

Small Plastic Part Fabrication Using Copper Wire, Version 1.0

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This water-resistant MP3 player is my companion while I do laps in the pool. It works great.



Well, it did work great, until a tiny piece of plastic failed.



With hope overruling experience, I tried to glue it back together.

Clearly, the only solution was to make a new part. My goal was to just “git ‘er done” and not turn this into a world-class piece of art.



As I poked around in my junk drawers, I came upon a length of 10 gauge solid copper wire. It is soft enough to shape yet a lot stiffer than the failed plastic part.

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I smashed the end of the wire with a hammer and cut it square. Next, I drilled a hole, by eye, that would pass the tiny screw used to secure the original part. Then I cut it to the final length.



I sleeved the copper with two layers of shrink tubing. After heating, I used my hammer to slightly flair the end. This keeps the shrink tubing from sliding off.

I'm happy to report that the repair is sound - it survived my usual flailings in the pool.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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