

GM Net News

Peachtree City, GA News: K8MPV (Bob)



June 1, 2009 marked the culmination of a project that had begun over 2 years earlier. In a truly impressive display of cooperation between federal, state, commercial and ham radio organizations the means to provide timely communication from trained weather spotters in the field back to the NWS in Peachtree City, Georgia has been restored. Over 3 years ago, the Fayette

County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC) learned they would lose the use of their 190 foot tower, which stood on private property. The tower supported the FCARC flagship repeater and the hub repeater for the Peachtree City NWS SKYWARN linked repeater system. Numerous hours were spent scouting viable sites to relocate these critical repeaters. A site was found just north of the previous location and would provide the necessary coverage for the NWS. Initial efforts to put private Amateur Radio equipment on a state owned tower met with resistance due to the unprecedented nature of the request. To get the project rolling, Lans Rothfusz, KD5EJN, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) of the Peachtree City office of the NWS, reframed the request as a collaboration between the federal (NWS) and state (Georgia Technology Agency, GTA) entities.



That request was approved and, working closely with Jim Mollohan and Ralph Bevins of GTA, we were successful in obtaining permission to put SKYWARN and ARES® repeaters on a 300+ foot state tower. Having secured permission, we now had to find a way of financing this project. The club wrote a grant request for \$10,000 and we secured letters of support from the federal, Georgia State Emergency Management Agency and the county level. Our first try met with failure but a 2nd try was successful. The Coweta-Fayette EMC Trust came through for the full amount requested. The next step was actually planning what hardware to install, where on the tower and what incidentals would be necessary. Our tower expert, after much discussion and careful planning, came up with a formal plan. Since it was a state tower, a professional crew was hired for the job. We now have a total of six antennas located at the 200, 250 and 300 foot levels.

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The GM Nets meet daily Monday through Saturday on 7.277.5 MHz at 18:00Z and Tuesdays on 14.277 +/- QRM at 16:15Z.

Would you like to help out with Net Control Duties? Contact our Net Manager George, KB9VF kb9vf@Comcast.net

Sending CW Via You Computer

By Terry Fletcher, WAØITP
http://4sqrp.com/resource/cw_interface/cwinterface.html

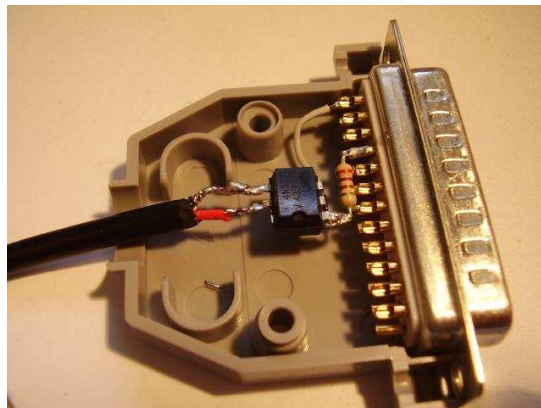


Net Control Stations:

- George, KB9VF
- Rick, WØPC
- Ray, K1RAY
- Verle, K8VW
- Chuck, WA8IHI
- Bill, WB9YUR
- Denny, N8XLS
- Bill, WD9AIH
- Art, KC8JLC
- Jim, WY8I
- Walter, DF4IZ

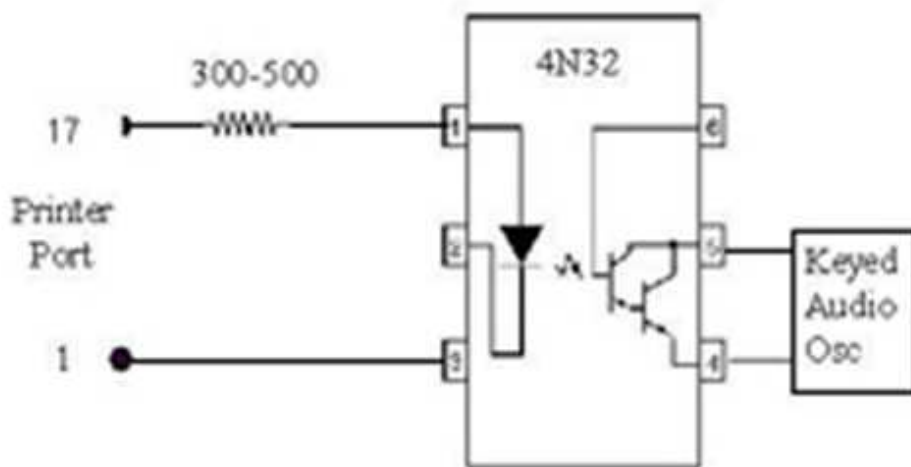
Use your computer printer (parallel) port to key your transmitter.

In the following circuit uses an opto-isolator and a current limiting input resistor (components). The keying line connects directly with the opto's output transistor. This circuit has pin #5 connecting to a mono phone plug tip and pin 4 being rig ground. This circuit will key modern, non tube rigs, most of which have a positive line going to ground when keyed.



Several computer programs such as "CWType" will allow you to type on your keyboard and the computer will send Morse code with perfectly formed letters. The better known computer contest logging programs are setup to send the exchange in perfect code at what ever speed you desire. It really takes the work out of CW contesting.

The output pins 4 & 5 could also operate an audio oscillator so that you can easily hear the code being sent if your rig doesn't have a built in monitor.



confirmation bias -- an approach to processing information that stifles inconvenient truths while embracing news that paints the picture that the decision-maker wants to see.

Ken, KG9O & Steve, W9SN PJ2T DXpedition New World Record



W9SN, Steve on Right

Ken, KG9O's reports that his son is Steve, W9SN and friends spent the ARRL International CW DX weekend (Feb 20th & 21st) at the beautiful contest station, PJ2T. You will recognize Steve since he is the one with the goatee. As Steve reports, "Most of the scores are now in and I feel it safe to say that we won ARRL DX CW last weekend, our 14th win in a row in the dual-more ARRL competitions. I doubt that any other station in history can make a claim like that."

The winning world championship team: N1ZZ, W0CG, W8AV, W9SN, N0YY, NP2L, WA9S, W8TK, N0VD.

"The rental house was luxurious and we had tons of fun in and around the pool. On top of the excellent experience on the air and the stellar outcome in the contest, it's fair to say that we had some record-setting PJ2T parties. The consumed-beer-coefficient reached a new high."



Some notables from this operation:

- * We made more QSOs from this shack than any other in the world in this contest.
 - * We had the highest multiplier count on any station worldwide on the DX side.
 - * Set a new all time record for South America .
 - * Posted score exceeds the all time world record for any station in any category.
 - * Made more 10 meter QSOs than any other station in the world
- Received many, many reports of being super loud in the States on all bands.
- * Kept our focus and maintained our rates in spite of a total networking failure of Writelog about halfway through the contest.
 - * Ditto while we hot-swapped an FT-1000 which had a hanging T/R relay.
 - * Won ARRL DX CW for the 14th time in a row (seven years running, both modes).
 - * Overcame severe power line noise with water balloons several times during the contest.
 - * PJ2T was the most-spotted station in the world in the contest.
 - * Made good use of our 80 meter antennas on the Ridge, especially as a dodge to the line noise.
 - * Made our first use of the DXE 4-square in the ARRL contest. It was our best low band RX antenna by far.
 - * Ran the FT-2000 at Station # 1 and all of the ops were extremely impressed with it.

Here are the numbers:

Call: PJ2T QSOs: 9,295 Hrs: 48 Score: 9,843,405

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 160m Q/M, | 80mQ/M | 40m Q/M | 20m Q/M | 15mQ/M | 10m Q/M |
| 816/59, | 1138/59 | 2085/59 | 2035/59 | 1870/60 | 1351/57 |

Note from the Editor: I love seeing articles and stories to share with our group. Keep them coming in. Send me and email to w0pc@aol.com. 73, Rick

GM Net Control Schedule

March 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| Notes: Nets on 7.277.5 MHz, 18:00 Z | 1 WY8I | 2 WA8IHI | 3 W0PC | 4 KB9VF | 5 K8VW | 6 K1RAY |
| 7 | 8 WD9AIH | 9 N8XLS | 10 KC8JLC | 11 WB9YUR | 12 WY8I | 13 WA8IHI |
| 14 | 15 W0PC | 16 K8VW | 17 KB9VF | 18 K1RAY | 19 WD9AIH | 20 KC8JLC |
| 21 | 22 WB9YUR | 23 WY8I | 24 WA8IHI | 25 N8XLS | 26 W0PC | 27 KB9VF |
| 28 | 29 K8VW | 30 K1RAY | 31 WD9AIH | Notes: Schedule with DF4IZ (Walter), every Tuesday at 1615z on 14.277+ or - | | |

GM Net Control Schedule

April 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| Notes: Nets on 7.277.5 MHz at 18:00Z Standard Time or 17:00Z Daylight Time | | | | 1 N8XLS | 2 KC8JLC | 3 WB9YUR |
| 4 | 5 WY8I | 6 WA8IHI | 7 W0PC | 8 KB9VF | 9 K8VW | 10 K1RAY |
| 11 | 12 WD9AIH | 13 N8XLS | 14 KC8JLC | 15 WB9YUR | 16 WY8I | 17 WA8IHI |
| 18 | 19 W0PC | 20 K8VW | 21 KB9VF | 22 K1RAY | 23 WD9AIH | 24 KC8JLC |
| 25 | 26 WB9YUR | 27 N8XLS | 28 WY8I | 29 WA8IHI | 30 W0PC | Notes: Schedule with DF4IZ (Walter), every Tuesday at 1615z on 14.277+ or - 5 kHz |

Hearing from Old Friends

Thank you Rick for the GM Net News it is always nice to hear from the GM Employees, and Retirees I live now (8) eight Years in Central Florida in the Villages. we have a Radio Club here, but with the Antenna Restrictions (No Towers allowed) it is hard to get out, and make good DX contacts, so I am mostly on Southcars (7.251.0 MHZ) and that Band has not been to good lately either. I am active with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and A.R.E.S. I am an A.E.C. for Logistics and during the Hurricane Season are always on Stand By for any Emergency. We are starting a L.A.R.A. Lake County Amateur Radio Club C.W Net next Week on 10 Meters, hope it will go well because we are all a bit rusty with C.W.. Looks like you had a nice Vacation Trip out West. I have a Daughter and Son in Law who live in Reno Nevada they also have a house on Lake Tahoe I always enjoy it there, when the wife and I go for a Visit . This is all for now , hope to hear from you again. Say HI to the Club members. **73, K8QJO (Juenther Noder)**

Other origins of the word "ham"

A few urban legends have arisen to explain the use of the word including:

Ham-Fisted

"ham" is a shortened version of "ham-fisted", meaning clumsy. This is based on the fact that all early amateur radio stations used hand-operated telegraph keys to transmit Morse code, and sending style is referred to as an operator's "fist", so someone who sends badly could be called ham-fisted.

A little station called HAM

This widely circulated but fanciful tale claims that, around 1911, an impassioned speech made by Harvard University student Albert Hyman to the United States Congress, in support of amateur radio operators, turned the tide and helped defeat a bill that would have ended amateur radio activity entirely, by assigning the entire radio spectrum over to the military. An amateur station that Hyman supposedly shared with two others (Bob Almy and Peggie Murray), which was said to be using the self-assigned call sign HAM (short for Hyman-Almy-Murray), thus came to represent all of amateur radio. However, this story seems to have first surfaced in 1948, and practically none of the facts in the account check out, including the existence of "a little station called HAM" in the first place.

Powerpole General Assembly Instructions

<http://www.powerwerx.com/assembly.asp>

Assemble the red and black plastic housings together correctly on the first try, they fit snugly and can be difficult to get apart. See the picture below for ARES /RACES standard orientation. Note that you can assemble the red and black insulated housings in other ways for special applications.

Put the connector housings together before putting the connector pins in, this is easier, especially when using heavy paired wire.

Before soldering or crimping the contacts on to heavy paired wire, orient the contacts so that they are both facing the correct direction so that they go in the housings without twisting the wire.

The plastic housings are held together with dovetail joints. Always slide these joints together! They will be damaged if you try to snap them together or



CORRECT!

The contacts are in proper alignment and ready to push in. Listen for a click on each one to make sure they are fully inserted.



apart. They ONLY slide together in one direction. This should be obvious by looking at them carefully.

Powerwerx recommends the use of slotted retaining pins. Others do not like the possibility of them falling out in service. If your application is critical and that you want to make the pairing permanent you can use a cyanocrylic glue (Crazy Glue) to hold the connector bodies together.

The contacts go in the housings in only one way. Insert the contacts with their sharp edge down against the flat spring that is in the housing. They

should slide in and click. If you do not hear a click or they are not fully seated, fix them. When they are inserted fully you should notice that the contact and it's wire "floats" slightly inside it's housing. When looking in from the front of the housing the contact tip should slide over the top of the internal housing spring. This is the clicking sound that you hear.

Be careful when crimping. You may make the contact out of round and it will not slide into the contact easily. This may occur with different types of crimpers and various gauges of wire. To fix this situation you may have to rotate the contact 90 degrees from the original crimping orientation and re-crimp either with the original crimper or a pair of pliers. In any case you need to make the barrel of the contact round again so it can slide in the housing.

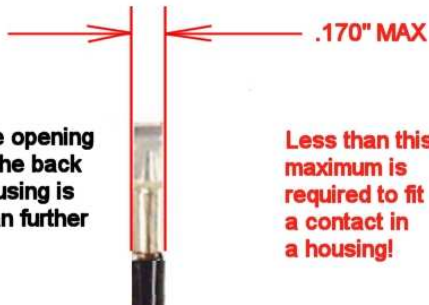
Cutaway view of a Powerpole connector.

Note that the contact must fit through the gap between the housing and the spring and that the contact is snapped over the end of the spring.



Power Poles Done Right

Note: The opening towards the back of the housing is larger than further inside.



Less than this maximum is required to fit a contact in a housing!

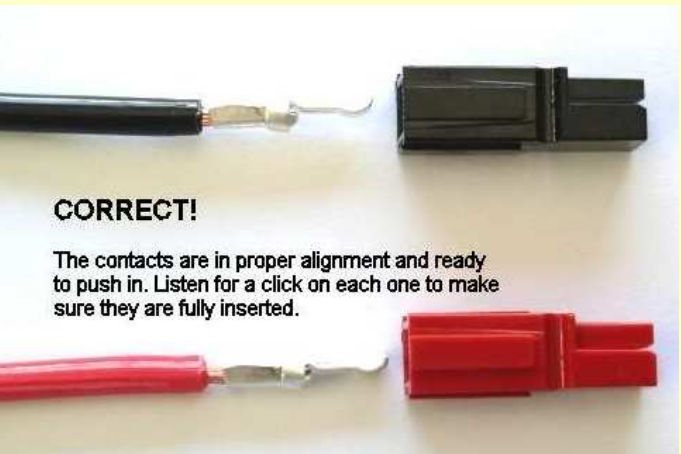
Tug slightly on the assembled connector to make sure the contacts are locked in place. If you have trouble getting the contact to lock in to the housing you may have squashed the contact wider deformed it some how. Look at the side profile of the contacts before and after crimping, you may have to bend it back straight before inserting it in to the housing.

When soldering the contact pins, be careful not to use too much solder. Keep the solder inside, where the wire goes. If

a blob of solder gets on the outside of the connector body you may have trouble putting the contact into the housing. If you get solder on the contact surface area you will not make a good contact.

When crimping the contact pins use a crimp that contains the wire completely inside the pin and doesn't spread the connector apart. A good crimp is one where the dimensions of the crimped portion are no more than an un-crimped pin. If the crimp is flattened out you will not be able to easily push the pin in to the body. If you bend the contact blade in relation to the crimp area you should straighten it before putting it in to the body.

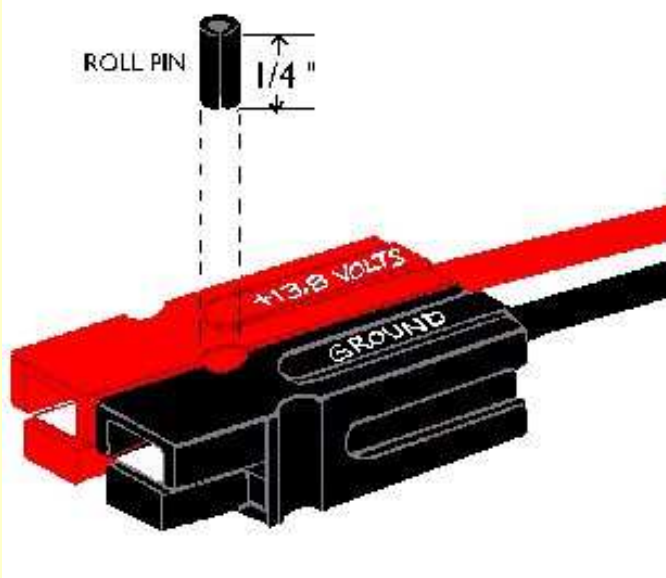
It is possible to use larger or smaller gauge wire with the 30 and 45 amp connectors. The 30 amp contacts will work with difficulty with #10 wire if you cut the end cleanly and carefully put each and every strand of that wire in to the pin. It may be easier to use



45 amp connectors on #10 wire. Using 16 gauge or smaller wire in a 30 amp contact requires that you double or triple up the wire to fill the crimp receptacle of the contact to get a good crimp.

A properly crimped contact should have a minimum hold on the wire of more than 25 pounds. A pair of connectors should snap together with 6 to 8 pounds force.

Last but not least, **MAKE SURE** you have the polarity correct before plugging in you equipment. "Measure twice, cut once" as the saying goes.



WD-40 Refresher course

A refresher course--who knew?

I had a neighbor who had bought a new pickup. I got up very early one Sunday morning and saw that someone had spray painted red all around the sides of this beige truck (for some unknown reason). I went over, woke him up, and told him the bad news. He was very upset and was trying to figure out what to do. Another neighbor came out and told him to get his WD-40 and clean it off. It removed it.

The name comes from the project that was to find a 'water displacement' compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. The Corvair Company bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts.

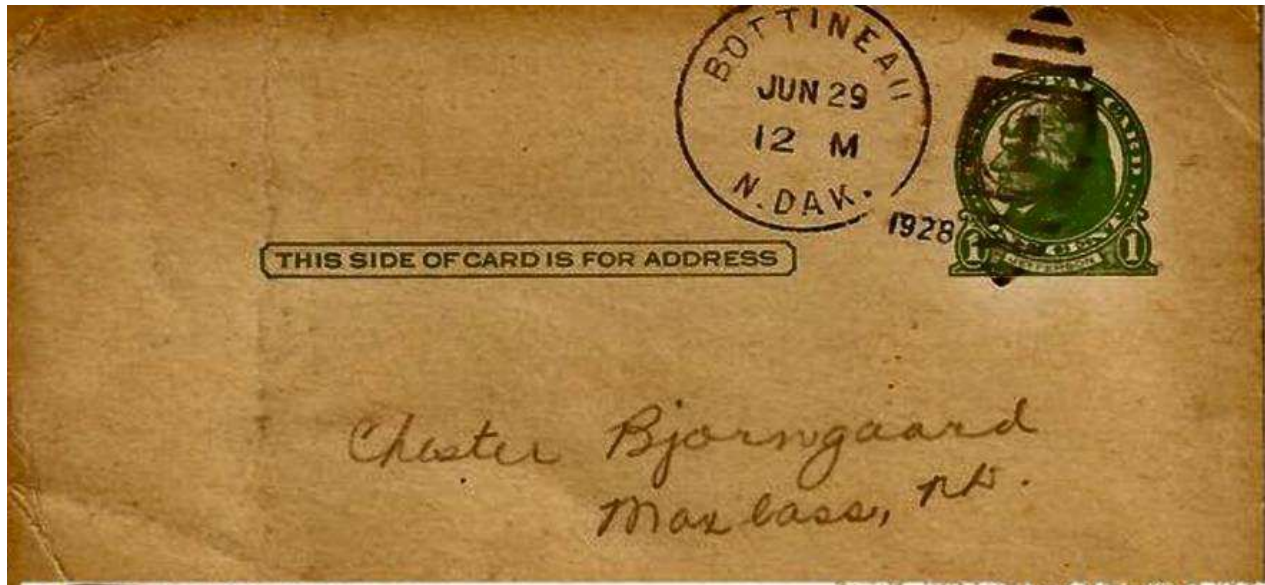
Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you... IT IS MADE FROM FISH OIL. When you read the 'shower door' part, try it. It's the first thing that has ever cleaned that spotty shower door. If yours is plastic, it works just as well as glass. It is a micle! Then try it on your stovetop... It is now shinier than it has ever been before.

- 1) Protects silver from tarnishing.
- 2) Removes road tar and grime from cars.
- 3) Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
- 4) Gives floors that "just-waxed" sheen without making it slippery.
- 5) Keeps flies off cows.
- 6) Restores and cleans chalkboards.
- 7) Removes lipstick stains
- 8) Loosens stubborn zippers.
- 9) Untangles jewelry chains.
- 10) Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
- 11) Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
- 12) Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing.
- 13) Removes tomato stains from clothing.
- 14) Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
- 15) Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors.
- 16) Keeps scissors working smoothly.
- 17) Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes
- 18) It removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor! Open some windows if you have a lot of marks.
- 19) Bug guts will eat away the finish on your car. Removed quickly, with WD-40!
- 20) Gives a children's play gym slide a shine for a super fast slide.
- 21) Lubricates gear shift on lawn mowers.
- 22) Rids kids rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises.
- 23) Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
- 24) Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close.
- 25) Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
- 26) Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
- 27) Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans.
- 28) Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons, and bicycles for easy handling.
- 29) Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.
- 30) Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools.
- 31) Removes splattered grease on stove.
- 32) Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
- 33) Lubricates prosthetic limbs.
- 34) Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
- 35) Removes all traces of duct tape.
- 36) Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain.
- 37) Florida 's favorite use is Cleans and removes love bugs from grills and bumpers.'
- 38) Protects the Statue of Liberty from the elements.
- 39) WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a LITTLE on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big one in no time.
- 40) Fire ant bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.
- 41) WD-40 is great for removing Crayon from walls. Spray on the mark and wipe with a clean rag.
- 42) If you've washed and dried a tube of lipstick with a load of laundry, saturate the lipstick spots with WD-40 and rewash. Presto! Lipstick is gone!
- 43) If you spray WD-40 on the distributor cap, it will displace the moisture and allow the car to start.
- 44) Keep a can of WD-40 in my kitchen cabinet over the stove. It is good for oven burns or any other type of burn. It takes the burned feeling away and heals with NO scarring Remember, the basic ingredient is FISH OIL

If it moves and shouldn't, Duck Tape it...!

1928 Car Repair Mailer.

Less than 100 yrs ago, Automotive repair in 1928... And on a penny postcard from Bottineau, ND.



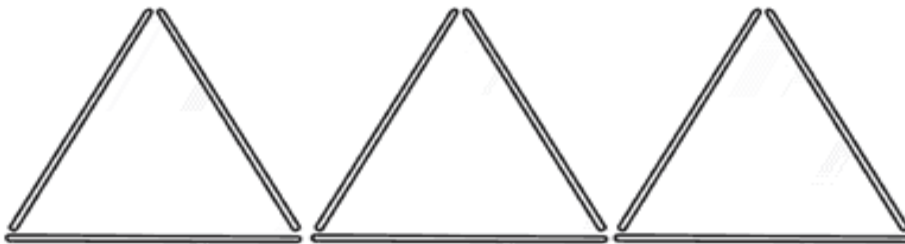
Dear Sir:—
We're writing this letter to you today because we want to help you get your money out of your Model T.
It's still as good a car as it was the day the new Model A Ford was announced and there's no need to sacrifice it.
The Model T Ford is still used by more people than any other automobile. Eight million are in active service right now and many of them can be driven one, two, three and five years and even longer.
Bring your car to us and let us look it over. You'll be surprised to see how little it costs to put it in tip-top shape.
New fenders, for instance, cost from \$3.50 to \$5.00 each, with a labor charge of \$1.00 to \$2.50. Tuning up the motor and replacing commutator case, brush and vibrator points costs only \$1.00, with a small charge for material. Brake shoes can be installed and emergency brakes equalized for a labor charge of only \$1.25. A labor charge of \$4.00 to \$5.00 will cover the overhauling of the front axle, rebushing springs and spring perches, and straightening, aligning and adjusting wheels.
The labor charge for overhauling the average rear axle runs from \$5.75 to \$7.00. Grinding valves and cleaning carbon can be done for \$3.00 to \$4.00.
A set of four new pistons and rings cost only \$7.00. For a labor charge of \$20 to \$25.00 you can have your motor and transmission completely overhauled. Parts are extra.

Very truly yours,
C. R. GLEASON CO.

Bottineau, N. Dak.

Mind Teaser

Your challenge in this puzzle is to move exactly 3 toothpicks in the following arrangement to make 5 triangles. Good luck!



Sketch your solution in the space below.