

Installation of Wedekind-Sicherung Sleeves as a Safety Device for L'Hotellier Fittings

Glaser-Dirks DG-101G ELAN
Airbrake Shafts
May, 2008
V2.4

See <http://geocities.com/jhderosa/aviation/wedekind>
for the latest version of this document

Background Information

In 1997 the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued airworthiness directive (AD) 97-08-06 to address an issue of L'Hotellier fittings becoming uncoupled during flight. This can result in the loss of control of the aircraft.

What would typically occurred is that the release mechanism was not fully engaged during assembly and/or worked loose during flight. There were three possible solutions to prevent this from happening:

- 1) Drill a hole in the L'Hotellier fitting's release mechanism and insert a safety wire or device.
- 2) Use a Uerling sleeve that rotates over the release mechanism. This will not work for 90° (right angle) L'Hotellier connections.
- 3) Use a Wedekind-Sicherung ("LS Safety") sleeve which captures the release mechanism.

See <http://geocities.com/jhderosa/aviation/wedekind> for more details.

This document deals with the installation of the Wedekind-Sicherung sleeve on a DG-101G ELAN.

Disclaimer: Much care was taken to document the assembly process for future use.

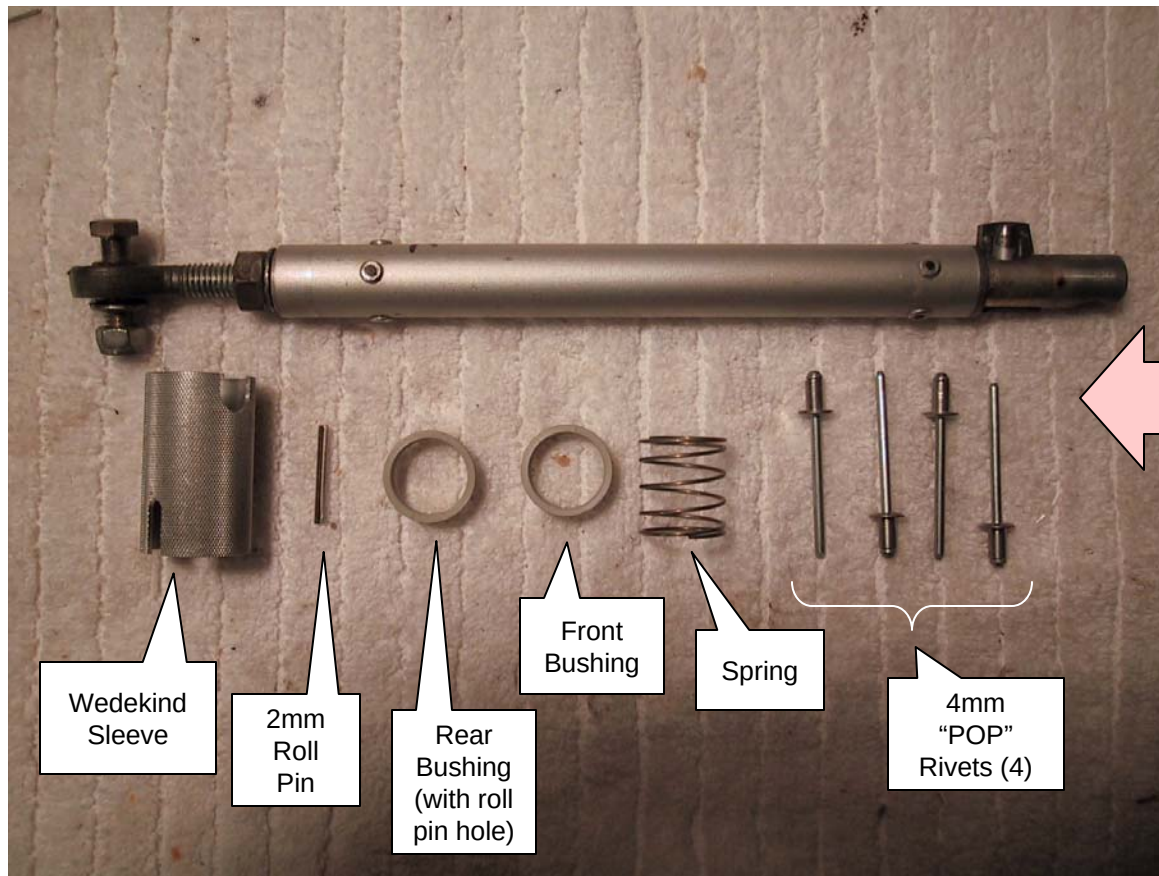
Assembly on other gliders may differ from what is shown in these slides. All documentation which was provided with the Wedekind sleeves, and from other sources, provided diagrams which were not perfectly identical to the situation found on the glider shown here.

All work performed on non-experimental aircraft must be properly documented and approved.

DG-101 Airbrake Shaft Procedure

180° (straight) L'Hotellier Fitting

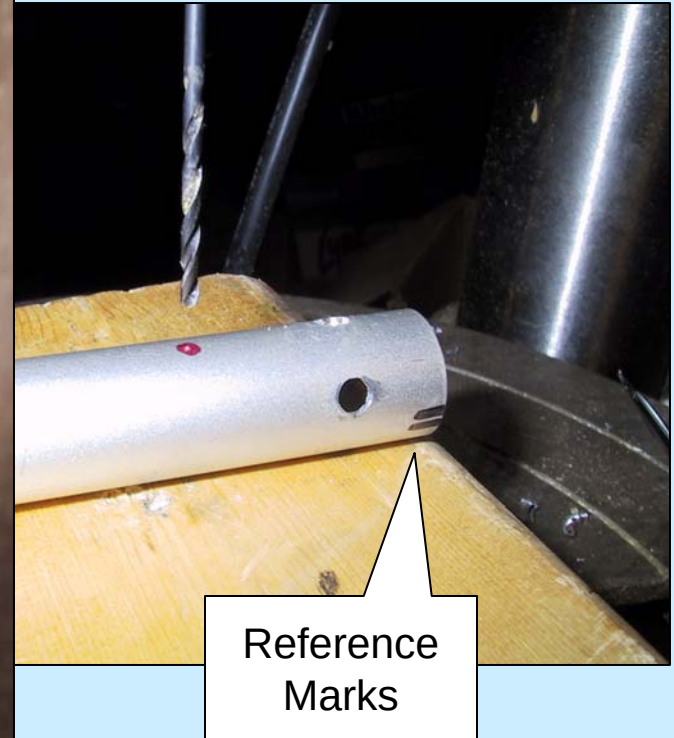
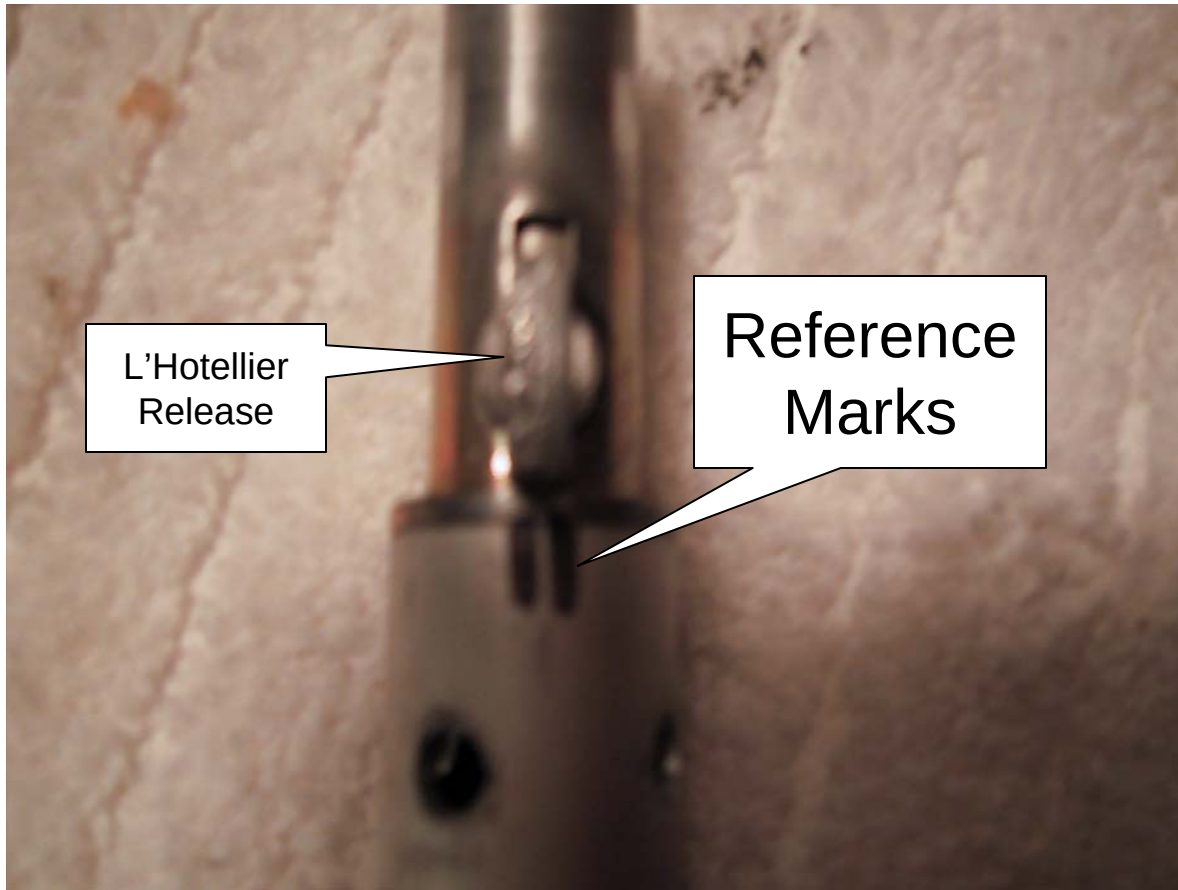
Unaltered Airbrake Shaft and Wedekind Sleeve Kit



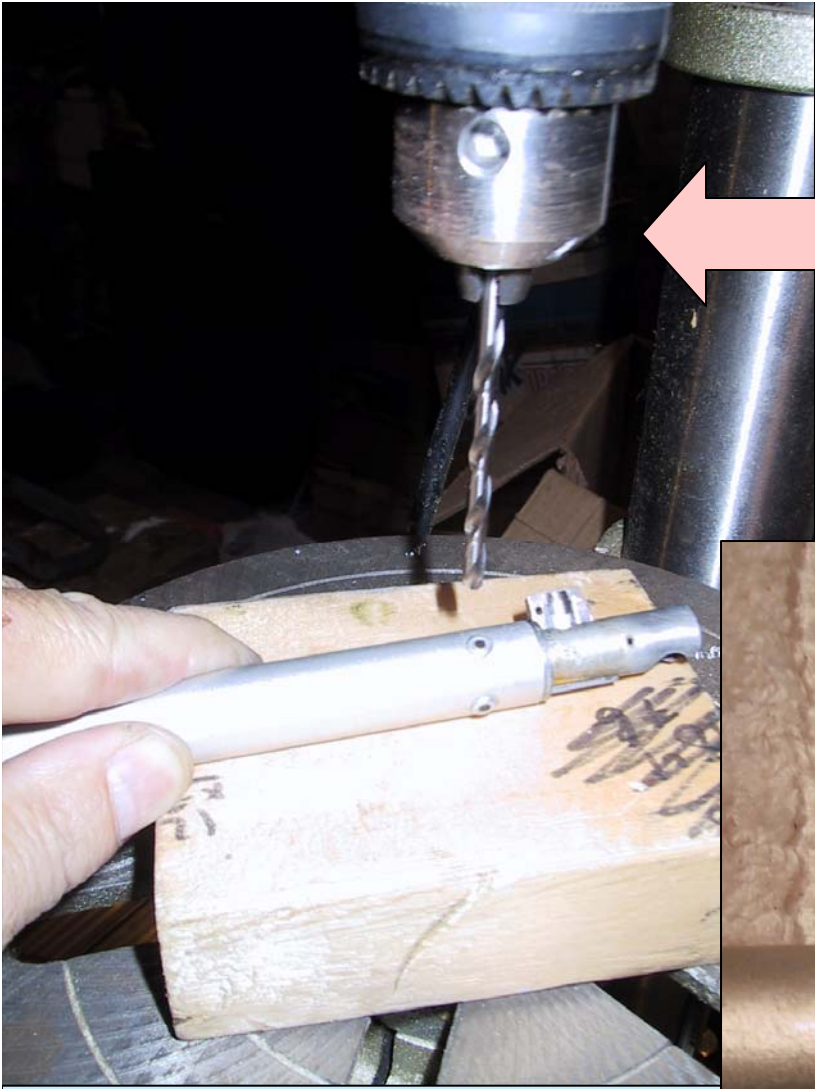
NOTE: On the DG airbrake shaft the L'Hotellier fitting is riveted in place. The aileron shafts L'Hotellier fittings are screwed onto the shaft end.

Close up of the unaltered
L'Hotellier fitting with
factory riveting.

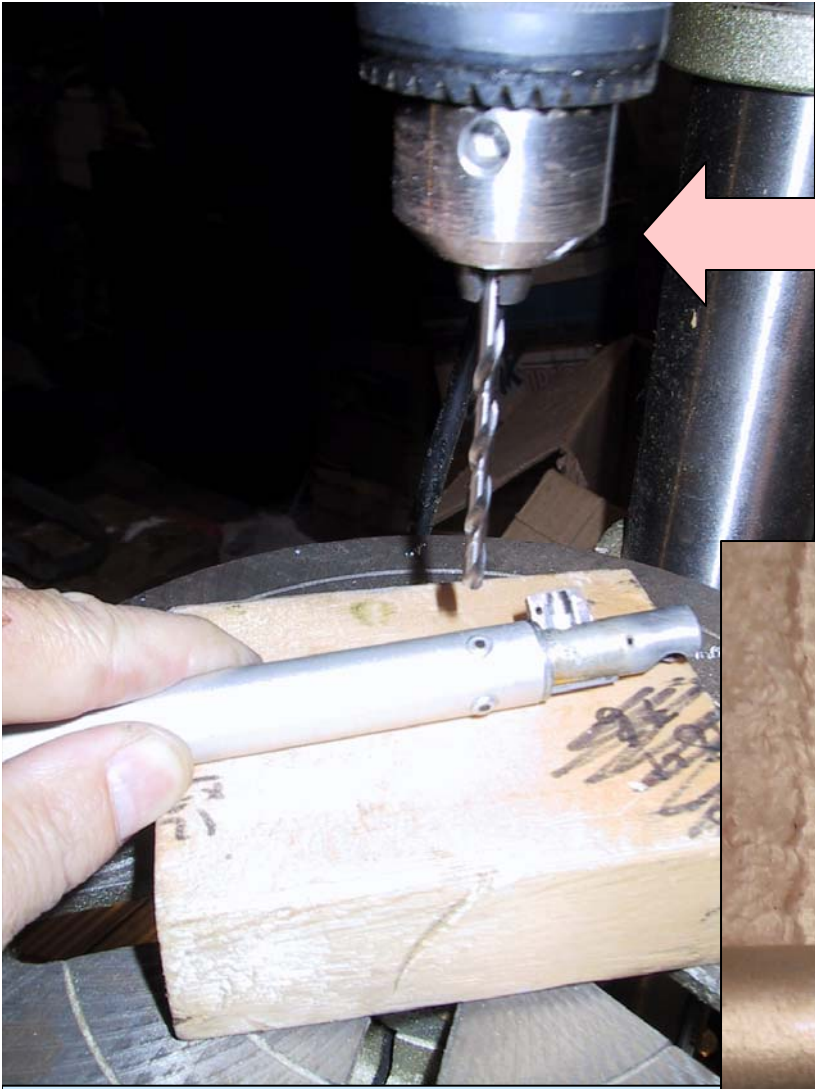




It is difficult to see in this picture but I marked the relative location of the L'Hotellier fitting on the shaft before drilling out the factory rivets to make sure that I riveted the fitting back into the original orientation. These reference marks do not need to be particularly accurate but simply indicate the orientation of the L'Hotellier fitting around the shaft's diameter for later re-assembly. They can also be seen in the right hand picture above.



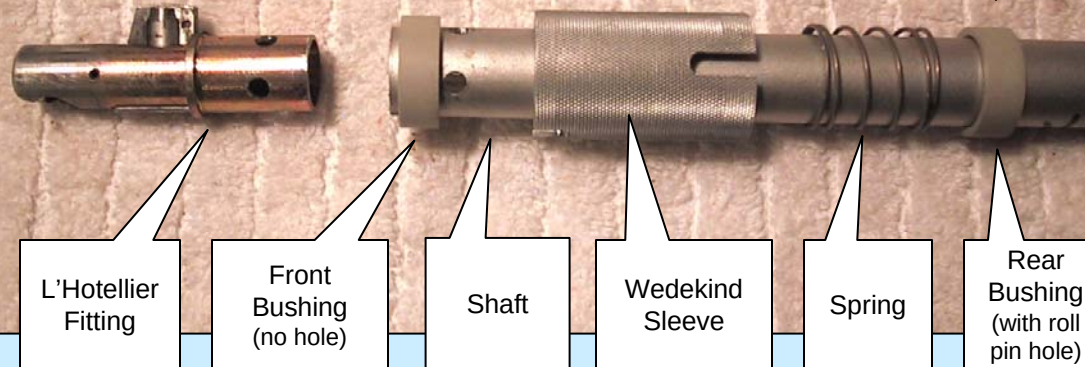
Drilling out the original “POP” rivets.
When I attempted to center punch the rivets, I found that the center of the rivet pushed in, making accurate centering of the drill bit on the rivet a bit easier.



Disassembled
L’Hotellier fitting
and shaft.

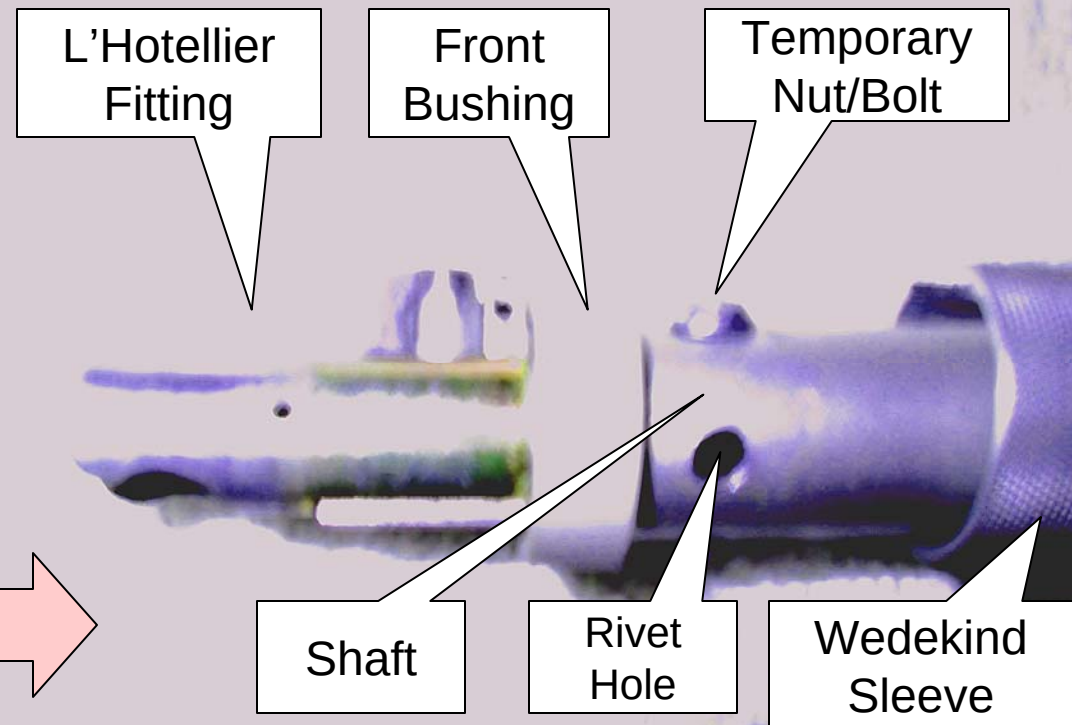


Trial Assembly

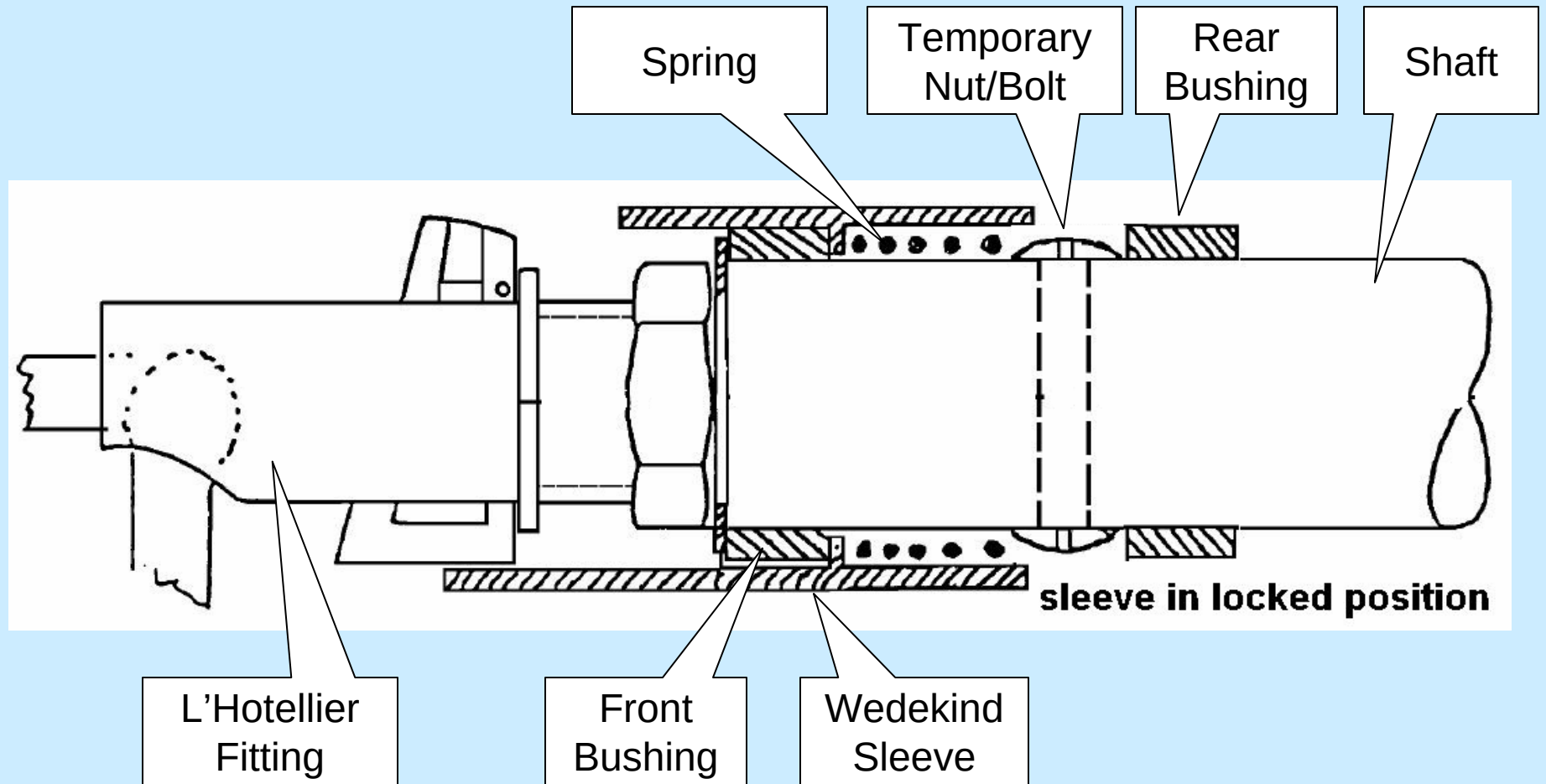


Here are the Wedekind parts lined up on the shaft in the correct order. The rear bushing has a hole in it for a roll pin.

Difficult to see clearly in this picture but I inserted a nut/bolt as a replacement “rivet” to temporarily hold the L’Hotellier fitting in place on the shaft during the trial assembly. The head/tail of the nut/bolt needed to be filed down to clear the sleeve. See the next slide for more details.

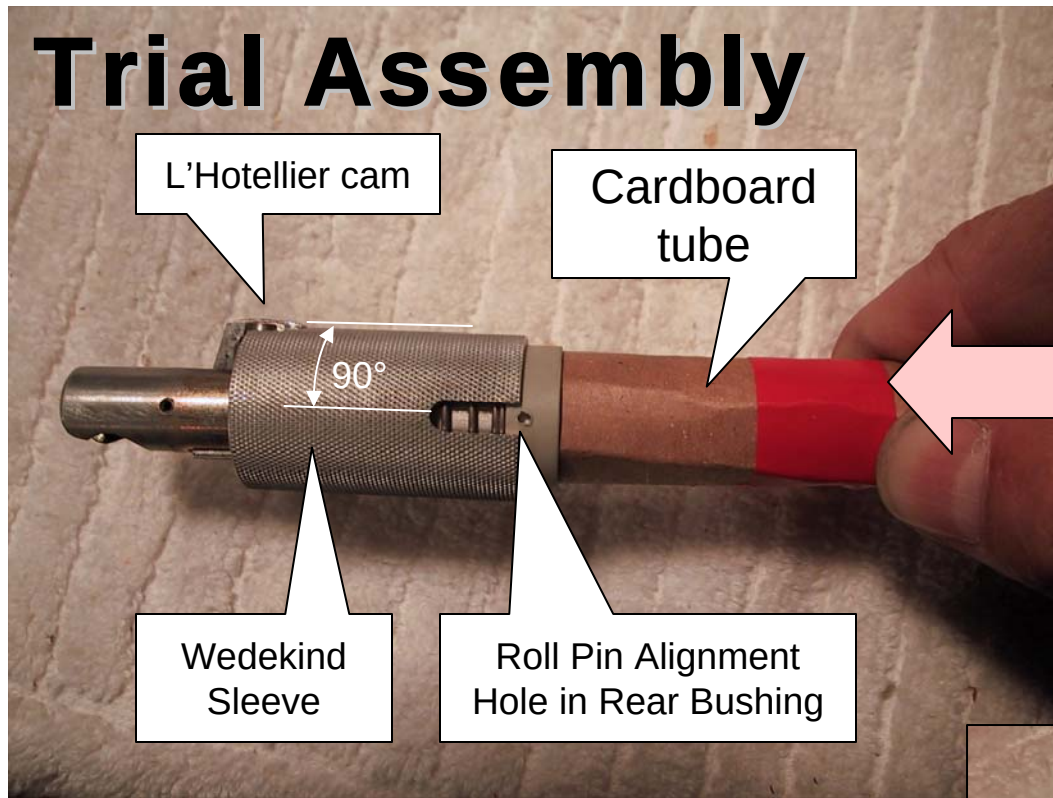


Trial Assembly



Note: This diagram is not perfectly accurate for DG-100 use and should be used for general reference purposes only.

Trial Assembly

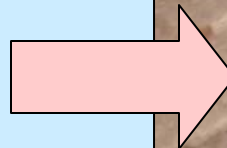


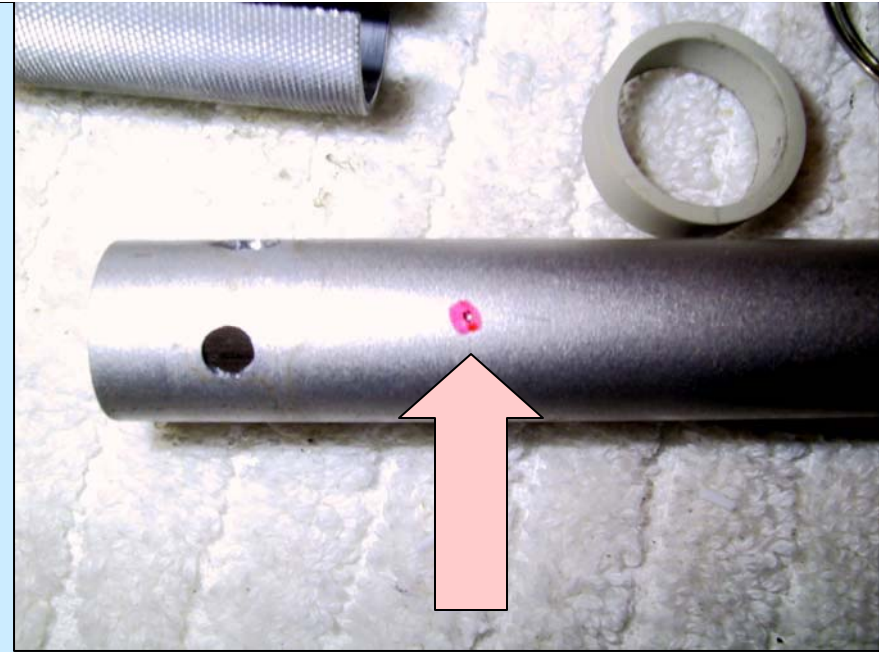
Final trial assembly testing before drilling any irreversible holes.

The roll pin alignment hole (on the rear bushing) can be seen near the sleeve slot, 90° to the L'Hotellier cam. With the roll pin is inserted the Wedekind sleeve will not be able to rotate out of position.

I am holding the rear bushing in place with a tube made of cardboard to determine the correct final location of the bushing by testing the action of the spring loaded sleeve. Test! Test! Test!

One I have accurately determined the location for the roll pin hole, I used a center punch to mark it.





To avoid any mistakes, I clearly highlighted the roll pin location mark before drilling a 2mm hole.

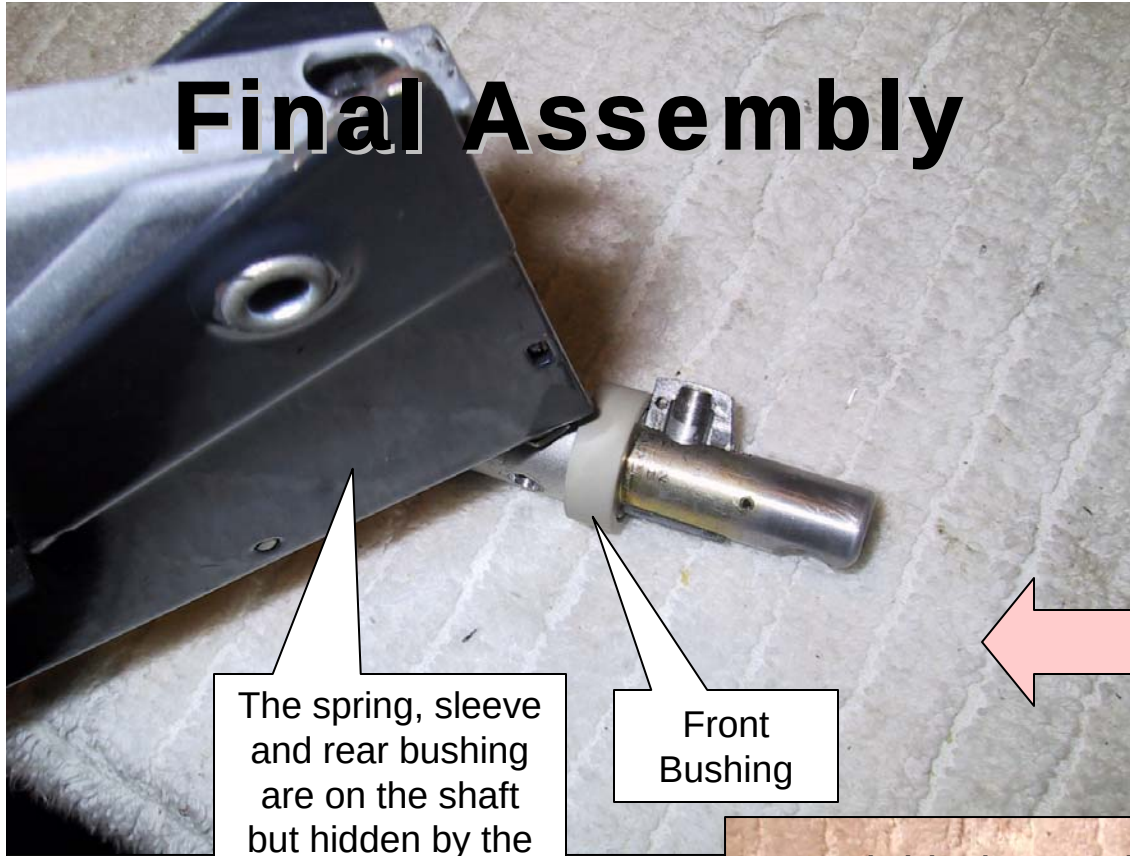
The drill must go through opposite sides of the shaft and be 180° from one another. I recommend using a V-shaped block to accurately hold and center the shaft during drilling as shown below.



Here the rear bushing is temporarily held in position by placing some stiff safety wire through the drift pin holes. At this point I have only drilled a single hole in the shaft for the drift pin and can test the complete action of the sleeve in its final form.



Final Assembly



The spring, sleeve and rear bushing are on the shaft but hidden by the riveting tool.

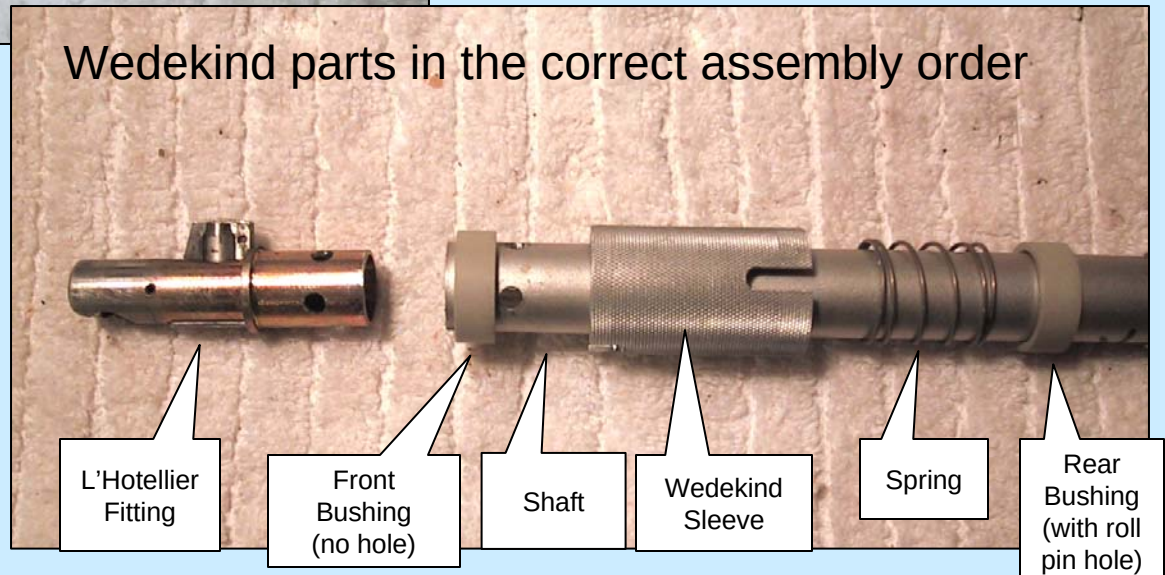
Front Bushing

Slide all the parts on the shaft as shown below.

The front bushing must be between the L'Hotellier fitting and the rivets. Then rivet the L'Hotellier fitting back into place.

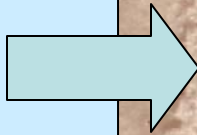
Per the AD/TN, the shaft's rivet holes needed to be re-drilled (oversized to 4.1mm) to accommodate the replacement 4mm "POP" rivets.

Wedekind parts in the correct assembly order

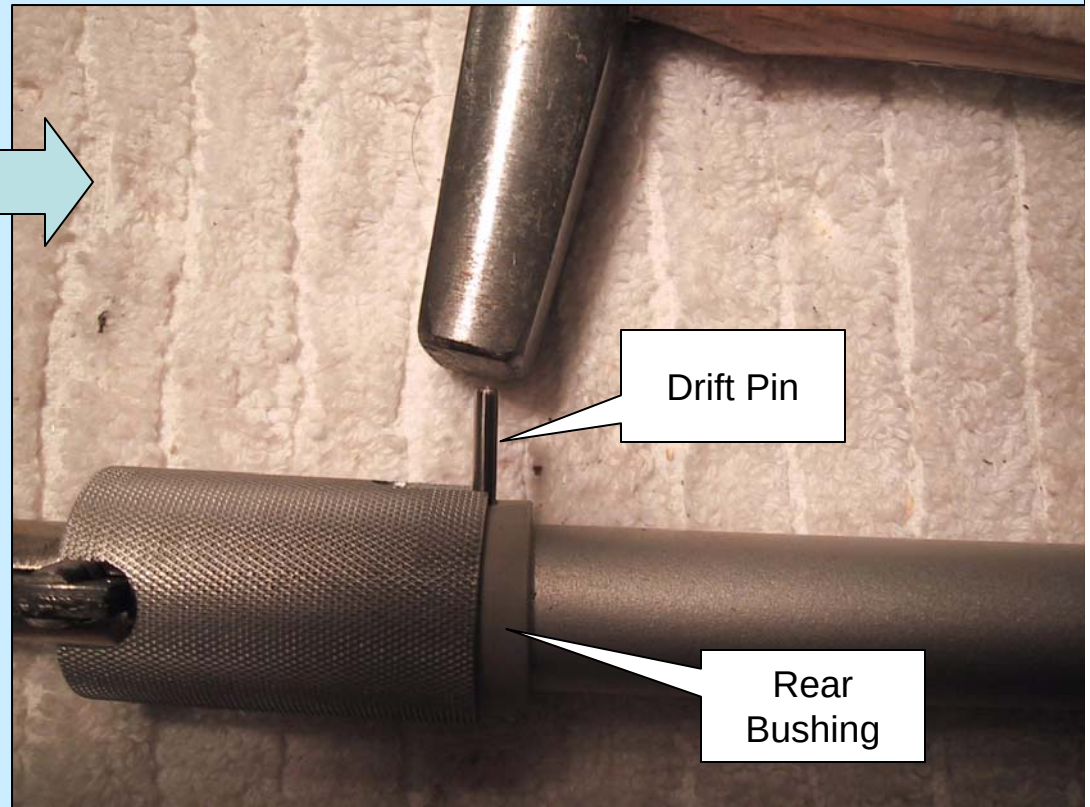


Final Assembly

Slide the spring, sleeve and rear bushing into place, set the 2mm drift pin in place.



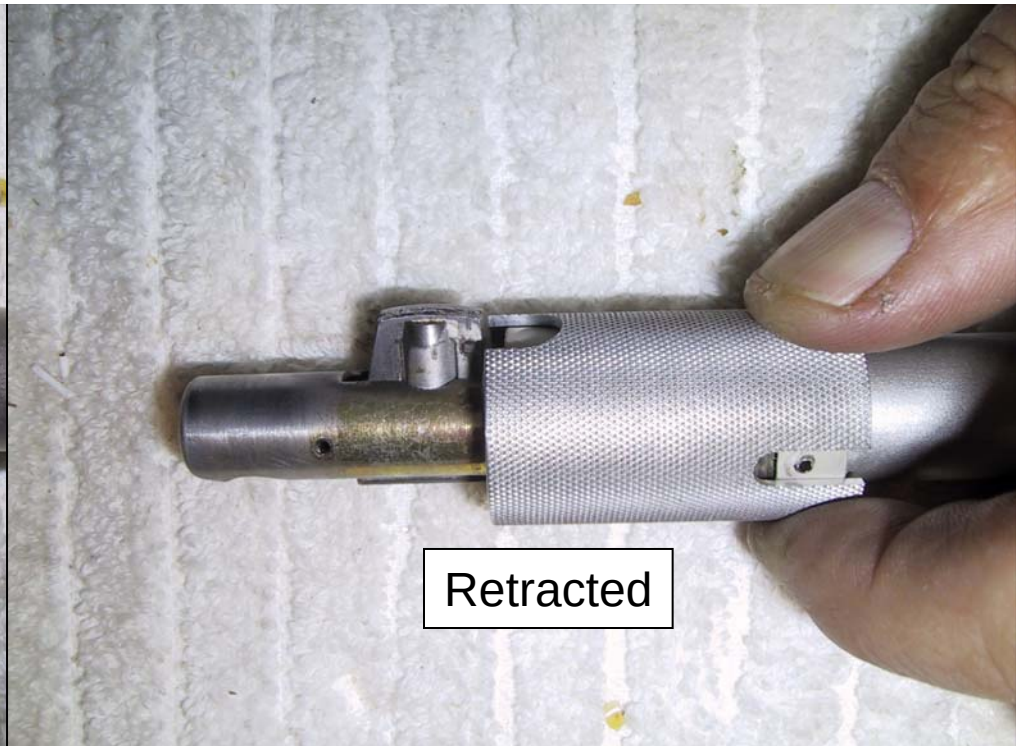
The roll pin is slightly longer than the rear bushing to engage the sleeve slots and prevent sleeve rotation out of alignment.



This completes the 180° straight airbrake shaft assembly



Locked



Retracted

Final Assembly Operation

Locked position (upper left)

Retracted position (upper right)

L'Hotellier cam unlocked and ready for insertion (lower right)



Unlocked

DG-101 Aileron Shaft Procedure

90° (right angle) L'Hotellier Fitting

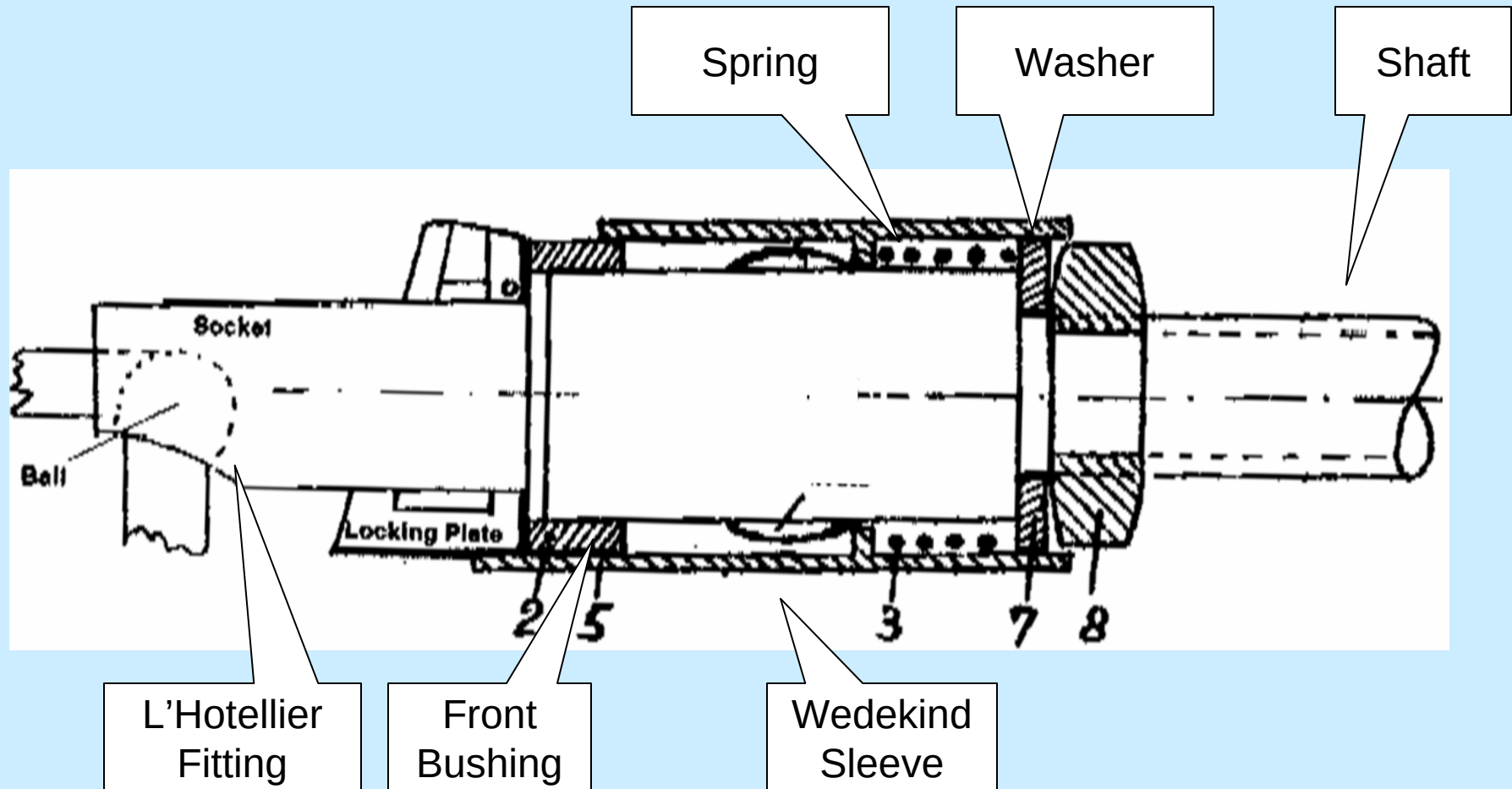
The assembly is basically identical to the airbrake shaft installation procedure except for one change.

In the case of the airbrake shaft the L'Hotellier fitting is riveted in place and the opposite end is adjustable. In the case of the aileron shaft the L'Hotellier fitting end is screwed into the end of the shaft and is adjustable. This is removed (unscrewed) to allow the components to be inserted onto the shaft. A large diameter washer (item #7 on the next page) is used to hold all the components into place. No riveting is necessary.

Prior to L'Hotellier fitting removal, measure the distance between the fitting and the end of the aileron shaft. I do this by clamping two blocks onto a work bench with the assembled shaft in between. Then remove the L'Hotellier fitting, place the Wedekind sleeve parts on the shaft in the correct order, then screw in the fitting to the correct distance. Adjust the shaft length per the measurement taken earlier.

Test the sleeve for proper action and mark the proper location of the roll pin. Drill the hole for the roll pin, replace all the parts, test once more, then drive in the roll pin.

90° (right angle) Detail



Note: This diagram is not perfectly accurate for DG-100 use and should be used for general reference purposes only.

Miscellaneous Information about Wedekind Sleeves

I bought my Wedekind sleeves from McLean Aviation (UK LS DG Dealer). Nice folks.
However their Wedekind information didn't cover the DG airbrake installation sleeves that they sold me.
York, UK 01904-738-653
<http://www.mclean-aviation.com/>

I received some very good information from Solaire Canada (LS DG Dealer)
Their Wedekind information was written by Jurgen Nick (see below) which was much better than the information received from McLean's (which is DG's TN). They show instructions for three types, Type V (not used on DG's) Type W is for the DG's ailerons and Type S is for the airbrakes.
Ed Hollestelle 519-461-1464
<http://www.solairecanada.com/>

Installation of Wedekind sleeves on a Nimbus with pictures
This is nearly identical to what is needed for the aileron connections on the DG-101
<http://www.jimphoenix.com/jimphoenix2/pages/Nimbus/Wedekind/subWedekind.html>

Some information on the Internet references a Jurgen Nick who is the "North America Distributor" of Wedekind sleeves. He translated the original instructions and added "hints". I can find no other information on him than that show below.

2820 Gaston Gate
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Tel: 843 884 7680
e-mail: jchnick@msn.com

FAA AD 97-08-06 for securing L'Hotellier fittings.
http://www.airweb.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgAD.nsf/0/5D82C2B301824AE586256A400073C1FE?OpenDocument&Highlight=dg100
http://www.airweb.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgad.nsf/0/5D82C2B301824AE586256A400073C1FE?OpenDocument

Glaser Dirks DG-100 Technical Note on securing L'Hotellier fittings and includes the original Wedekind drawings and instructions.
<ftp://dgflugzeugbau.de/tn/dg-100/TN301-old/TN%20301-16.pdf>

DG-200 related Hotellier fittings - <http://www.sli-institute.ac.uk/~bob/dg200/hotellier.htm>

Sources for Wedekind Sleeves (some may be obsolete)

McLean Aviation (UK LS DG Dealer).
York, UK 01904-738-653
<http://www.mclean-aviation.com/>

Solaire Canada (LS DG Dealer)
Ed Hollestelle 519-461-1464
<http://www.solairecanada.com/>

Güntert + Kohlmetz GmbH,
Bruchsal, Germany.
Tel ++49 7251 93106 0
E-Mail: guentert.kohlmetz@t-online.de

M&H Soaring
<http://mandhsoaring.com>
P.O. Box 368
Big Flats, NY 14814
607.796.4973 607.734.2346
Monty@mandhsoaring.com
Heinz@mandhsoaring.com

Juergen Nick
2820 Gaston Gate,
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466.
Tel: 843 884 7680
e-mail: jchnick@msn.com

Knauff and Grove
3523 South Eagle Valley Road
Julian, Pa 16844
814 355-2483
www.eglider.org

Williams Soaring Center
<http://store.williamssoaring.com/>
2667 Husted Rd
Williams, CA 95987
Phone (530) 473-5600