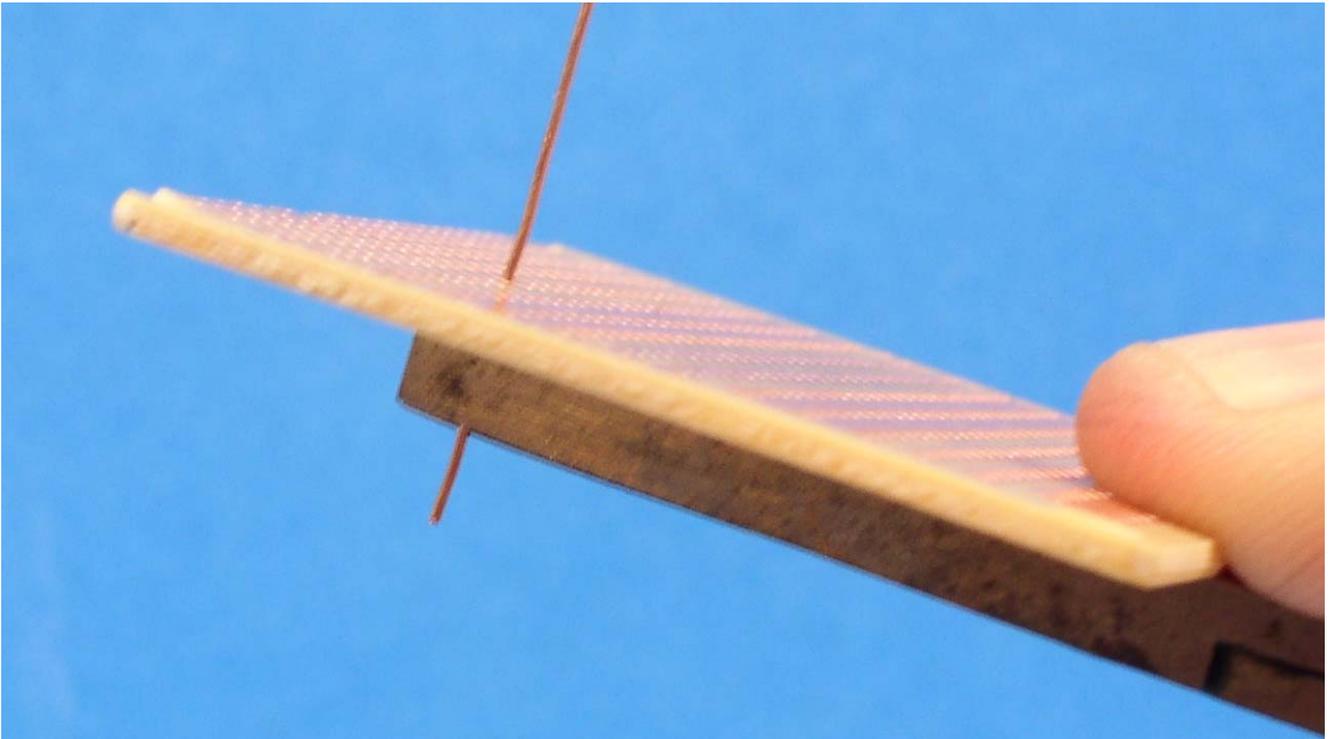
The Circuit Board is approximately 1-13/16" wide x 2-27/32" long and is about 1/16" thick. It has 417 through holes that are 0.020" diameter, all of which are evenly spaced apart at 0.100" vertically and horizontally.



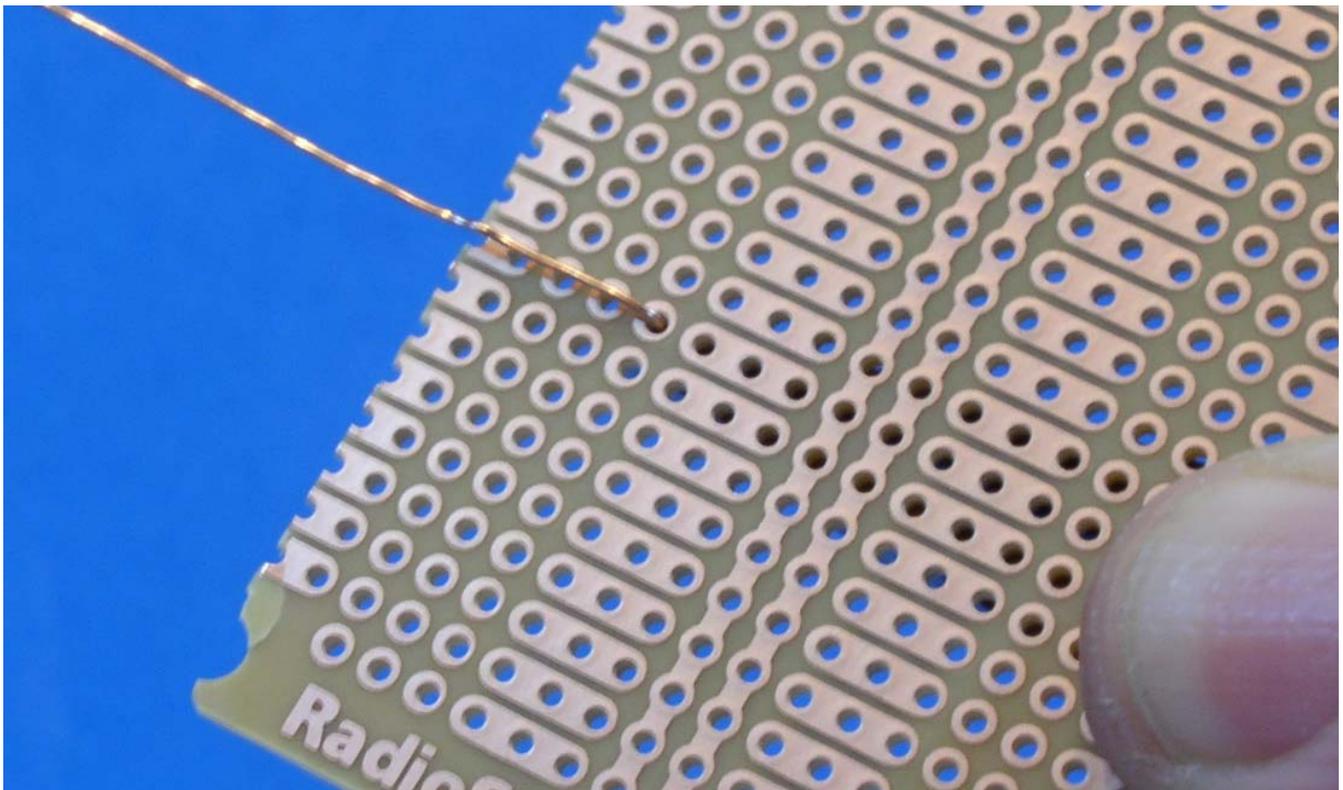
I sanded/filed one of the long side edges until the edge runs through the center of the outside set of holes. Note – sand/file towards the face of the board with the copper printing, otherwise they probably will be pulled away from the board. The sanded edge created “notches” that should make it easier to make the second bend in the wire.



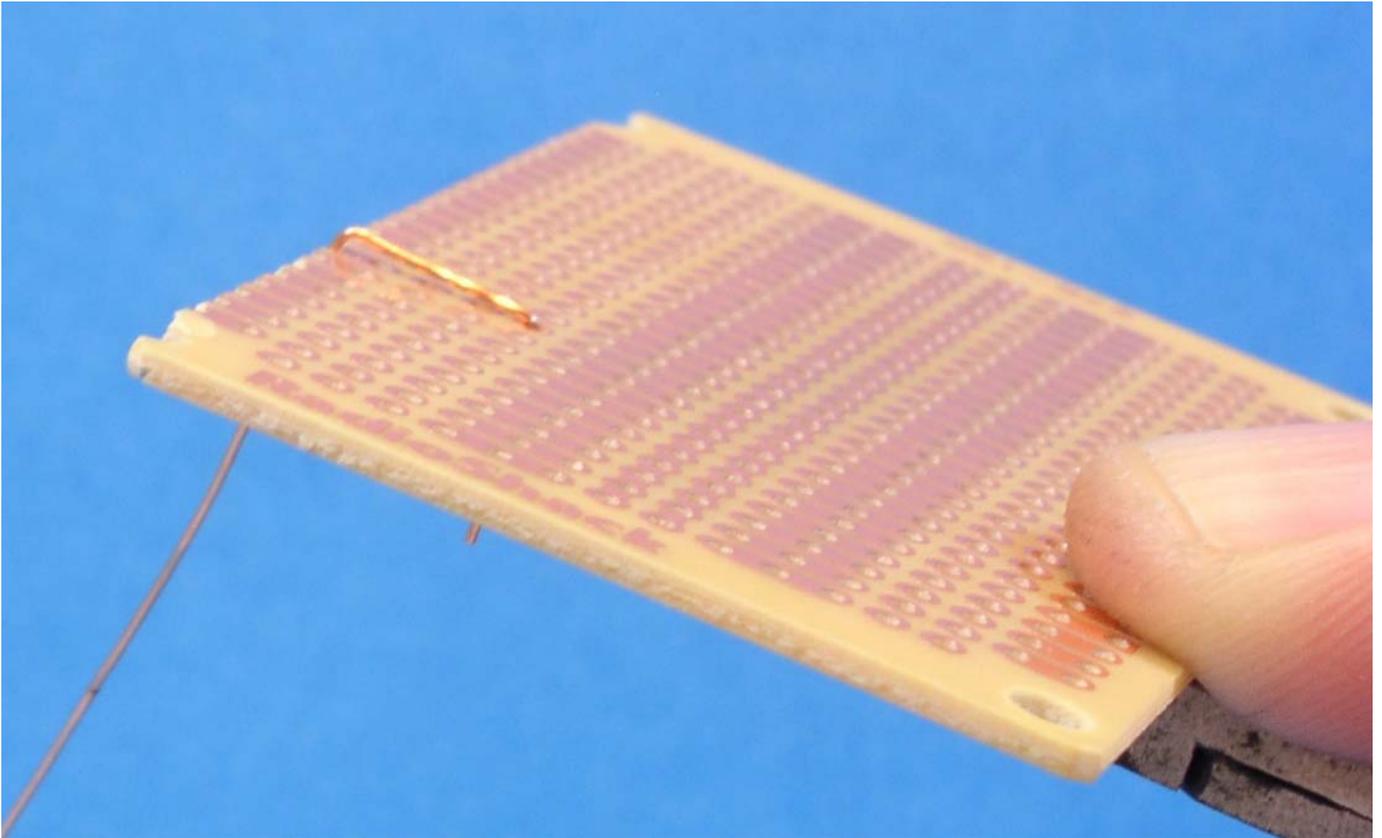
I'll measure which hole to a “notch” is close enough to the size I need. The appropriate hole and notch may be horizontal on the same row, or may be diagonally on different rows. Also, the hole and the notch could be marked with a colored marker.



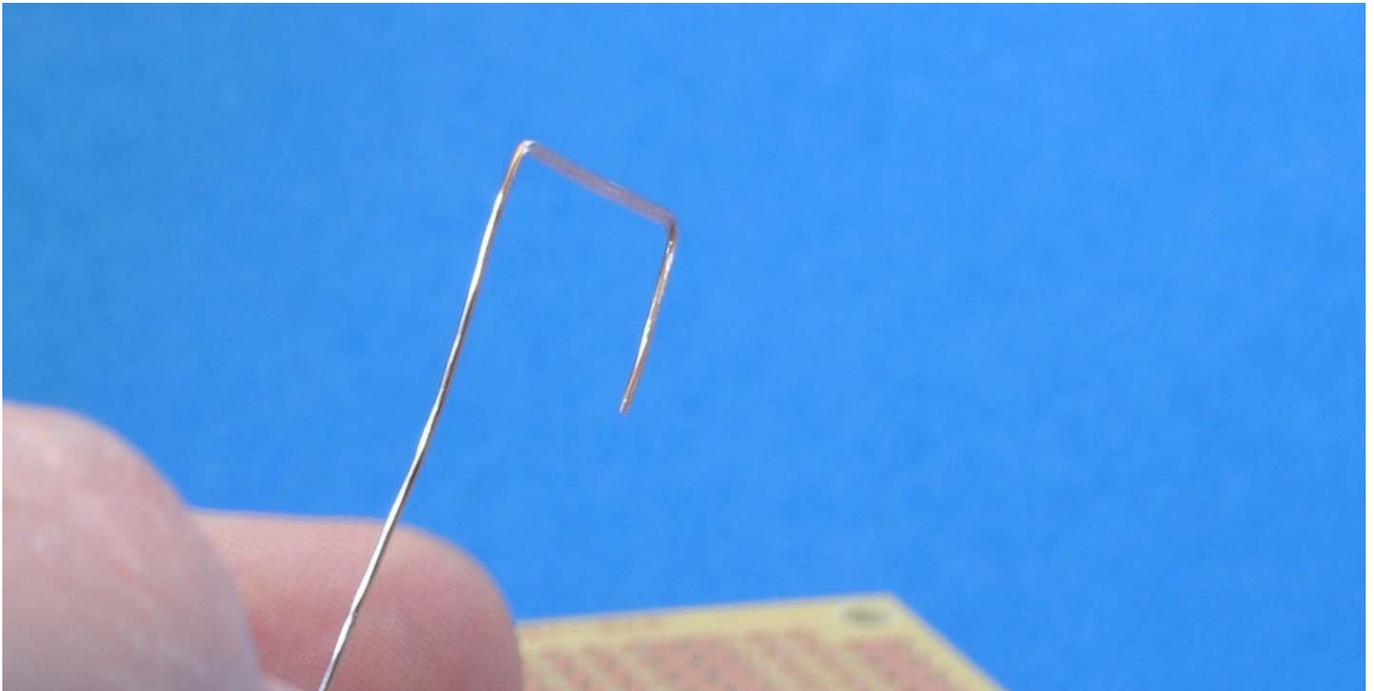
For bending a grab handle, I insert one end of the wire into a hole and hold the end with a pair of pliers flat against the underside. This is more secure than trying to do so with just my fingers.



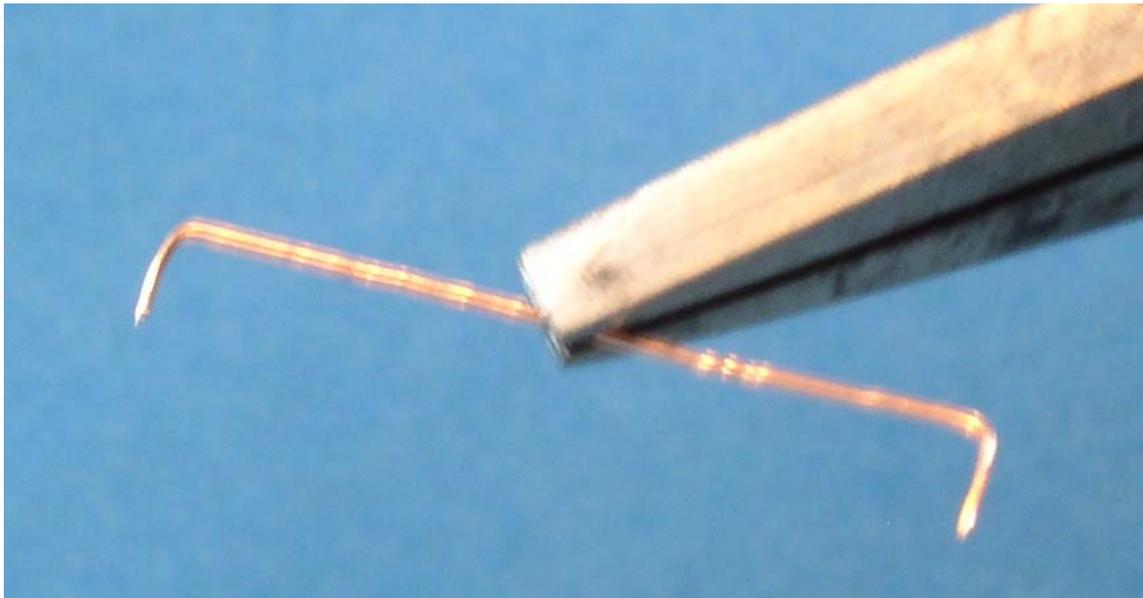
Next I bent the wire across the board, pulling it tight to make the first 90 degree bend.



I bent the wire into an edge notch to make the second 90 degree bend, pulling it tight to make a tight bend.

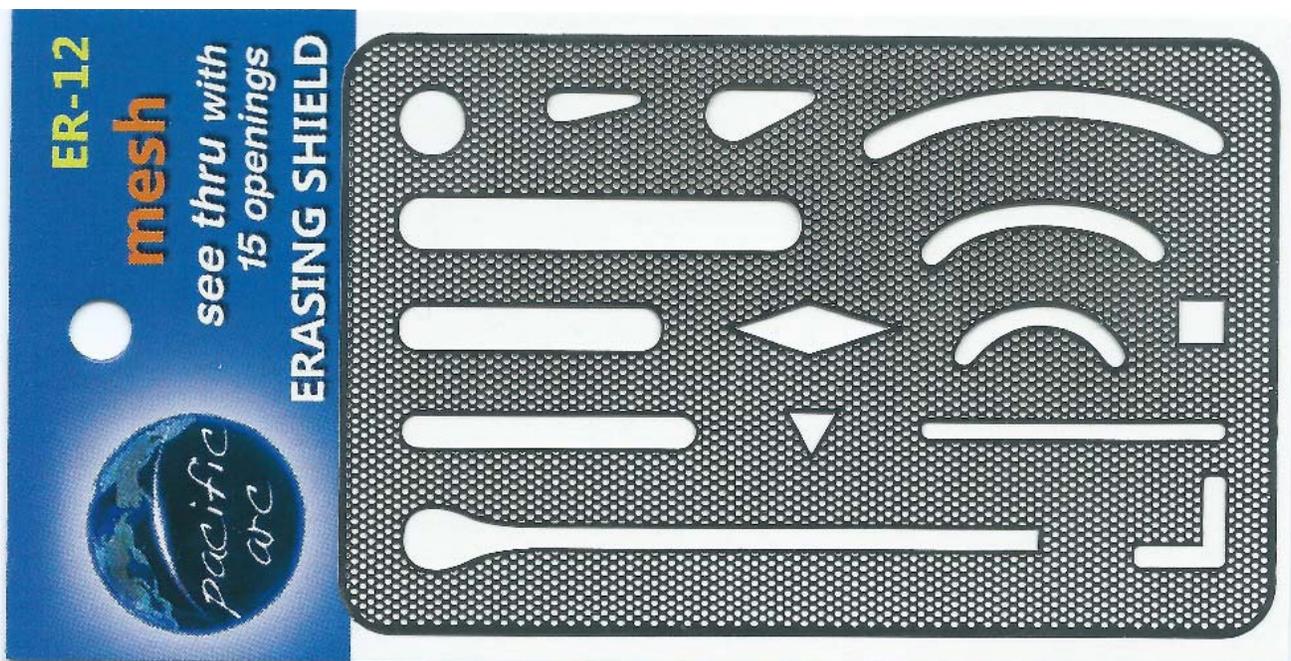


I removed the bent wire...



... and snipped off the excess ends to make the grab handle.

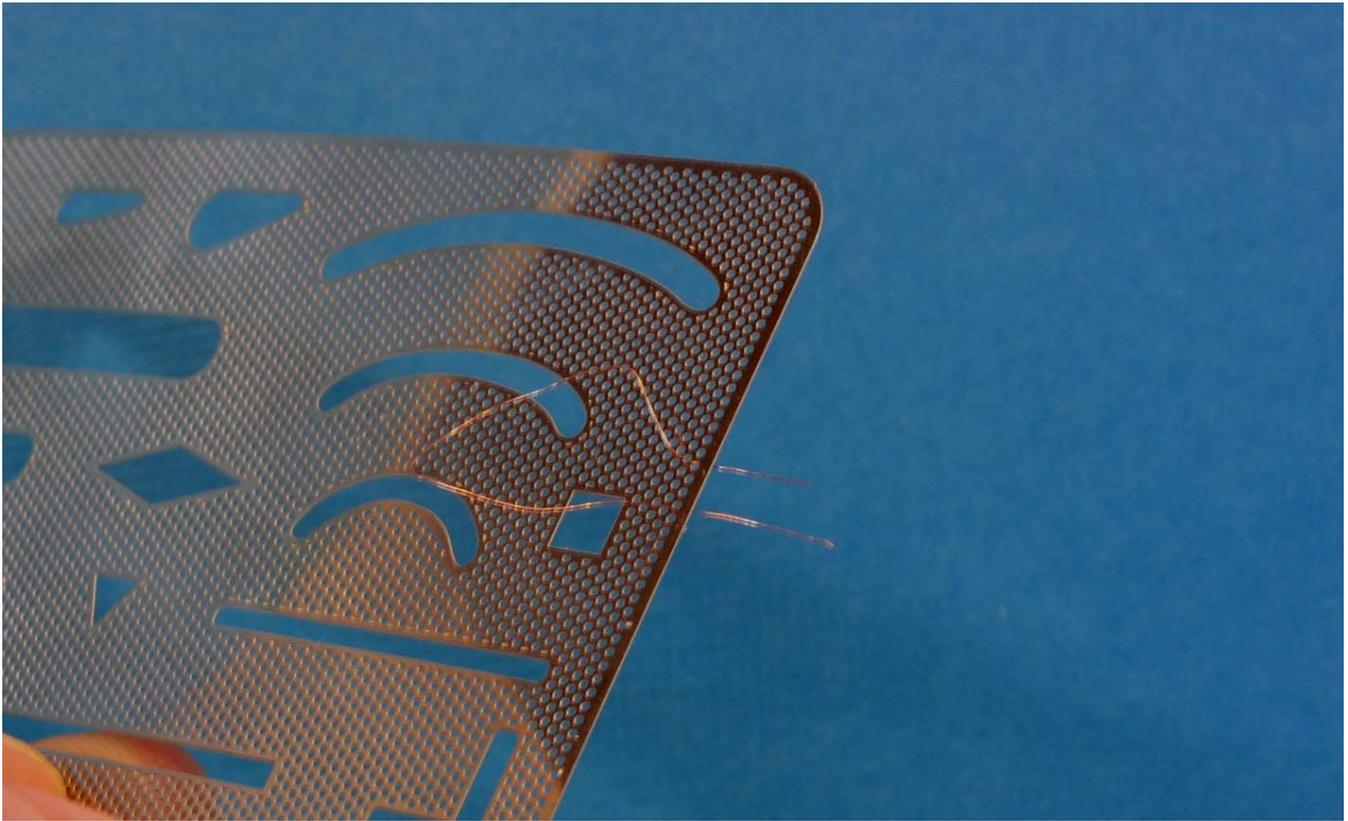
Mesh Erasing Shield



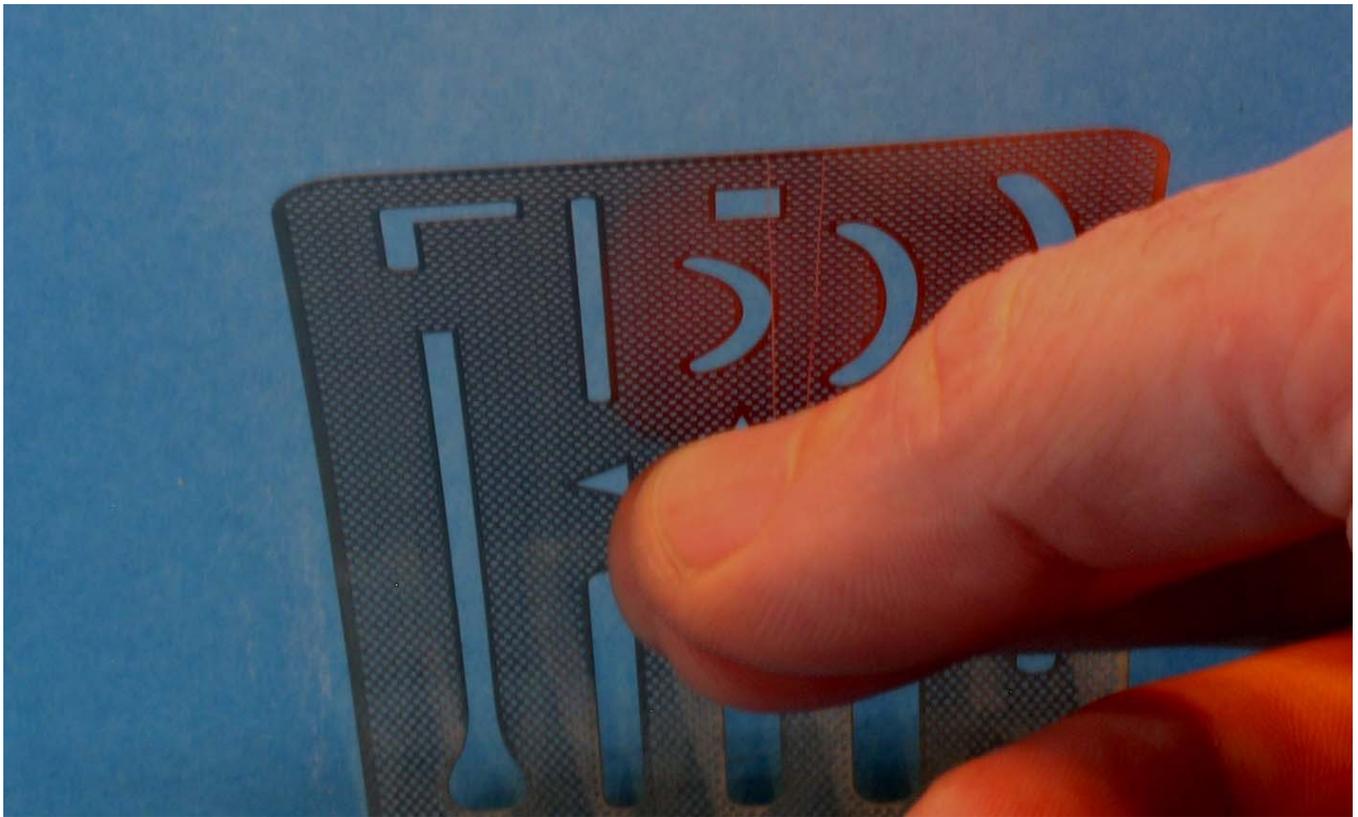
The second item I found in the drafting supplies in Hobby Lobby. I've been using Stainless Steel Erasing Shields for drafting and drawing since the late seventies, but they are all of a standard pattern that I've used also as scribing templates for models. This is the first one I've found that's different.

The shield is 2.36" x 2.705" and 0.007" thick. The mesh holes are approximately 0.0225" diameter (or a #74 drill bit), and they appear to be 0.030" apart but in a hexagon pattern. And there's a kah-zillion of them, so I didn't bother counting them all.

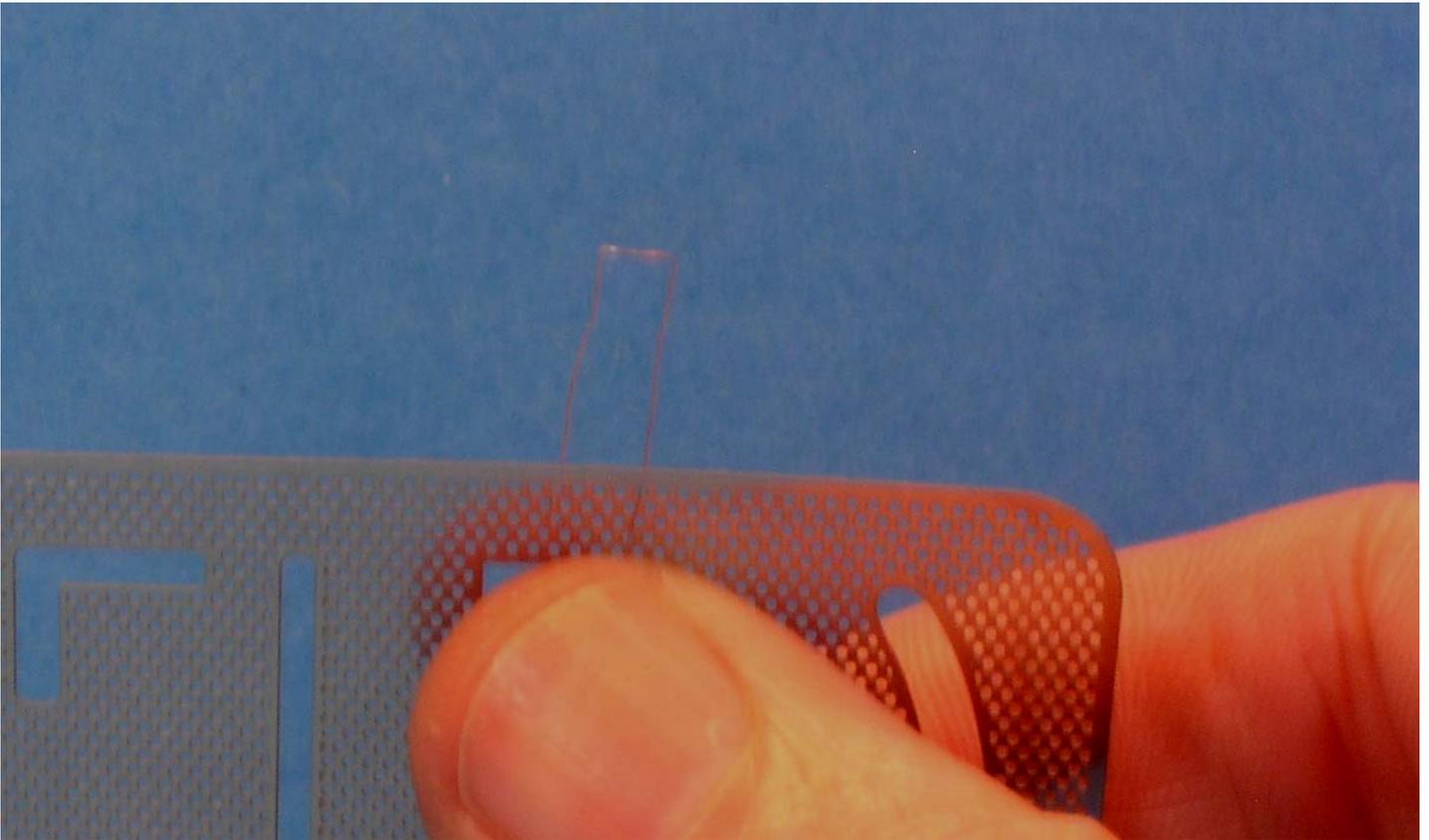
Since the shield is so thin, I think it's best for thin wire.



I inserted both ends of a length of thin wire in two holes that are spaced apart the distance I need.



Next, I pulled BOTH ends of the wire tight to form the 90 degree bends of the grab handle.



I removed the formed wire...



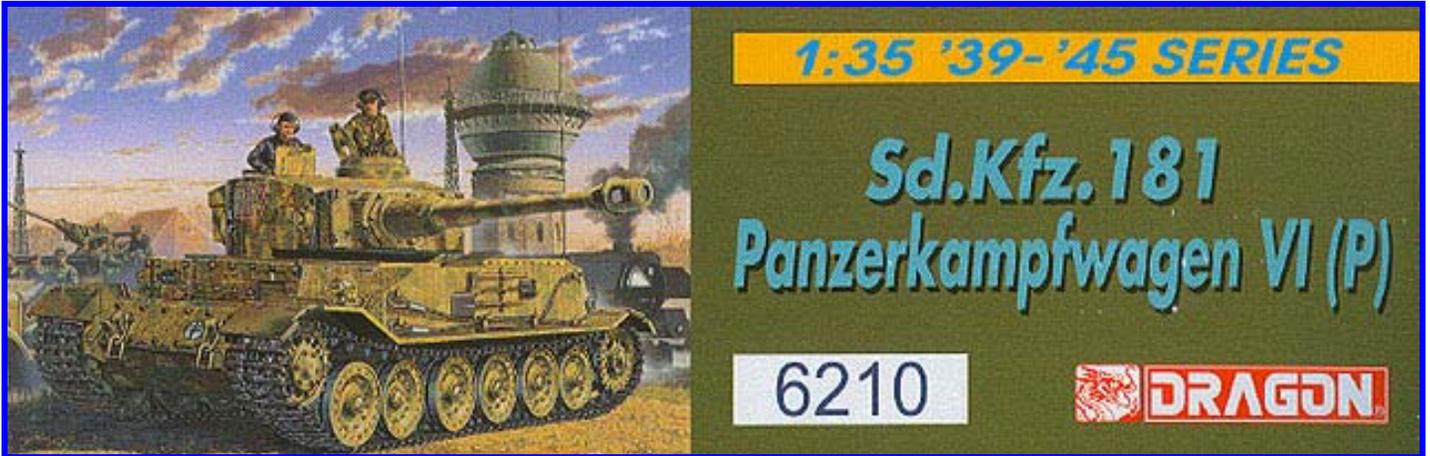
... and snip the excess ends to make the grab handle.

Yes, you can make grab handles with just a pair of needle point pliers, but hopefully these two items will give you options for other sizes or lengths.

A Few Wanted Items:

Rebecca Hettmansperger is in search of the following items:

1. Dragon *Sd.Kfz. 181 Panzerkampfwagen VI (P)*, kit #6210, needs tracks. I prefer getting either DS tracks or if someone has a spare set of magic tracks or an after-market set. I really don't want Tamiya tracks.



2. AFV Club *Churchill Mk. III*, kit #AF35153, is missing the poly caps that are used in the road wheels. Does anyone have extra poly caps that might fit, that they are willing to give up?



“The Day Room”

In the US military, most company-level units have a “day room” in the barracks where the troops hang-out, relax, and BS. When you want to learn the latest in “rumor control,” you swing by the day room and chat-up the Joes and Janes hanging out there. They might not always get it right, but they’re always willing to tell ya just what they think! So, welcome to “the Day Room...”

So, there you have it “Wildcats.” We’re back on the contest, show, exhibition circuit in a big way!

And you know, model exhibitions are a really important benefit of model clubs and groups. Model building is by its very nature a solitary endeavor. We generally sit alone and do our research, building and finishing. Oh sure, we pester our “significant others” with our latest creations, and they indulge us and are usually polite about it. But we know that only other model builders can really appreciate what we’ve done.

So, we seek out that social contact with our peers and fellows. Folks who can not only understand and speak “our language,” but other people who can also appreciate and enjoy our work nearly as much as we do.

Model shows and exhibits (I really don’t like the implications and connotations with the word “contest”) also give us that extra opportunity to display our works in a more general environment than we get at the local model club meeting. Our works are viewed and critiqued, and we get a chance to look at and critically assess the works of others. As model artists, this is one of the best learning situations that we can become involved in. We’re exposed to a very broad selection of works, styles and techniques. If you spend your time at a model show focusing on the works and asking yourself the question, “How did he do that?” you can really expand your own skills and add to your own techniques. Your art can move to new levels. Just seeing something done is often half the battle in doing it yourself. New styles and techniques can lead us into new areas ourselves, as we see and appreciate something that we’d like to emulate.

So, I encourage you to look forward to all of the upcoming shows and events as opportunities to grow and learn as model artists. Enjoy the works on exhibit, and become involved in the judging and other volunteer positions and jobs. You’ll meet other modelers who are just as enthusiastic as you are, you’ll have chances to talk about and discuss modeling, and you’ll expose yourself to new skills, ideas, and techniques. In the end, you’ll be a better modeler for it.

Hope to see ya’all on Wednesday, and, ‘til then, Happy Modeling!

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"