

**Make a prototypical turnout handle
for Caboose ground throws**



All of us at one time or another have used the manual ground throws made by Caboose Hobbies. These work well enough, but the problem with them is they just don't look prototypical. The HO scale models are a little too large to look right, and the N scale ones don't have a long enough throw to work with HO turnouts.

One way to try and make these look better is to replace the long handle with one that looks more like those used by prototype railroads.

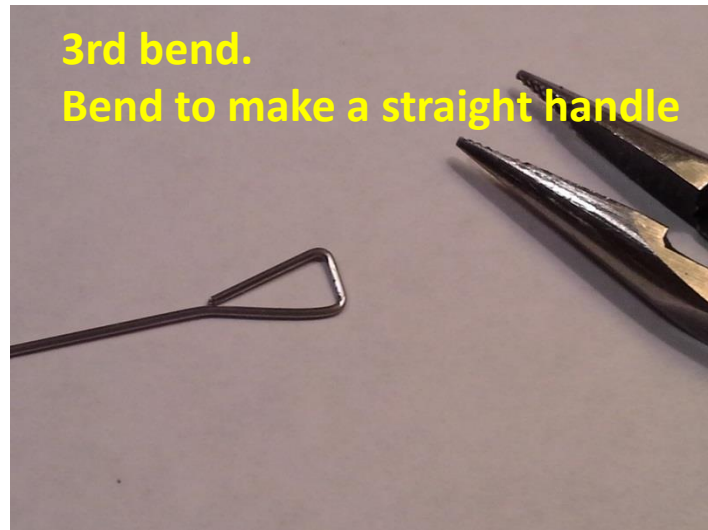
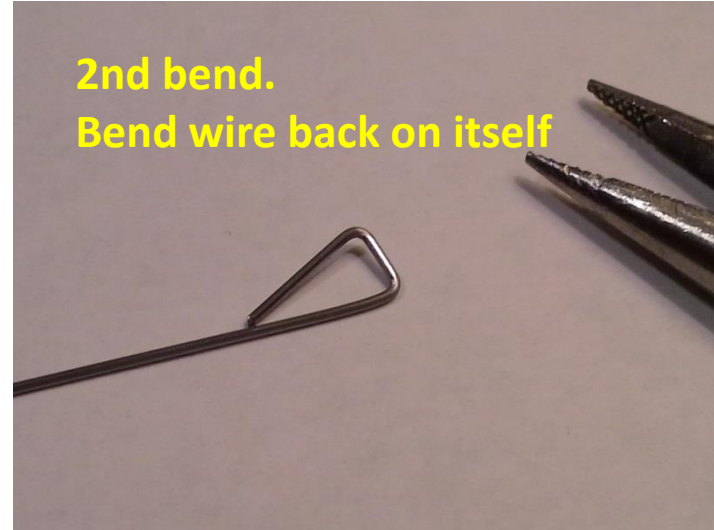
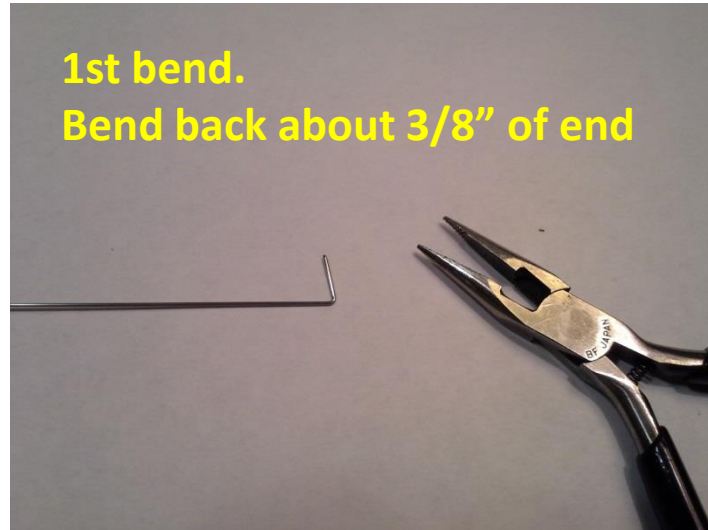
On the following pages you will find simple instructions on how to make a more realistic handle.

Items you'll need to make handle.

- Music wire – I used K&S .032mm
- Small needle nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Tweezers
- Metal primer – your choice
- Paint – you choice



Bending the wire.



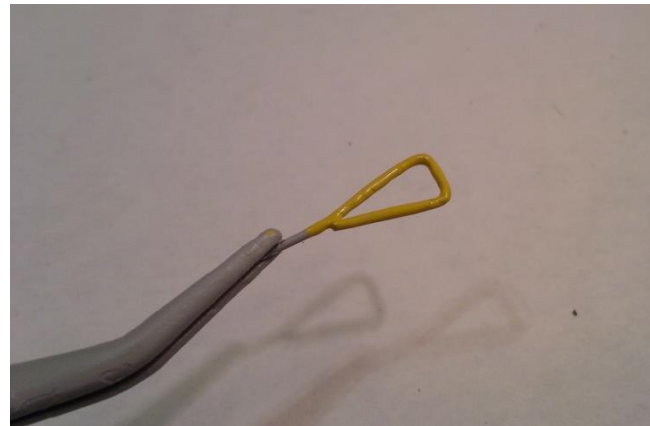
Paint the wire.

Hold wire with tweezers and spray paint with any good metal primer. Let dry.

If making a lot of handles, insert holding ends in some styrofoam and paint all at one time.



Paint handle with color of your choice. You can spray, brush or even dip the handle in the paint. Let dry thoroughly before attaching to ground throw



What you need to prepare the ground throw.

Small nippers
Twist drill with bit the size of wire.
Small flat file.
Super glue (CA)

and

a Caboose ground throw



Prepare the ground throw and attach handle .

Cut off plastic handle



File top of round cam smooth



Drill hole where handle was



Trim long end of new handle and glue to ground throw



Add the new ground throw to your layout.

I've found it easier to attach the ground throw before filing the top and drilling the hole. You have a more stable surface to work on.

I made most of mine in the triangle shape and painted them yellow. This is more like what Birmingham Southern does.



I'm also making a few in a more squared off shape and painting the ends red. This is more common on the Class 1 railroads – NS and BNSF

