

Welcome to my DML parachute lock repair page.

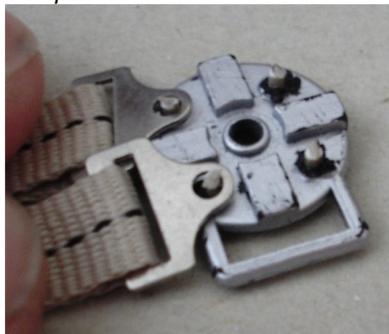
This page came about after I had bought the Soldat 3 DML figure, and I tried to fit the centre lock for the parachute together. As I had put a lot of the equipment on the figure under the oversmock, I found that the little pips inside the parachute centre lock would not hold the strap ends in place. Also as I had tried to tighten up the top part of the lock, the metal screw tore out the thread inside the lower part.

To say this annoyed me is an understatement, as I now had an expensive model that I could not use the parachute with. As the lock would not hold the straps in place, even if I tried to use it off the figure. So after leaving the figure for a few days, I decided to have a look at altering the base of the lock, so that it could hold the parachute end straps in place.

What I had to do was firstly cut off the little pips, and then drill 4 small holes in their place. I then got some plastic rod I had and cut off a small length of it to make the four pegs as shown below. Once I had these I applied some heat to one end of the rod with a lighter, and when it was soft I pushed it onto my workbench. This gave me a flattened end as shown on the right, which I did for all four of the pegs.

Once they had cooled down, I then pushed them carefully through the holes I had made in the bottom part of the parachute lock, as shown on the right. I then pushed the peg back through a little bit, and placed some superglue on the flattened ends, and pushed the end back against the lock to dry. Again I did this for all four of the pegs, so that they are set in position to hold the parachute ends in place.

When I was certain that the pegs and glue had dried, I cut them down so that I could still close the top part of the lock onto the bottom half. *This is shown in the picture below left, be careful cutting them down to size. Because if you go too far down, you will not be able get it to hold the strap in place.* The second picture below centre shows the parachute end straps placed onto the pegs, to test that the straps fit onto the pegs. The final picture below right shows the top screwed onto the bottom half of the lock, trapping the strap ends in place.



This picture right shows the reverse of the assembled lock, with the flattened ends of the pegs glued in place. I am going to sand this down a bit, so the lock sits flatter against the uniform. *But be careful doing this, as it can weaken the pegs if they are sanded down too much.* I have had to do this to two of my DML parachutes now (Soldat 3 and Frank Laird), and I am not very impressed with the way that these are made. Considering that these locks are made in metal by bbi. I have both the German and RAF parachutes, and I have never had this problem with those parts. So I cannot understand why DML cannot make them the same way?

