

TAMIYA TIGER 1 SPRING LOADED FENDERS (LOCATED OVER TRACKS)

By: Jerry Dickinson, ©2020

ALERT!! READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE *BEFORE* STARTING!!

TOOLS NEEDED:

- Magnifier glasses
- Drillmotor or Dremel drill
- Microchuck
- Wire Cutters
- Small Fine File
- Hole Punch
- Center punch or pin prick
- Drill bits: 1mm and #68
- Nut Holder [tweezers with a sliding lock held the nut better as it is extremely small. (see photos)]
- Hobby Knife
- Ruler



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- | <u>Qty.</u> | <u>Part Description</u> |
|-------------|--|
| • 16 | Springs from retractable pens. |
| • | Plastic Sheet or Strip, at least 1/16 inch thick, for making the spring retainers. |
| • 32 | 1mm brass nuts |
| • 4 | 1mm x 120mm brass threaded rod. |

Note: The nuts and rod are available from www.modelmotorcars.com Go to the “hardware store”, and then go to the “nuts” category. Scroll to “low profile 1.mm brass nuts”; Part. No. N010. Buy two packs of 20 each. *Now go to the “threaded rod” category, then to “rod threaded brass”, 1.0 mm x 120mm; Part. No. K004. Buy 4 of these.

THE JOB PART ONE:

First off, take four of the rods and thread eight nuts onto each one. Space the nuts so there is two of them in between each cut. Measure, then cut your rod sections into pieces slightly longer than the springs you will be using. You should end up with 16 rods with 2 nuts on each one.

Run a nut down to the end of each rod, dress it down. This will be the showy part on the outside of the fender. File the other ends of the rods; then run the other nuts off the rods. This helps to clean the thread ends; which makes starting the plastic retainers and the incredibly small nuts easier.

Now take whatever plastic stock you are using and drill 16 holes using a #68 drill bit. Drill the holes before cutting the plastic into smaller sizes, regardless the method used to make them. This will make it easier to hold the work for drilling.

Cut the plastic stock into sizes that are slightly bigger than the diameter of the spring that you are using. Then, using a piece of rod; pre-thread the hole in each of the plastic retainers you have made. Now set all of this stuff aside while you work on the fenders.

THE JOB PART TWO:

Saw or scribe the fenders into 8 pieces. File down the edges so there will be no interference with the neighboring fenders. Now is a good time to add battle damage if you so wish. Number the fender piece locations on the hull so everything will line up later.

Next carefully cut the two inner bolt heads off of each fender. Then center-punch where the bolt heads were. Then drill a 1mm hole through each one.

Now place one of the fenders up to the hull and either mark where to drill the holes or, as I did it; just hold and drill in one operation. Whatever works for you. The key is to just mount one fender at a time. Things line up better this way.

ONE CRITICAL STEP IS TO WALLOW OUT VERTICALLY THE 1mm HOLES THAT ARE DRILLED THROUGH THE HULL. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN SNAPPED RODS.

INSTALLATION:

Insert one of your pre-built rods into the fender, then through the hull. Place the spring over the rod and thread on the plastic retainer. Repeat with the second rod.

Adjust the tension to where the fender just springs back. The plastic retainers have plenty of grab on the rods, so you probably don't need the back up nuts. It's your choice.

One by one, repeat this process with the other seven fenders. Trim the rod ends, if needed and you are ready to roll.

NOTE: This technique should work with other vehicles as well. You could experiment with shorter springs, if clear spacing is a problem. To view pictures of this build go to modelmotorcars.com. Then go to the "museum" section. Click on the "scale hardware branch". My Tiger 1 project should be there. In a future article, I will show you how to spring load the rear fenders; another popular item to leave on the battlefield.

