Surface Mount your PowerPole Connectors
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Introduction

Anderson PowerPole connectors have become a de-facto DC connector standard for a large part of the ham community. I, personally, have converted all my DC connectors to Anderson PowerPoles. You can purchase mounting brackets for multiple PowerPole connectors from various sources. But I needed a way to easily surface-mount some of these connectors on my workbench.

Surface-mount Support

While pondering this problem, I happened to notice that there is a square indentation on one face of the PowerPole connector (see Figure 1 below). Using this as a drilling guide, I drilled a 1/8" diameter hole through the connector at this point. Now I was able to use #4 hardware with this drilled connector as an end piece to support the desired connectors. In my case, I needed two pairs of PowerPole connectors for my workbench. So besides the two end supports and the two pairs of PowerPole connectors, I also wanted one blank connector in the middle to separate the two pairs to ensure a DC plug couldn't accidentally be plugged into the wrong spot. I also filled the two end supports and the blank middle piece with some hot-glue to also keep from plugging anything into them. Then, I cut out a small piece of plastic sheet to use as a support for the connectors.

The "Parts" photo shows the plastic piece, all the PowerPole pieces, and the #4 hardware. The "Bottom" photo shows the bottom of the assembly with double-sided tape (two layers needed to clear the screw heads). I could have run wood screws directly into my desk, but I decided I'd rather use the double-sided tape. The "Mounted" photo shows the assembly mounted in place. The "Lab View" photo shows the assembly in place, alongside the Astro-Flight current meters (see the "Useful and Inexpensive Tools and Supplies for the Ham" article elsewhere on this web site). And finally, the "Close-up" photo gives you a better look at the assembly itself.

Conclusion

If you have a need to surface-mount some PowerPole connectors, give this idea a try. It's simple and cheap!

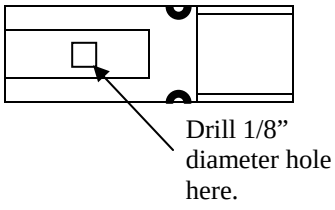
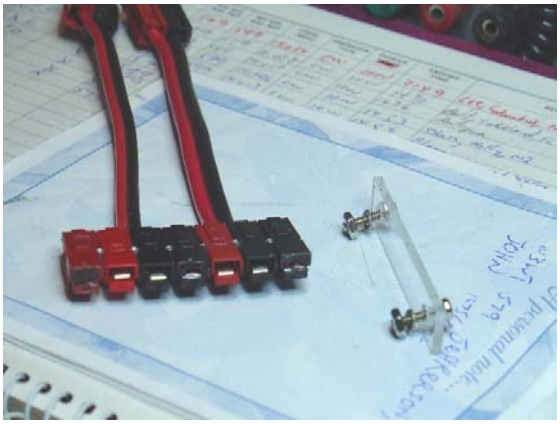
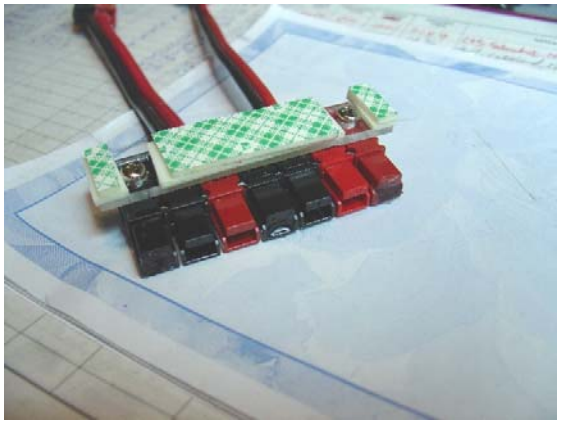


Figure 1: Drilling Location



All Parts



Bottom with double-sided tape

Assembly mounted in place

PowerPole assembly & Astro-Flight meters

Close-up with Astro-Flight meters