

Land Rover Discovery Sunroof Rail Repair Procedure

The procedure described herein is the one I used to repair my 1994 sunroof rails (front and back).

Please make sure you have the available tools before proceeding with this. Also, please consider that if you mess it up, you will have to buy new or used rails. I suggest that you check the price of the rails before.

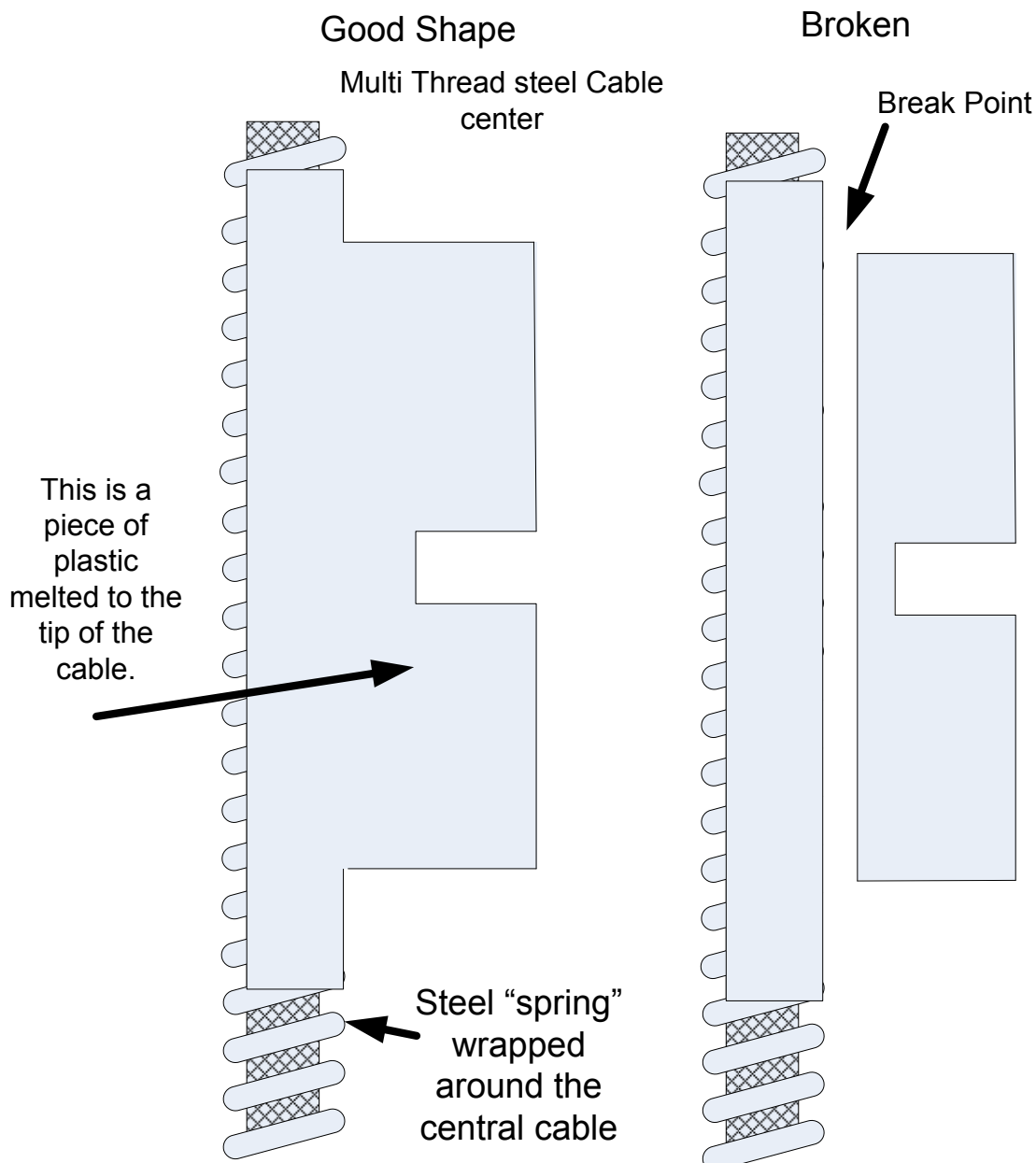
Follow this procedure at your own risk!!! During this repair, the sunroof glass is not hold against the body of your car, so you must take it out while driving, and keep the car inside a roofed area until you replace the rails.

If you have comments or questions, send them to carlosarana@gmail.com

Check the rave cd or any other source of information and get the procedure to remove the sunroof rails. After that, you will have in your hands the sunroof rails. Each rail has a flexible piece that is a special kind of cable.

That cable must be strongly connected to the main rail assembly. If you pull the cable and it goes out of the rail, then you can use the procedure described here.

The problem occurs when a piece of plastic that is melted to the tip of the cable breaks. When the piece is in good working condition, The tip of the cable looks like the drawing in the left. The broken tip is in the right.



Land Rover Discovery Sunroof Rail Repair Procedure

Step 1

With a dremel or a couple of fine tip wire cutter, remove the "spring" that is around the center of the cable.

Step 2

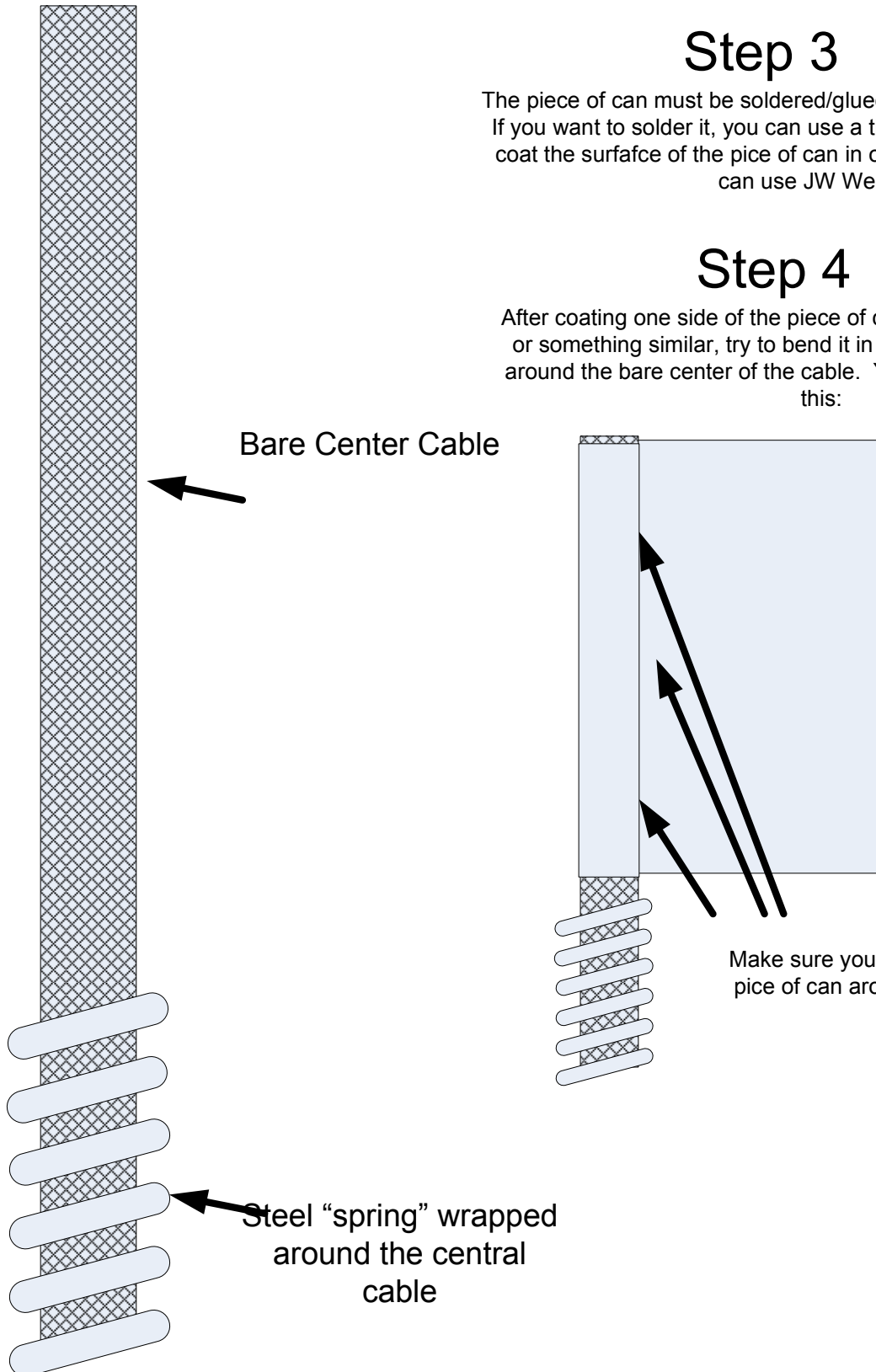
Get a can and cut one square of 1.5 x 1.5 inches. You can get it from a canned food. Must be solid enough to handle the mechanical forces needed to open the sunroof. Use a wire brush and a drill to strip the nickel, plastic, paint, etc. from its surface. If the can you get is too thin, DO NOT USE IT!!!

Step 3

The piece of can must be soldered/glued to the bare center cable. If you want to solder it, you can use a tin welder or your stove to coat the surface of the piece of can in one side. Otherwise, you can use JW Weld.

Step 4

After coating one side of the piece of can, with a vice grip, pliers, or something similar, try to bend it in a way that will be wrapped around the bare center of the cable. You will get something like this:



Step 5

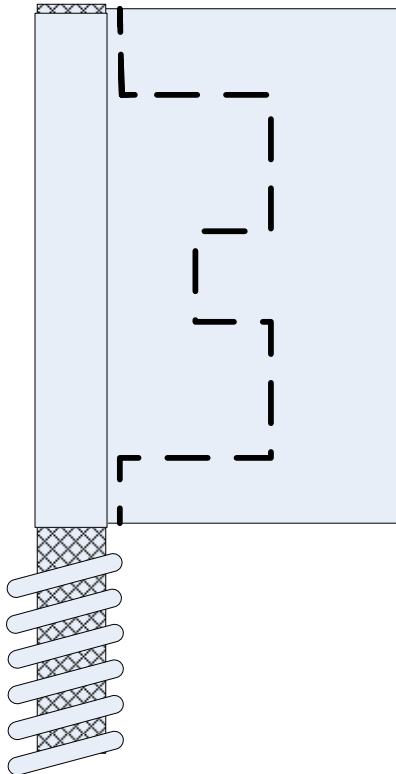
If you coated with tin the piece of can, use your solder to weld it or heat it with direct flame from your stove do complete the weld. While heating, you must keep pressed the two sides of the piece of can in order to get a nice soldering.

If you are going to use JB Weld, then you can soak the complete piece. Be sure that the mix gets between the center of the cable and the tin. You can heat the piece just a bit so the mix melts and penetrates better.

Wait until the glue has dried (24 hrs), or let it cold if you soldered.

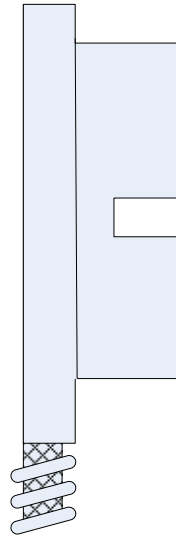
Step 6

With a sharp knife or any other available marker/too, draw in the new piece the form that the original piece had.



Step 7

With a sharp knife or any other available marker/too, draw in the new piece the form that the original piece had. You will end up with a piece like this:



Step 8

Assemble the rails, and make sure you added enough grease on them.

Step 9

Re install the rails and test if the sunroof opens. If there is any problem, you can check what is wrong. Otherwise, you can continue assembling the roof.

Good Luck!