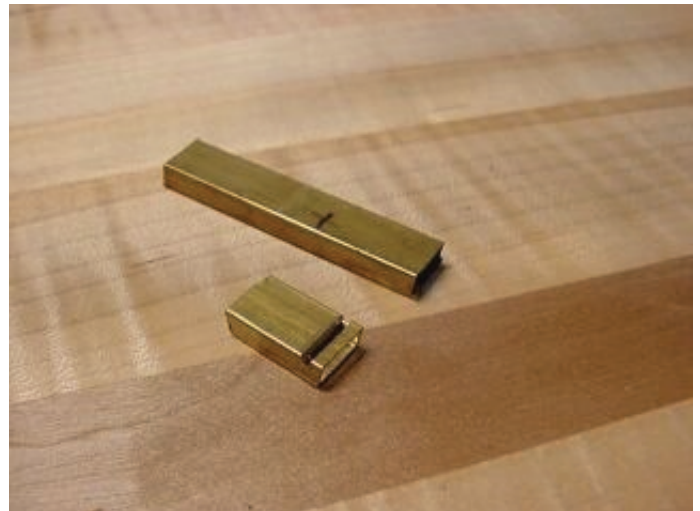


Scale Latches

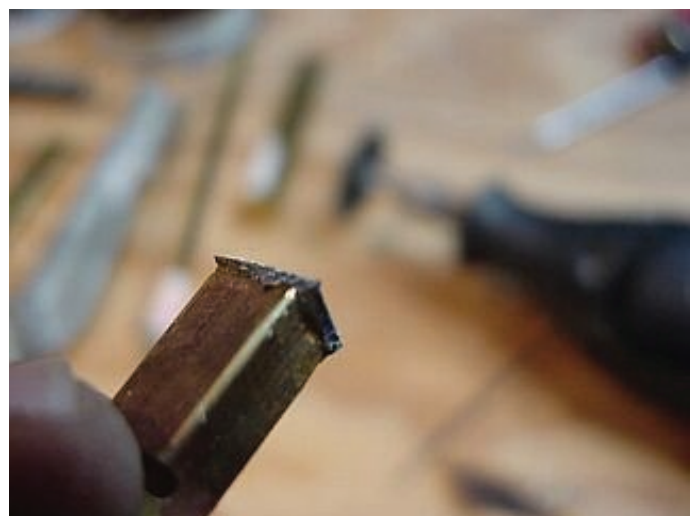
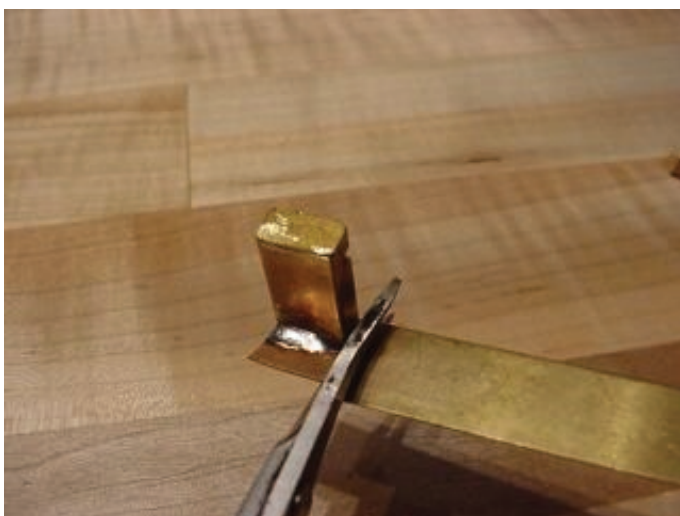
Here is one way of doing those scale latches that not only look good, but are also fully functional.

They are made primarily for the AS-350 A-Stars and Twin-Stars, but the ideas can applied to other designs.



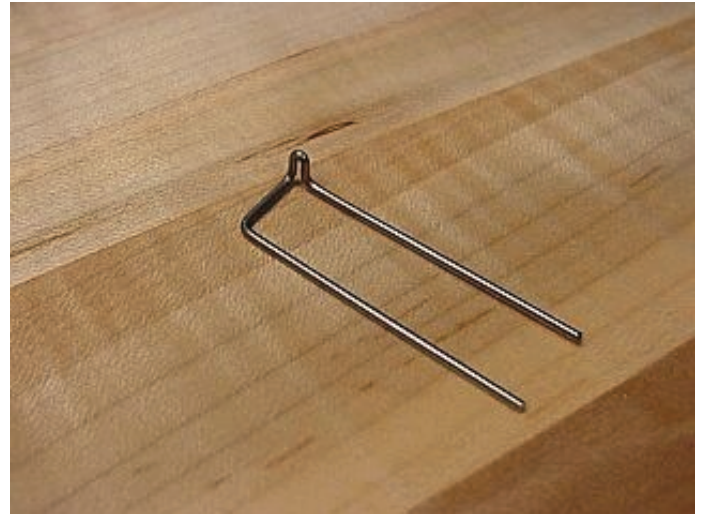
You do not need special tools to get good results, just patience and persistence. We start off by cutting up some brass rectangular tubing to desired size , grind some angles on each end to fit the body and then clamp to work area to cut slot with dremel tool.

For my model, there will be 4 functional and 4 dummy latches, all made identical except for bails (which are made from music wire 3/32").



Once I have all the pieces to cut to size, then I can solder on end caps from .010 brass sheet.

Trim with lexancutters and you can see the rough shape.

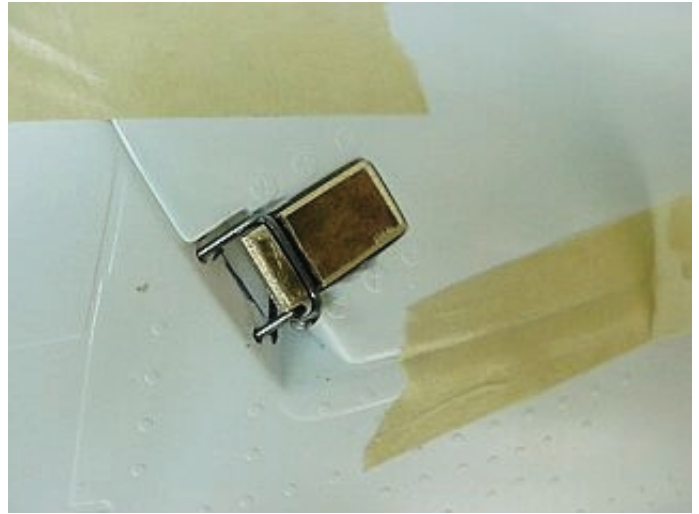


Once ground down to shape you can see them looking a bit better. You can also double up on end caps for more “beef” to grind on for shaping.

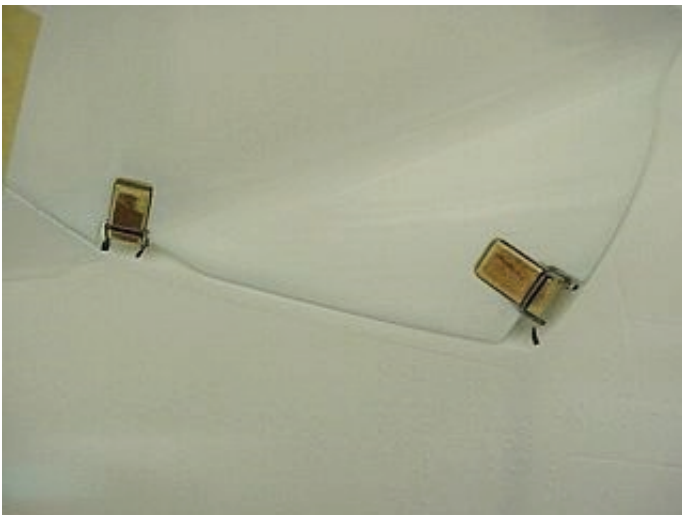
The bails are shown here bent from music wire. the little hump is your finger to catch on to work the latch. Make these pieces about 2 inches long then later you can cut them down to size if desired, but there must enough room for springs and collars to attach to.



Here is the test fitting pieces coming together and here is all the failed attempts! Keep trying!



A little more shaping and they are ready to attach to fuse with ply backing plates on the inside with 2.2. mm sheet metal type screws.



And finally fitted and looking pretty good! Here is what you need to do on the inside.

The backing plates not only reinforce the spring areas but also help locate the inner edge for the cowl so the spring bails do not pull the cowl out of position.

Springs are cut from a long compression spring (found at hardware stores) then retained with adjustable wheel collars for tension adjustment and for easy removal for painting and maintenance if needed.

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Innovation in modeling



One last shot showing the backing plates for both pieces.