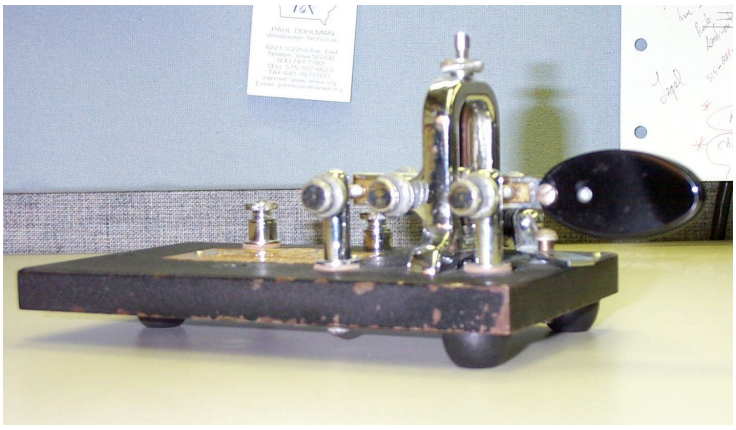
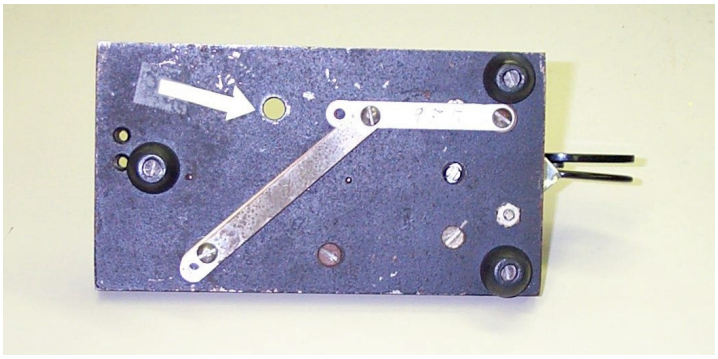


KDØCA'S SIDE SWIPER TELEGRAPH KEY

[KDØCA Side Swiper Side View]
Made From Vibroplex Original Bug Serial #169289 [Mfg. in 1950]

KDØCA Side Swiper [Top View]
Note the rectangular brass strike plates located where the original silver contact plates used to be. They are fabricated from the brass prongs found in a Leviton® replacement AC plug. The former dot contact post was moved to a new hole that I drilled so it lined up with the strike plate.



KDØCA Side Swiper [Bottom View]
Note the hole (arrow) where the dot contact post used to be. Post was moved to a location where the former dot contact lined up with the new strike plate. The insulated, flat strips on the underside were altered to fit the locations of the 2 contact posts and the insulated keying line post.

My Side Swiper is made from a Vibroplex Original Bug Serial #169289, which was manufactured in 1950 at the time when the Vibroplex Co. was located at 833 Broadway, New York, NY. I was given the bug by a friend in 1971. It had a home made weight on it which was a lipstick case filled with molten lead. When cooled, the original owner drilled it lengthwise to fit on the pendulum, and added a set screw to keep it in place.

I was already using back-to-back J-38's as a side swiper at the time, when I read in a ham magazine an article (April Fools?) about cutting off the bug pendulum, squeezing the dot spring flat with a pair of pliers to form a side swiper. The article contained basic information on how to send CW on a swiper. This poor old key was doomed!

After a few years, I got tired of the soft, springy feel of the squashed dot spring, so I modified the key to the configuration you now see in the pictures.

I discarded the worn out contacts attached to the arm and pendulum and replaced them with small brass plates fashioned from the prongs taken from an AC plug. They are attached with tiny machine screws and nuts. I moved the former dot contact post so it lined up with the new location of the brass strike plate. The mainspring was removed by punching out the tiny rivet pins that held it in place. Last, I removed the finger piece and installed a 2nd thumb piece so the paddle had a narrower, more sleek feel.

I noted that the old finger piece had a threaded screw sticking out of it, so I obtained a tiny machine screw with an indented hex fitting to replace it. This screw is installed so that it is screwed into the threads of both thumb pieces and also the threaded hole in the arm. I picked a length that completely disappeared inside the hole when fully screwed in.

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