



The brass wheel collar is used here as a safety stop on a throttle cable. Note the shrink tubing installed over the collar and cable to keep the end of the cable from fraying.

Three Uses for Model Airplane ‘Brass Wheel Collars’

BY CHARLIE BECKER

EAA MEMBERS WHO ARE involved in the radio-controlled (R/C) model aircraft hobby will recognize these little collars. Any hobby shop that serves the R/C community will have these in various inside diameters (ID). They are simply a brass bushing that is drilled for a setscrew that will be used to lock the collar.

USE 1—Cable safety stop: I used one of these collars as a secondary backup to the bug nut that attaches the throttle control cable to the throttle lever. The nice part of these wheel collars is they are small and streamlined. They don’t take up much room, but they can provide a lot of security. I finished it off by using some shrink wrap to cover the collar and cable end to keep the cable from fraying.

USE 2—Pulled rivet spacer: Many times on my Sonex I needed to pull a rivet in a confined space where the head of the rivet gun was blocked out by the aircraft structure. I simply couldn’t get the gun down onto the rivet head. The 1/8-inch ID wheel collars are just the right size to slide over the mandrel of the pulled rivet and act as a spacer. This allows the rivet to seat properly even though you cannot get the rivet gun down close to the rivet head. If you have an especially tight spot, you can also use the spacer in conjunction with a modified rivet gun as shown in the February 2010 issue of *Sport Aviation*. (See www.SportAviation.org for a PDF.)

USE 3—Collector pin back: These collars work great for securing your AirVenture receiver pins to your hat so you’ll never lose them!

Charlie Becker, EAA Lifetime 515808, is EAA’s director of member programs. He is currently building a Sonex.



Brass wheel collars come in various diameters, and are packaged with an appropriate hex key for tightening the set screw.



Top: Select a collar with the appropriate inside diameter to fit your cable or rivet mandrel.

Middle: The brass wheel collar allows the head of the rivet gun to be spaced away from the head of the rivet so that the rivet can be set in a confined space.

Bottom: A collar being used as a safety stop on a mechanical brake cable.



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