

# SNAPSHOT

## MAKE STRAPS WITH TAPE AND WIRE

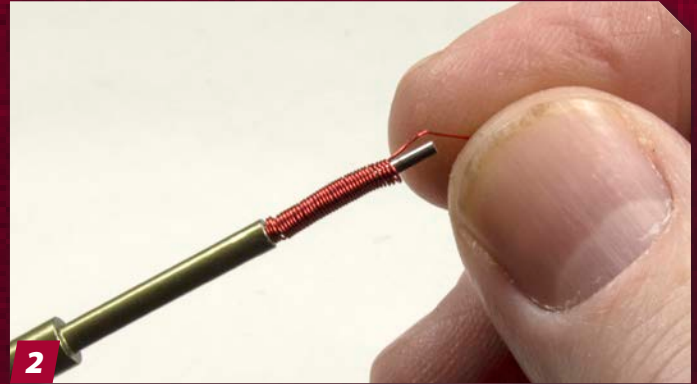
**STRAP IN FOR THIS SIMPLE TECHNIQUE** to add detail or replace molded features that don't look quite right. For a recent project, I used horses from MiniArt that had the poses I wanted. However, the kit harnesses were more complicated than I needed and softly molded.

By Robert Raver



**1**

Using tape to replicate straps, seat belts, etc., is simple and effective. I measured the necessary width and cut several lengths of Tamiya tape with a hobby knife guided by a steel ruler.



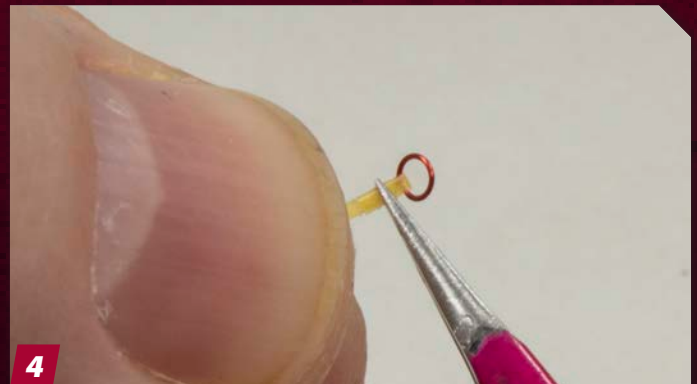
**2**

Harnesses have rings for attachment points and buckles for size adjustments. To make these, wind fine wire around an appropriate shape. In this case, I wrapped wire around a tool designed to make curves in photo-etched metal.



**3**

Once you have several coils around the shape, slide it off and place it on your cutting mat. Sliding a knife blade into the center of the coil and cutting will provide many rings. I transfer these to an old contact lens case for safe keeping.



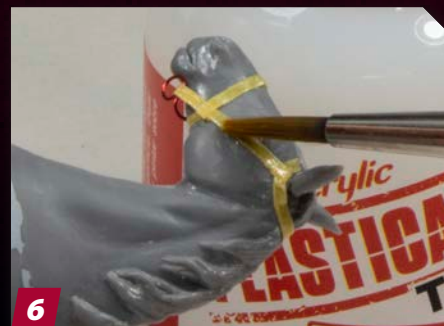
**4**

An advantage of using tape is its inherent stickiness. The tape can be put through the ring and will be held in place as you fold over the end to hold the ring.



**5**

The same stickiness helps with placement. You can reposition the tape as often as necessary while working to add all the components.



**6**

A thin coat of Ammo by Mig Jimenez Acrylic Plasticator, in this case, the thick version (No. A.MIG-2076), helps lock everything down and provides a smooth finish for painting.



**7**

I added adjustment buckle details using wire coiled around a small square mandrel then made additional tape straps before coating everything with Plasticator again. **FSM**