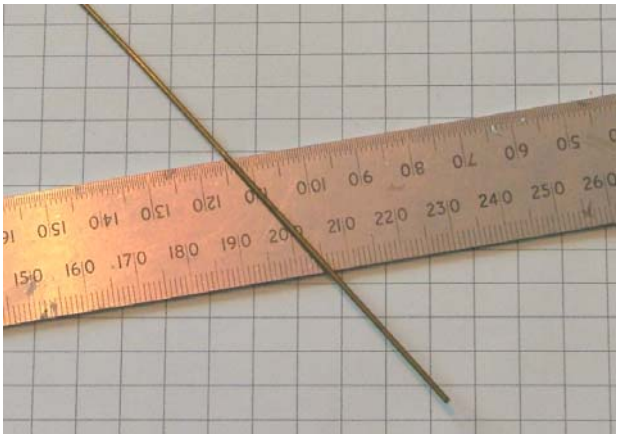
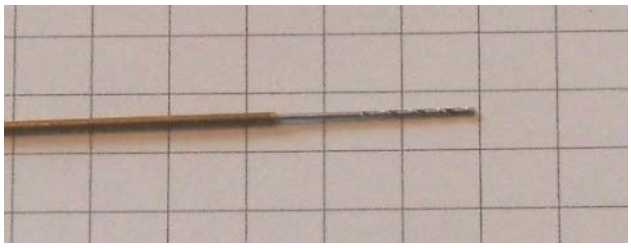
MAKING TINY DETAILS – A COUPLE OF SUGGESTIONS.

Bob Alderman © October 2007

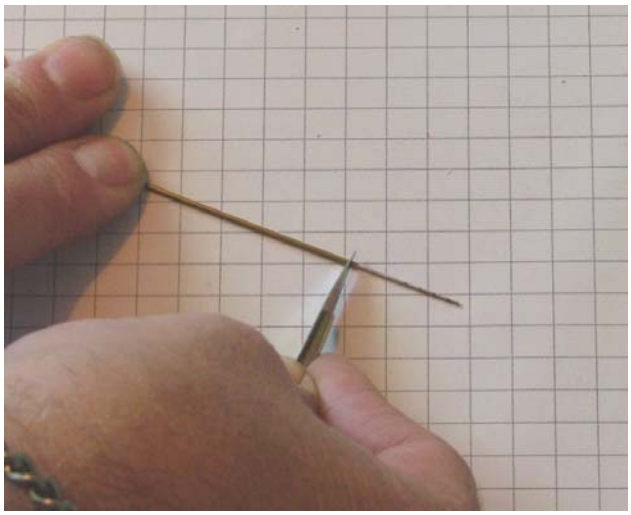
However good a kit is sometimes you are left to make some tiny details yourself. Some of these details, like tubular spacers can be made from small diameter brass tube; usually a number of these are needed. They all need to be the same too. The method below allows this.



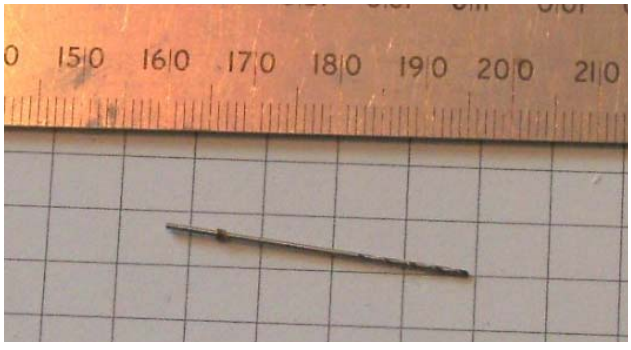
Small bore brass tube to be cut into short lengths.



Insert a small drill into the bore. Go for a close fit as the drill supports the tube in the next operation.

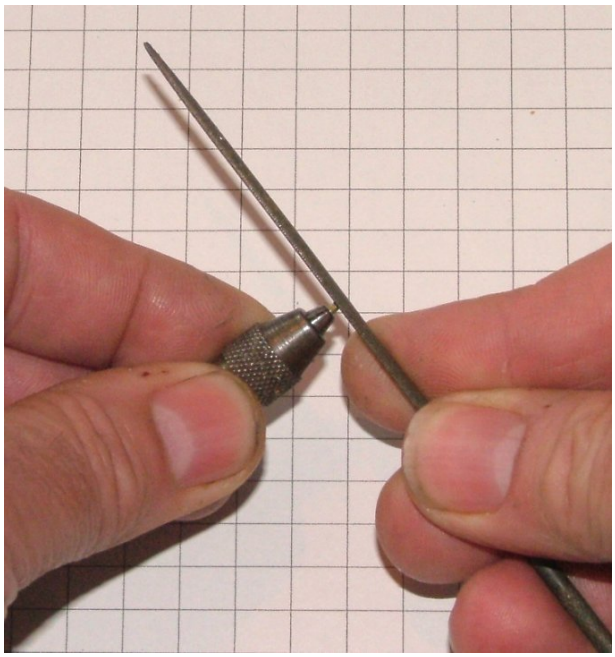


Close to end and slightly longer than needed roll the tube under a scalpel blade. This will either cut through or at least score the tube. Draw the drill out until the end is nearly under the cut and use it as a lever to break off the short length. This also serves to stop the cut piece from being lost!



Just visible, a short length on the drill.

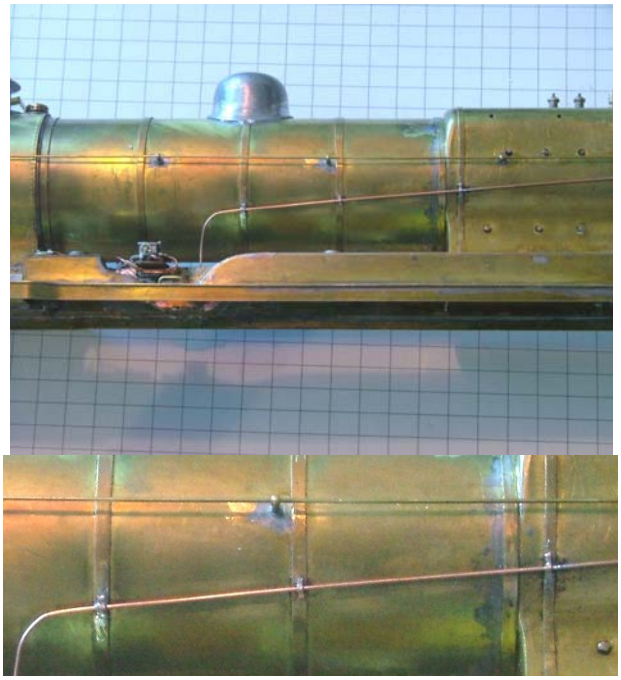
To get the final length insert the drill in a pin vice with drill shank protruding. Set the length required and tighten the chuck.



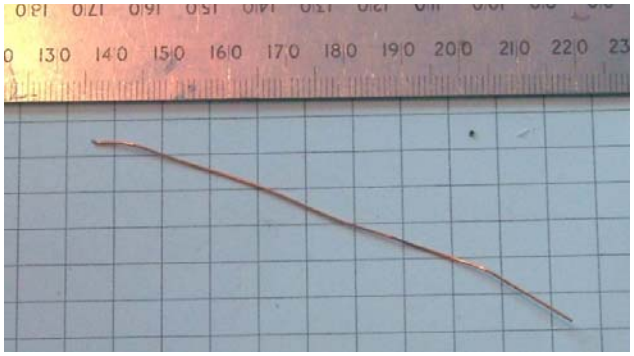
Put the tube back onto the drill and file the tube until the file hits the drill shank.

This method can also be used on heavier gauge brass tube. In this case rather than a scalpel the heavier blade of a Stanley Knife is more suitable.

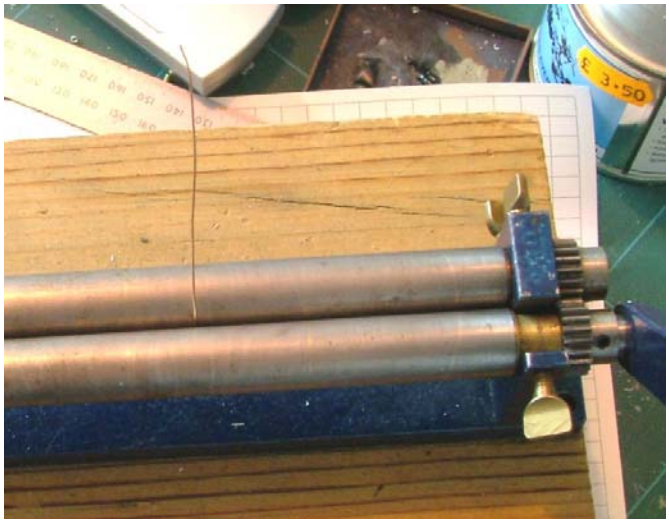
PIPE CLIPS



Fitting plumbing to your loco? Then you will need pipe clips.

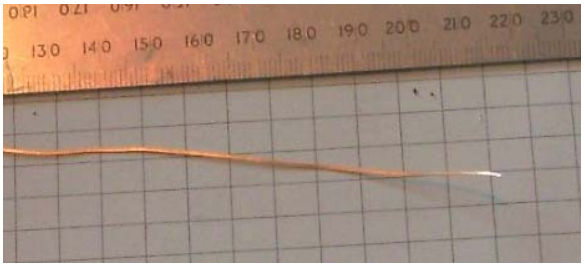


Sometimes thin brass strip will not do the job. Take either fine brass or copper wire (not enamelled) and flatten it. The illustration shows 0.5mm copper wire from telephone cables



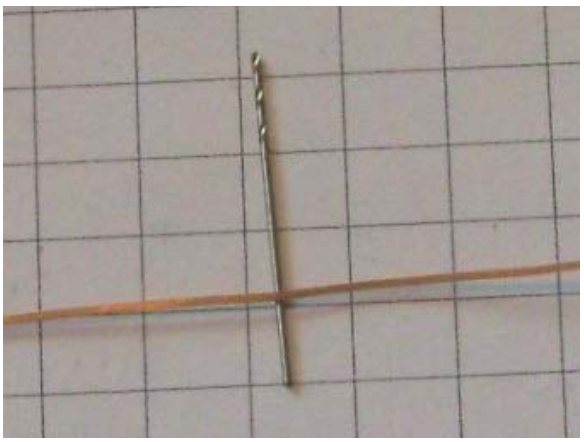
Here the wire is passing through the rolling bars. Copper will go through without annealing, brass needs it.

If a second pass through the rollers is made near an end further flattening can be achieved even if the rollers have no more adjustment – the flex in the rollers is less here.

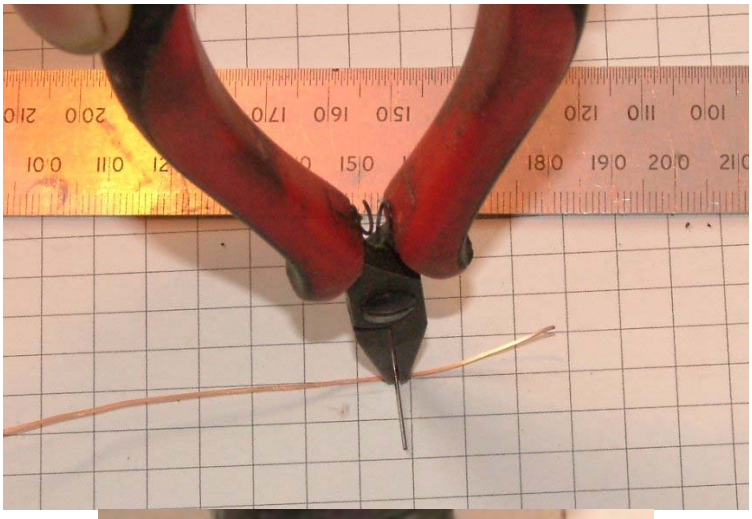


Flattened wire.

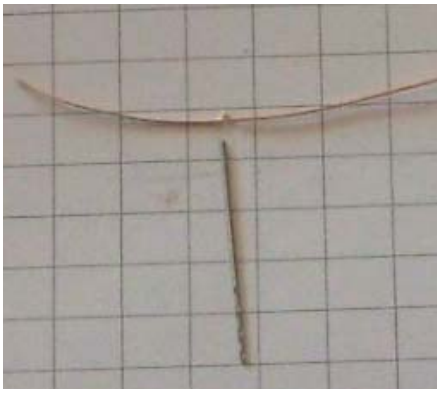
The wire can be flattened with a hammer but a consistent thickness and width is difficult.



Take a drill the same diameter as the wire you are "clipping" or piece of the same wire and….



… press a pair of plain flat pliers over the wire to deform it over the drill.



Trim “clip” from wire and use.