

How I learned to assemble
KD couplers

I started with a package of KD couplers.



I inspected the contents, but kept the two extra springs in the package for safe keeping.



With the objective of improving the spring, I slid a blade under one of the arms and gently brought it up and over the back removing the tension.



I then gently bent the spring arm to the left to give it more strength. When it touched the other arm, I stopped.



After moving the right arm gently back into position, I did the same procedure to the left arm.



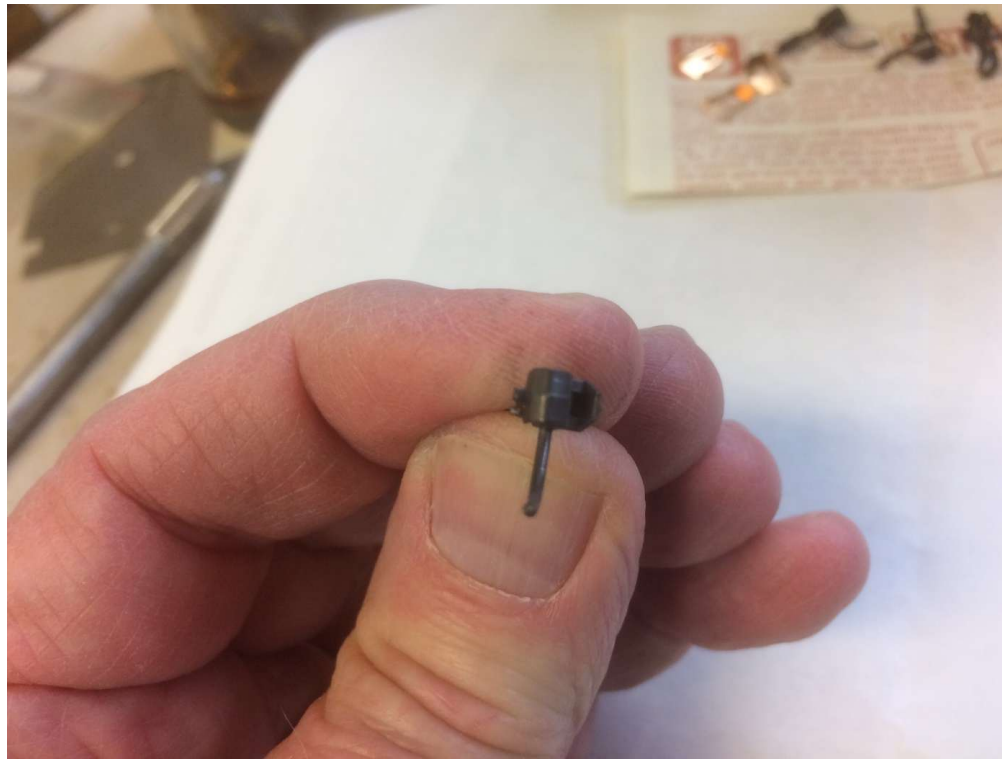
I then took a file and gently ran it across the edge on a 45 degree angle to remove any flash.



I took a gentle file and ran it across the coupler to remove burrs. Make sure it's smooth.



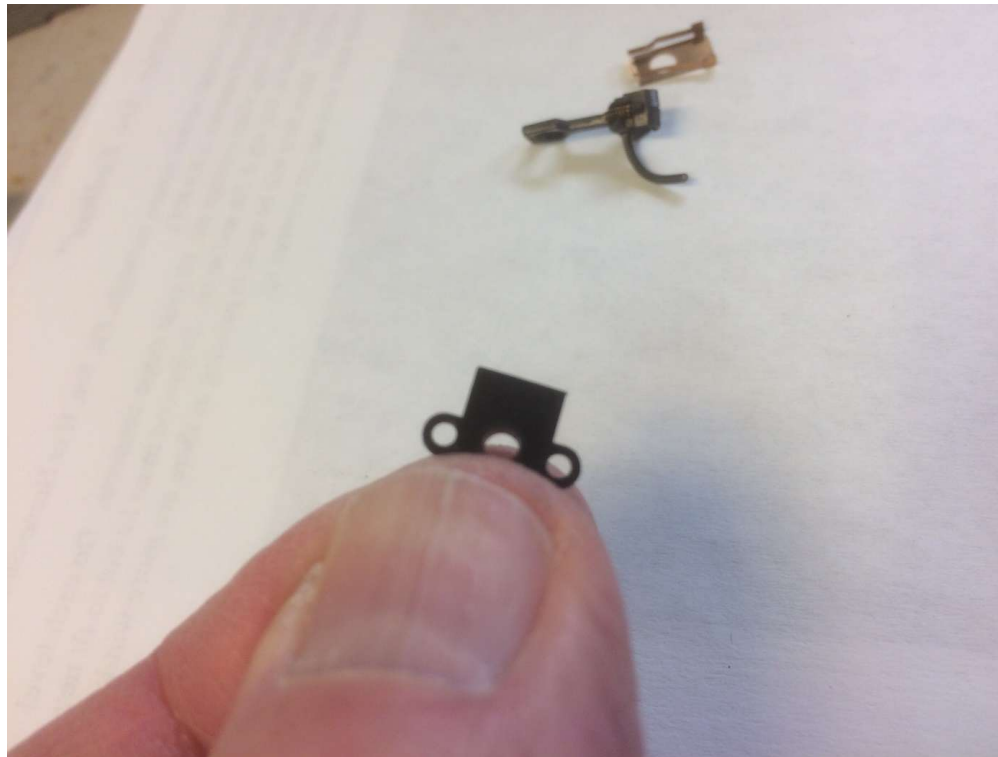
Check the face of the knuckle and gently remove any burrs on the seam.



Use a gentle file and remove any flash.



So we now have strengthened the spring and removed any obstructions.



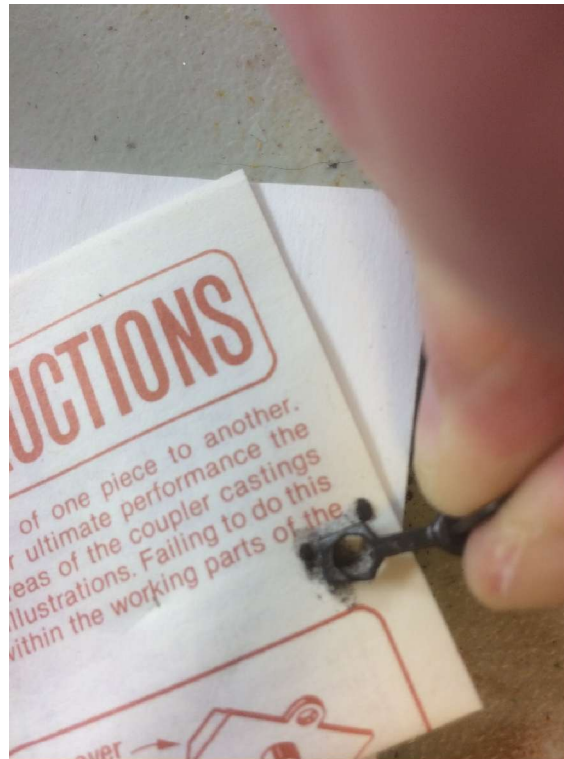
Next, I placed a little bit of graphite on the face of the spring.



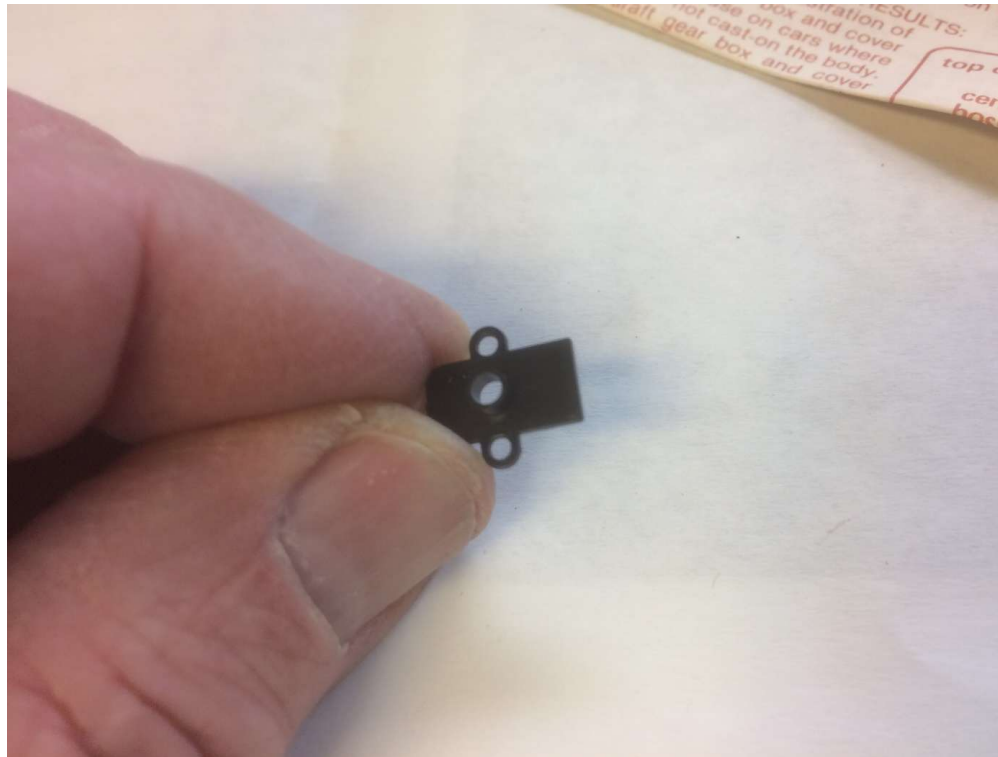
And placed some on a piece of paper.



I then rub the coupler on the graphite so the shank in back of the knuckle is well lubricated. Flip it over and lube the other side of the shank.



Now we start assembly with the raised center.



I then place the spring on top, snug to the back.
Note the graphite placed on the face of the spring.



Next comes the coupler



The cover should fit perfectly, and you should be able to hold the coupler intact by the glad hand. Use plastic cement sparingly, along the seam.



Gently move the knuckle in one direction. Let go and it should center immediately.



If the knuckle does not center, or it is sluggish to return, disassemble and rebuild.



Now gently move the knuckle in the other direction. When the knuckle centers correctly, it's ready to be installed. If it does not center, rebuild.



Use a touch of glue and center the coupler at the end of the car. Use a screw for added strength.

