

B DROP WIRE SPLICE (AT-9015)

DESCRIPTION AND USE

CONTENTS	PAGE
1. GENERAL	1
2. PRECAUTIONS	1
3. DESCRIPTION	2
4. SPLICING F DROP WIRE TO F DROP WIRE	2
5. SPLICING C DROP WIRE TO F DROP WIRE	6
6. SPLICING C DROP WIRE TO C DROP WIRE	8
7. ISSUING ORGANIZATION	8

Figures

1. B Drop Wire Splice	2
2. B Drop Wire Splice—Cutaway	3
3. Inserting F Drop Wire	3
4. Securing Drop Wire	4
5. Aligning Ridge Tracers	5
6. Completed Splice—F Drop Wire to F Drop Wire	5
7. F Drop Wire and C Drop Wire	6
8. Installing C Wedge	7
9. Inserting C Drop Wire	8
10. Splicing C Drop Wire to F Drop Wire	8

1. GENERAL

1.01 This practice covers the description and use of the B drop wire splice which is used to splice C and F drop wire.

1.02 This practice is reissued to:

- Add Precautions
- Show updated C wedges and the method for splicing C drop wire.

Revision arrows are used to denote significant changes.

1.03 The B drop wire splice is designed for splicing C and F drop wire only. It should *not* be used for splicing C rural wire, tree wire, or buried service wire.

Note: Do not splice C or F drop wire if the outer insulation is cracked or crumbling.

1.04 To determine if adequate service life is remaining, bend the end of the drop wire back to a diameter approximately equal to the thickness of the jacket. If the jacket shows evidence of cracking at the outermost fibers, the wire is not suitable for splicing and should be replaced. Two or three adjacent tests should be made to confirm the condition.

1.05 For information on stringing sags for drop wire, see Practice 462-400-200.

2. PRECAUTIONS

2.01 To ensure maximum safety while working in a roadway or other traffic area, use the appropriate warning devices to guard the work area as described in Practices 620-135-010 and 620-135-100.

2.02 Before starting the splicing operation, make sure the drop wire is not in danger of contacting any energized electrical wires.

2.03 Wear appropriate eye protection while cutting the ends of the drop wire.

2.04 Do not use more than one drop wire splice per span, or more than one per drop run between pole or building attachment and the terminal. Follow

local practices for placement and the number of drop wire splices allowable in a given condition.♦

3. DESCRIPTION

3.01 The B drop wire splice (Fig. 1) consists of a molded plastic splicing shell, two F wedges (for use with F drop wire), two C wedges (for use with C drop wire), and instructions for use. It weighs approximately 1.5 ounces.

3.02 The B drop wire splice is equipped with a No. 8 clearance hole (Fig. 2) which permits fastening to a pole or structure in nontension applications.

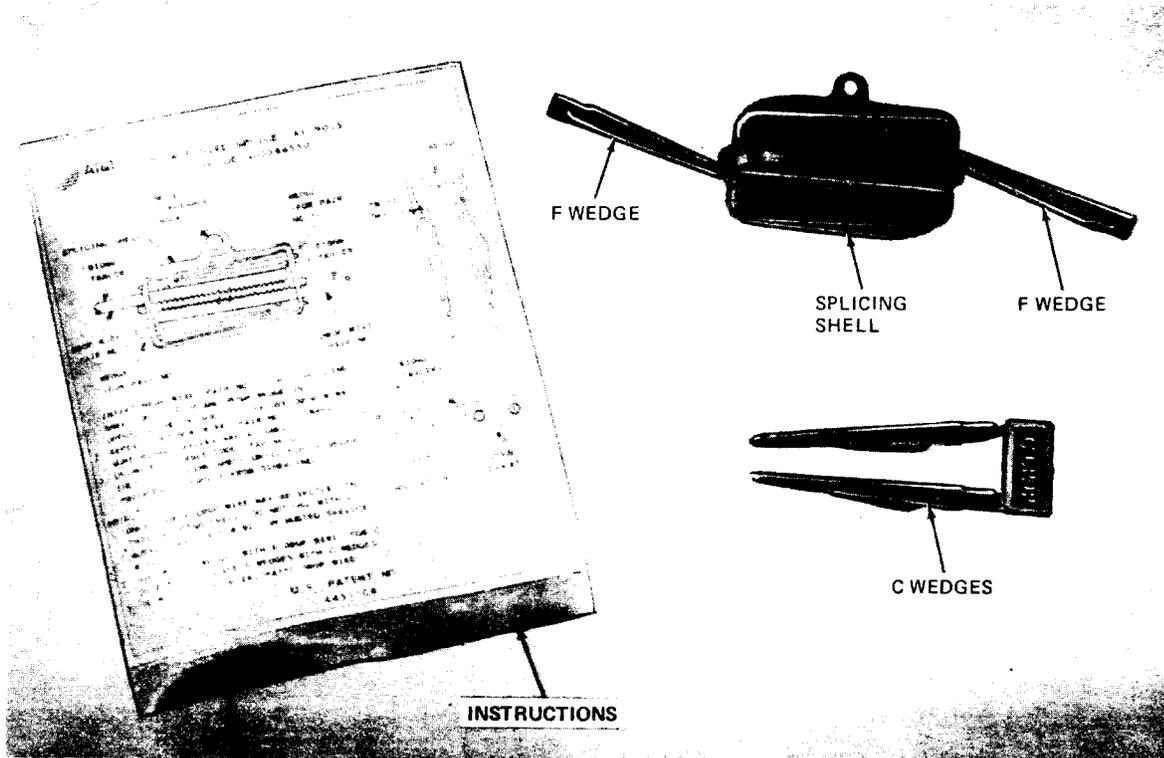
3.03 The plastic splicing shell (Fig. 2) has a serrated center partition with integrally molded terminals which provide the electrical connections.

The drop wire is held against the partition by diagonally opposing wedges inserted into each end of the shell. An encapsulant provides moisture resistance.

4. SPlicing F DROP WIRE TO F DROP WIRE

4.01 Square-cut the ends of the drop wires and make a 30-degree bend, toward the center of the drop wire splice, approximately 1 inch from the end of the drop wire (Fig. 3).

4.02 Insert F drop wire (pair one) into one end of the splicing shell marked **WIRE IN** and push it until it stops (Fig. 3). Make sure the F wedge is in the correct position.



♦Fig. 1—B Drop Wire Splice♦

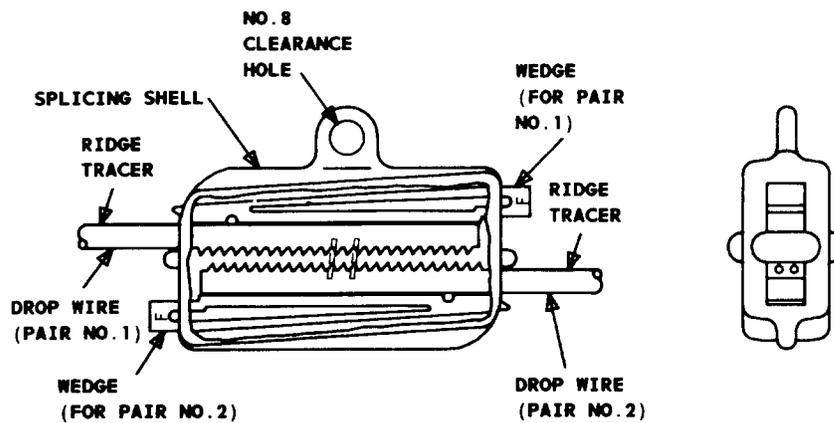


Fig. 2—B Drop Wire Splice—Cutaway

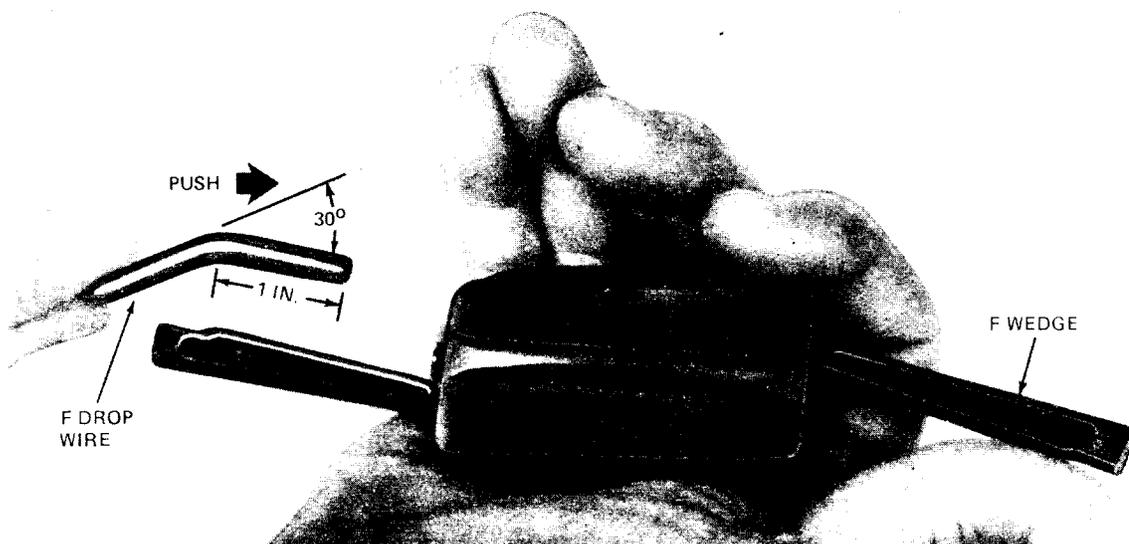
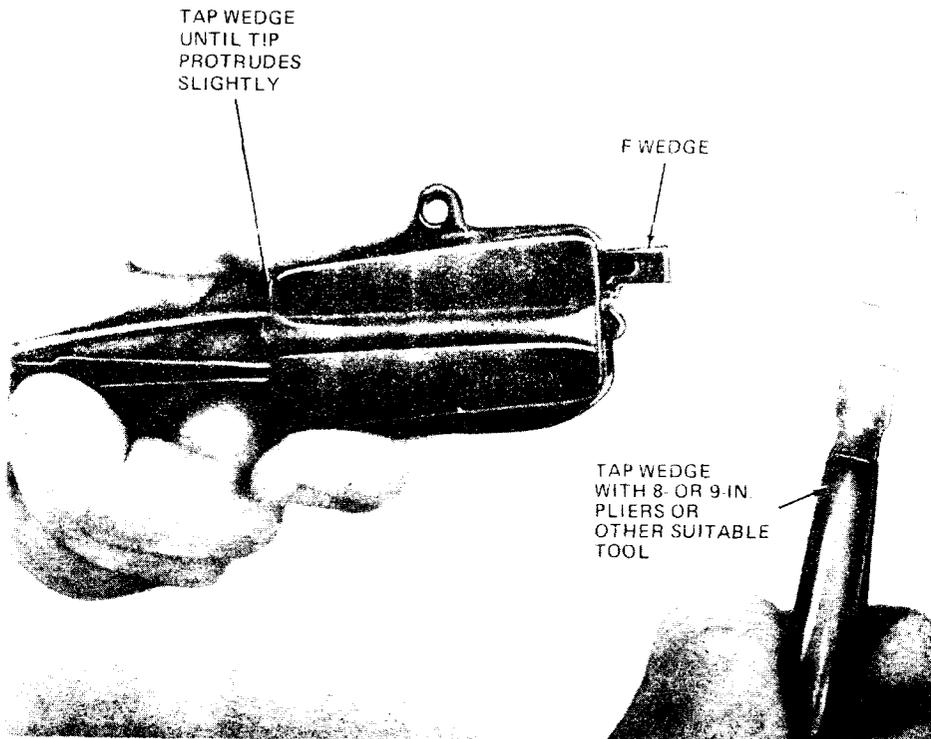


Fig. 3—Inserting F Drop Wire

4.03 Push up on the wedge to release it from the partition. At the same time, continue pressure on the drop wire so the wedge remains on top and push the wedge in as far as it will go using your thumb or the heel of your hand. Tap the wedge with a pair of pliers, or other suitable tool, until the tip of the wedge protrudes slightly from the end of the shell (Fig. 4).



◆Fig. 4—Securing Drop Wire◆

4.04 Locate the ridge tracer on the second drop wire (pair two) and align on the same side of the splicing shell as the ridge tracer on pair one (Fig. 5).

4.05 Insert pair two into the other end of the splicing shell marked **WIRE IN** and push in until it stops. Push up and in on the wedge, then tap the wedge with a pair of pliers as described in paragraph 4.03 to secure the wire. Figure 6 shows a completed splice.



Fig. 5—Aligning Ridge Tracers

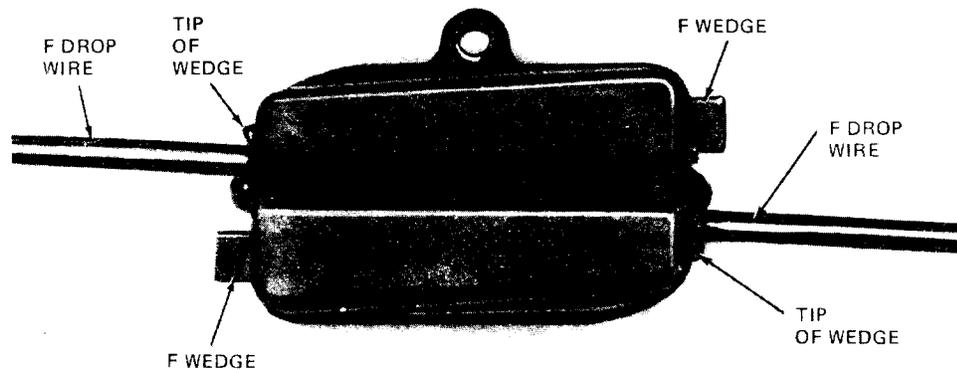


Fig. 6—Completed Splice—F Drop Wire to F Drop Wire

5. SPlicing C DROP WIRE TO F DROP WIRE

5.01 The method of splicing C drop wire to F drop wire is similar to splicing F drop wire to F drop wire with the exception of the wedge for the C drop wire. The C drop wire has a slightly larger cross-section than F drop wire and has a double layer of insulation (Fig. 7). The C drop wire must be spliced using the C wedge.

5.02 When splicing C drop wire, a section of the outer neoprene jacket (insulation) must be removed before inserting the wire into the B drop wire splice.

5.03 Remove a 3/4-inch long section of outer neoprene jacket and cotton cover 5/8 inch from the end of the wire on one flat surface along the length of the drop wire. The neoprene jacket and cotton cover may be removed with a skinning knife or diagonal pliers. The side of the wire with the cutout section must be turned toward the center of the splicing shell, so make sure the ridge tracers will align on the same side of the splicing shell before making cutout.

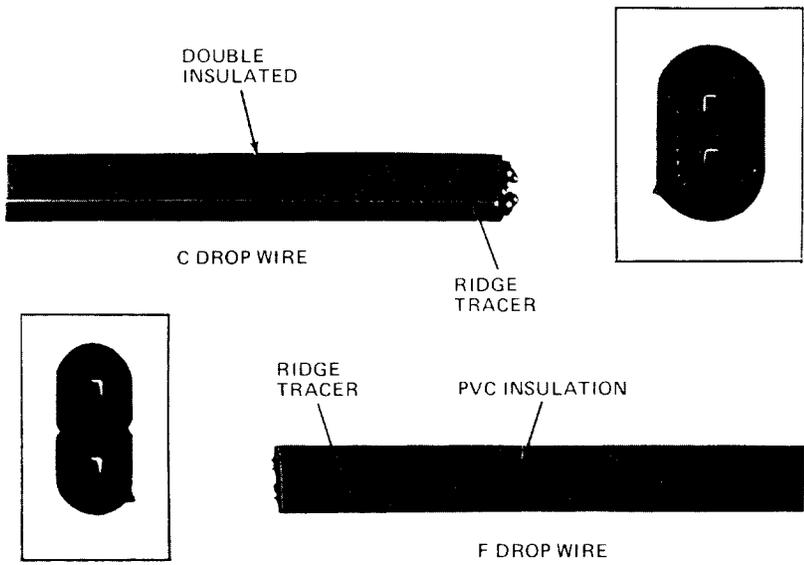
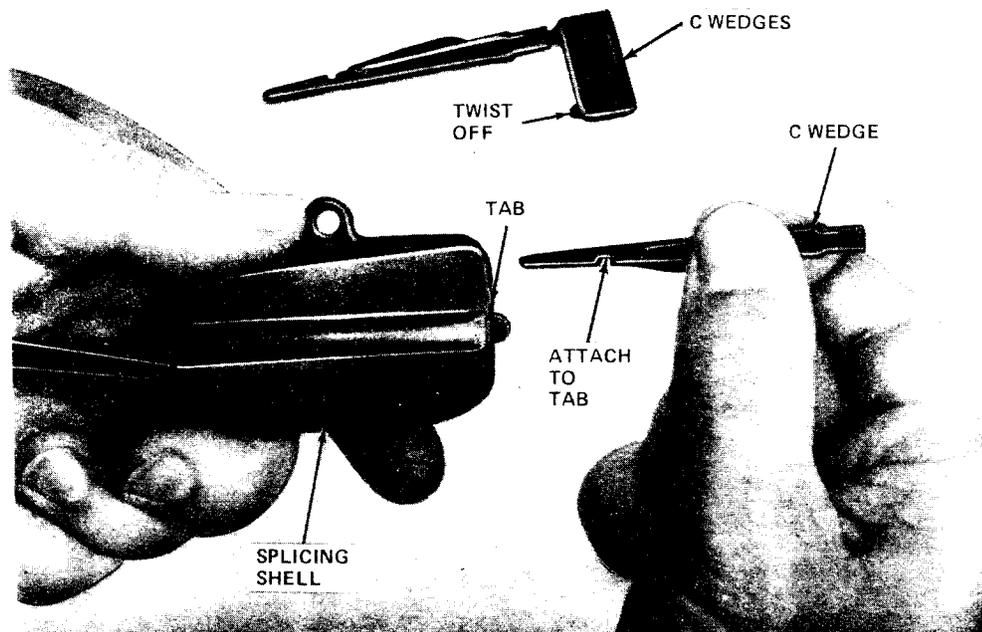


Fig. 7—F Drop Wire and C Drop Wire

5.04 To replace the F wedge with a C wedge, push up on one of the F wedges in the shell releasing it from the partition and remove it from the shell. Insert the C wedge in the opening where the F wedge was removed (Fig. 8). Snap it on the tab from which the F wedge was removed and position such that when the drop wire is inserted the wedge will be on top.



◆Fig. 8—Installing C Wedge◆

5.05 ♦ Make a 30-degree bend, toward the center of the drop wire splice, approximately 1 inch from the end of the drop wire and insert the prepared C drop wire in the opening marked **WIRE IN** opposite the C wedge. ♦ Push the drop wire in until it stops. Push up and in on the wedge to secure the drop wire (Fig. 9). Make sure the wedge is on **top** of the drop wire. Tap the C drop wire wedge with a suitable tool until the tip of the wedge protrudes from the end of the shell (Fig. 10).

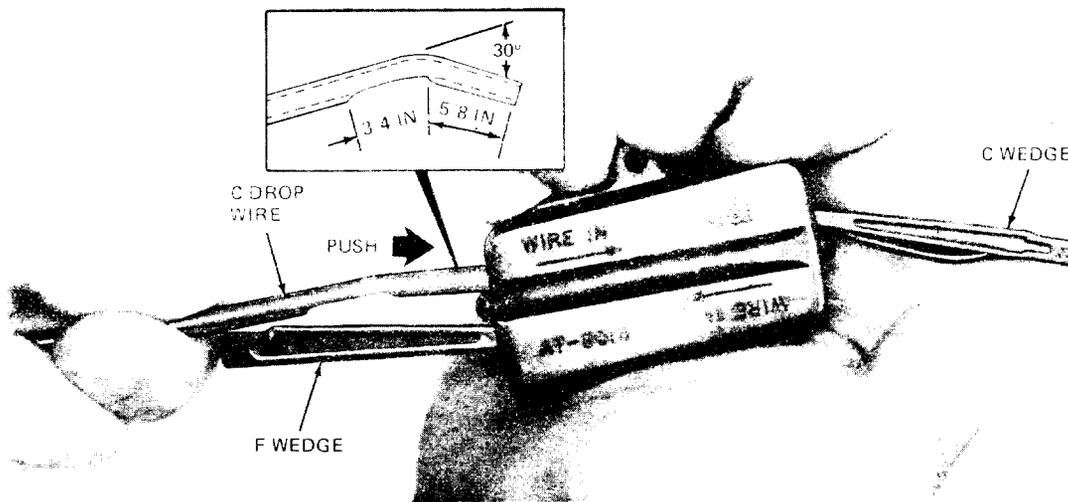
5.06 Align the ridge tracers of the C and F drop wire and install the F drop wire as outlined in paragraphs 4.02 and 4.03.

6. SPLICING C DROP WIRE TO C DROP WIRE

6.01 The method for splicing C drop wire to C drop wire is similar to the method for splicing C drop wire to F drop wire with the exception that the C wedges are used in both ends of the splicing shell.

7. ISSUING ORGANIZATION

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♦Fig. 9—Inserting C Drop Wire♦

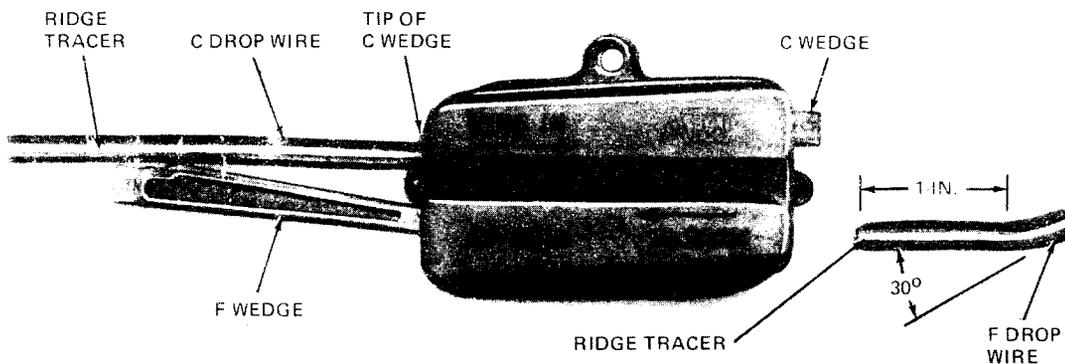


Fig. 10—Splicing C Drop Wire to F Drop Wire