Sometimes, no matter how well we follow directions, or how hard we try, things don’t go well.

If you happen to get a wire stuck in the rivet block, here is what you need to do to get it un-stuck and some considerations for not getting wires stuck in the future!

I recommend using bur-life or something similar on wire to help prevent it from getting stuck. But sometimes they just do get stuck. I have a series of small tools I use to shove them out when I have to. There are several things you want to be careful about when you do this:

- Don't use a pointed tool -- it will spread the end of the wire and make matters worse.

- Don't use a tapered tool whose diameter is larger than the hole you are trying to get the rivet out of. It can easily widen the end of the hole and the next time you go to make a rivet head, it will set the rivet into the tapered hole. Then there is no removal!

Ideally you want a tool that is about an inch long and is the same diameter as the hole or very slightly smaller – with a slight taper leading to a flat end. This gives you the advantage of being able to line up the tool (more likely wire) with the hole and then tap on it gently. Since the wire is the same diameter as the hole, it will not make the hole wider. I use a series of small stainless wires. To drive the wire out, place the rivet block over the square hole in an anvil (or similar hole where the block is well supported all the way around). Place the pin on the back of the stuck rivet being VERY careful to keep it only on the rivet wire. Use a small brass hammer and tap GENTLY -- once the pin begins moving, force it out enough to grab it with pliers from the other side and remove it.

If it is really, really, stuck, you can always drill another hole in the block. Be sure to use a drill press to keep the hole straight. If you don't have a good drill press, you can send it in and Gil can drill a new one for a small fee.