



Instructions for Separating and Joining #25 Pitch Plastic Chain



The #25 Pitch Plastic Chain included in the GEARS-IDS kits is made from Nylatron, a wear-resistant nylon filled with molybdenum disulfide (MDS). The tensile strength of the chain is approximately 75lbs.

The chain was selected because of its high strength to weight ratio. In addition to light-weight, the chain does

not require the use of master links which can easily be lost and are troublesome in classroom environments.

The drawback to this chain is the difficulty with which the links are separated. Special measures must be taken to separate the links. The chain links are held together with a snap fitting. The manufacturers advertise that the chain “Snaps apart easily”. While it does snap apart, it is not easily.

The technique we recommend is as follows:

1. Obtain a small flat jewelers screwdriver, a small pair of bent nose needle nose pliers and an (approximately) 8” square piece of pine or pine plywood.
2. The pine board is used as a platform on which to work on the chain. This will prevent marring the surface of a desk or table top.
3. Grasp the inside link with the needle nose pliers.
4. Insert the jewelers screwdriver between the inside and outside links. This is best done at the link pin. (The point around which the links pivot)
5. Twist the screwdriver so as to separate the inside link from the outside link.
6. Use the screwdriver to pry the outside link free by popping it off the pin.
7. Repeat this procedure for the other side.