

HOW TO FIX THE OUT-OF- TRACK PECK PROP

By Bill Schmidt

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The Peck family of propellers for rubber powered models come with the prop shaft hole crooked from the factory. This problem exists in the props of all the sizes they produce. I have fought it for years trying to true up the hole when I would drill it out for a 1/16" piece of tubing to be installed. Sometimes I would get lucky and rectify the crooked hole, but mostly I was unsuccessful in my efforts to straighten it out.

Well, I came up with a fix that works well to correct this problem. First drill and install a piece of 1/16" dia. brass or alum tubing sleeve in the prop shaft hole as before. I usually drill out the metal tubing to take an .039 shaft size as the 1/32" wire size is a bit tender and bends too easily. Now put on the old standby Jersey gloves and get out the soldering iron. Place a length of music wire through the tubing installed in the prop and put the soldering iron on the wire as close to the prop as possible. Heat up the wire, alternating the soldering iron between both sides of the prop shaft to convey the heat as evenly as you can through the tubing. When heated well, carefully move the music wire to re-align the shaft in the plastic to be more perpendicular to the face of the prop. It really works well and gives you a true running prop on both the side and the end view. I wish I had thought of this 20 yrs. ago. Bill