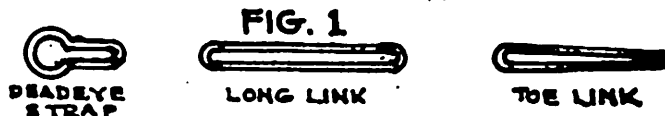


DEADEYE STRAP AND CHAIN CONSTRUCTION

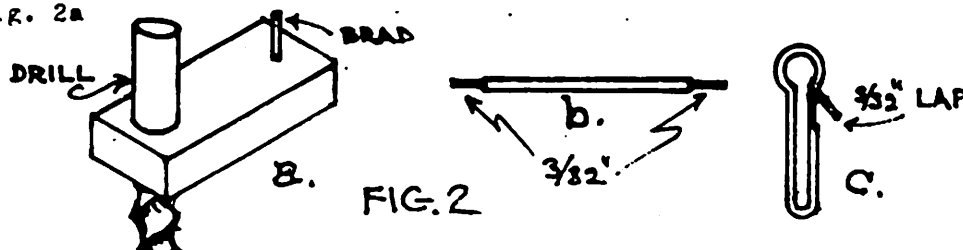
By Henry Bridenbecker.

Making chain links to scale yet strong enough to withstand the tension of the shrouds can be a problem for the scratch builder. Here is a method I have developed which does a satisfactory job without sacrificing realism. I use soft iron wire (copper is OK) because it can be blued or darkened to give the appearance of old ironwork. There are usually three "links" required. Namely; the lower deadeye strap, the middle or long link, and the bottom or toe link. Fig. 1



The deadeye strap is the most complex link to make. A simple jig is needed consisting of a small block of hardwood (maple or birch), a drill the exact diameter of the deadeye being used, and a small brad the diameter of the iron wire being used for the strap.

Drill a hole near one end of the block with the "deadeye" drill and leave it in the block with the smooth shank exposed. Next drive the brad into the block the exact distance from the drill that represents the lower end of the strap. Cut off the brad head and file the stud smooth. Fig. 2a



Take a short length of wire and flatten one end for about $3/32$ of an inch in a vise. Hold the flattened end of the wire with long nosed pliers held at a right angle to the drill bit in the block, and bend the free end of the wire around the drill almost making a complete loop; then straightdown and around the brad returning back to the starting point and just overlapping the flattened end of the wire. Cut off the wire at this point and bend it up enough so that $3/32$ of an inch of the end can also be flattened in the vise. Now bend it back so that it overlaps the other flat end, and make any adjustments to insure that the shape of the strap is correct. Straighten out the wire and measure its exact length. Cut to this length as many pieces of wire as will be needed for all of the straps, and then flatten both ends in the vise for a distance of $3/32$ of an inch. Fig. 2b

Commence forming the straps as before on the jig. When wrapping the wire around the drill do not close as a complete ring, leave a space about $1/16$ " or less. This will permit a final adjustment when the deadeye is finally snapped into place. After the straps are all formed the flattened ends should lap over each other $3/32$ ". Carefully solder the laps together; a very small amount of solder will do the job. Smooth the lap joint with a needle file. Fig. 2c