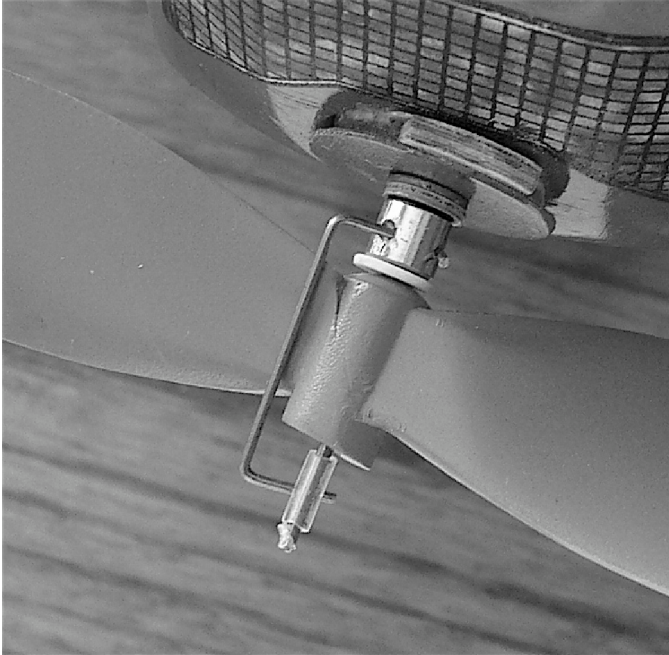


A FREEWHEELER FROM A WHEEL COLLAR

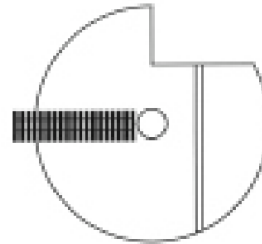
by George White

At a recent trimming session at our Navy helo field, Paul Grabski displayed a very clever bail type freewheeler on his 24" Fokker D7. He said he had gotten the idea from Bob Gourdon. Paul had carefully drilled a hole in a DuBro wheel collar to handle the wire bail as shown in the photos below.



Drilling a hole in a round object can be a bit of a challenge, but Paul says that since the collar is

brass, a punch to provide a dimple to start the drill will make it quite doable. He used a .030" wire for the bail. If you are averse to displaying the drilling skills that you see here from Paul, you can always take a Dremel tool or a good file and remove a section of the collar to provide a flat surface into which you can drill, as illustrated below.



Whichever technique you use, unless you enjoy hearing the exciting sound of a rubber motor rekitting your model, you should ensure that you've filed a flat spot on the prop shaft to hold the set screw.

The beauty of using this bail-type freewheel, as opposed to the method I've used for several years of soldering a piece of brass onto the prop shaft is, when you need to change the prop shaft, you don't have to get out the soldering iron. See the "Freewheeler Rig From Bob McLellon" in the Articles Index on our website www.penscolafreeflight.org for a drawing of the same sort of rig using solder. For very small models, I've simply folded a piece of .005 brass sheet around a .025 wire to make the soldered bail arrangement, but used a piece of square brass tubing for anything larger than a Dime Scale.