

A MINI-LENGTH LIMIT

Dear Windy,

I've heard or read somewhere that aviation types should not use more than 6 inches of double-twist safety wire between tension points unless otherwise directed.

TM 55-405-3 (Jul 66) says nothing like this. Could you give me a reading?



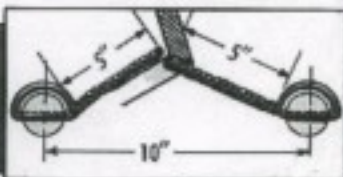
SSG P. R. E.

Dear Sergeant P. R. E.,

Your pub peepers and memory markers are lock-wired in Numbah One shape.

Military Standard No. 33540 (6 May 53 w/changes) is the general guide for safety wiring. Para 6 says that lock-wiring will not be used to secure bolts, nuts, screws, etc., which are more than 6 inches apart. Exception:

If you run the wire thru tie-points on adjacent parts that will shorten the lock-wire span to less than 6 inches, you can use a longer piece of wire.



Here're a few more infobits on safety wiring:



.032-in double twist safety wire gets 8 to 10 twists per inch.

Pigtails will be 1/4- to 1/2-in long (3 to 6 twists).

Twist safety wire tight enough so that the loop around the bolt head stays put and will not slide up over the head.



When castellated nuts are safetied, tighten the nut to the low side of the torque range — unless otherwise specified — and tighten until a slot aligns with the hole. Always use new safety wire.

