Cable Anchor Belt Clip, Version 1.0
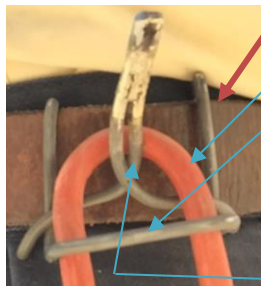
By R. G. Sparber

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I own a few 120VAC powered yard tools. Some have cable reliefs but most do not. Furthermore, it can be difficult to handle these tools while the power cable is pulling on the end of it.

Sometimes I would drape the cable over a shoulder or through my belt. Neither method worked well.

Then I got thinking about the cable relief on my edger. It forced too tight a bend in the cable but the idea was good. I have taken that basic idea, increased the loop radius, and now have a useful, if not geeky, solution.

The cable anchor slides onto my heavy leather belt. Then the power cable is bend in half and slides up through a steel loop.

The cable then slides over a post.

The design works well but I didn't know that initially. In the spirit of "fail fast", I bent up a model using thin bailing wire.
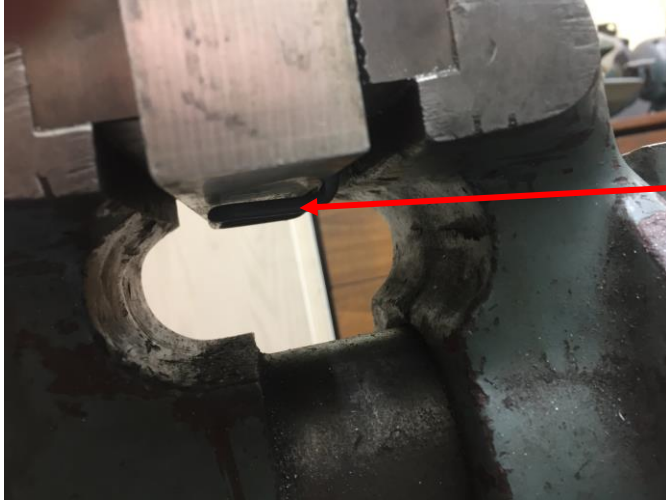
Fitting a power cord into this proof of concept convinced me it was worth my time to make a better one.

I started with 3 feet of 1/8" CRS wire. Finding the center, I marked a line 1 inch on each side. Using my bench vise and a large ball peened hammer,
I made my first two bends. Then I turned the loop around in the vise and made

my third bend. This gave me the "steel loop".

Next, I took a 1 inch by 2 inch bar of aluminum and clamped the wire in the vise.
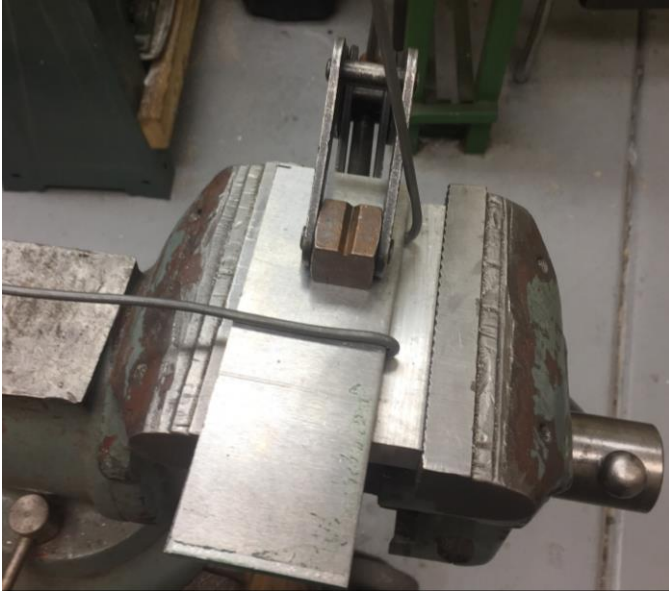
The steel loop can be seen under the bar.

When viewed from the top of the vise, you can see the wire ends standing vertical.

Using my hammer, I flattened the wires down over the fixed jaw. The blue lines show their final positions.

These two bends were then at 90° but I need to go to 180°.

To finish the bends, I clamped down a 3/16 inch by 2 inch bar. Then I used my hammer to flatten it down. After bending one wire, I moved the clamp and bent the other wire.

Changing to a 3/16 inch by 1 inch steel bar, I could hammer over the wires to close the belt loop.

The final bends were done free form with Channel Lock pliers. Then I brazed the ends together. Going to my belt sander and 3M wheel, I rounded and smoothed the end.

It ain't pretty but it does get the job done.

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you wish to be contacted each time I publish an article, email me with just "Article Alias" in the subject line.

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