



# Pearls FROM THE CHEST

Some tips from members of the crew

From Henry Bridenbecker.

## TRY MAKING YOUR OWN BELAYING PINS

I was unable to find belaying pins small enough in diameter to fit my 1/4" scale model so I tried making some of copper wire. I made seventyfive! Here is what I did.

Cut 3/4" lengths of 24 ga. copper wire, and bend one end 1/8" back on itself forming a flat loop. FIG. 1. Now float solder into the loop; holding the wire in a vertical position with a clothspin clamp. FIG. 2. The solder will form a teardrop shape as it melts, and will retain this shape when it cools. Practice a few times till you get the hang of it.

Next chuck the straight end of the wire in a Dremel Moto-Tool, and start it spinning. You will notice a blurred teardrop shape. FIG. 3. Gently press the edge of the "teardrop" with a very fine needle file until the blurring disappears. Now it is possible to give the "teardrop" the shape of a belaying pin handle with a half-round needle file. FIG. 4.

It is easier to perform this operation than to describe it; but a little practice will produce a satisfactory belaying pin. Cut them into 3/8" lengths, and give them a touch of flat black model paint.

Henry Bridenbecker 10/7/79

FIG. 1 


FIG. 2   
FLOAT  
SOLDER

FIG. 3 

FIG. 4 

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: ---

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