

# A POOR MAN'S SPRING WINDER

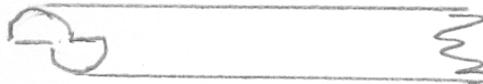
By George White

In a recent article in this exciting rag, I talked about the wisdom of using a spring to activate a button timer instead of a rubber band (or the lady's skivvy elastic which is shipped with some button timers). I'm sure many readers thought the spring was a nice idea, but if they didn't have a spring winder, how are they supposed to get the right size spring. Springs are not exactly hot sellers at hobby shops.

After discussing this with our Staffelfuehrer Paul Grabski, the thinking man in this club, thought back to something he'd seen on the internet and came up with a simple solution that anyone with a battery powered variable speed electric drill (Harbor Freight has them, cheap) can make a spring in minutes.

Here's what he came up with.

1. Take a scrap piece of hardwood board and insert a 1/16" piece of music wire in it so that it extends about 2" above the board. That will serve as the mandrel for the spring.
2. Tap a hole in the block for a flat head wood screw about a half-inch or less away from the 1/16" wire.
3. Take a 2" piece of standard 3/32" brass tubing that you can find in any hobby shop worthy of the name, and cut away a 1/8" long section of slightly over half the diameter of the tube in one end of it as shown in the diagram.
4. Get an 18" long piece of .009 music wire, which is available from several sources (there's a wire guitar string this size).



5. Clamp one end of the .009 music wire to the board using the screw next to the mandrel and tightly wrap the wire one turn around the the mandrel in a clockwise direction.
6. Clamp the brass tubing into the chuck of the drill, and set the drill to turn at it's lowest speed,.
6. Slide the brass tubing down over the mandrel, making sure that the notch will grab the .009 wire.
7. Slowly start the drill, and the brass tubing will grab the wire and start making your spring. The brass tubing will rise with the spring as it is formed.
8. Remove the tubing, remove your spring and clip off the ends so that you have only a nice clean spring. With a knife or other narrow instrument, grab two or three rings of the spring with the knife and force those rings sideways so that you end up with rings on each end of the spring onto which you fasten your pull lines.

You can make stronger springs from .012 through .014 wire which you can find at fishing tackle shops, but I believe you'll find those springs too powerful for use with a button timer.

Here's what the finished product looks like, together with the tools you need. Pretty simple eh?

