



AMECO K-4 Telegraph Key

Connection and Operation

Two wires connect the K-4 to the device that is to be keyed (code practice oscillator, transmitter, etc). The wires coming from the device will be nominally polarized positive (+) and negative (-) and this polarity should be observed when connecting to the K-4. In **Figure 1** you will see that the positive binding post is on the left. It is connected only to the lower front contact. The negative binding post, on the right, is "ground" or "common," connected to all other parts of the key. To attach the wires to the binding posts, refer to **figure 3** and unscrew the binding post screw until the hole through the post is clear. Insert the bare end of the wire and tighten the binding post screw until the wire is clamped in position. If your wire has a spade lug you can insert it under the head of the binding post screw and clamp it down against the binding post sleeve.

To operate the key, press the knob down until the upper and lower contacts meet, completing the circuit and "keying" the device. The shorting switch is rotated away from the contacts in normal operation. Rotating it toward the contacts will close the key, causing uninterrupted keying until the switch is opened. This is useful for tuning and adjusting equipment and for sending a continuous tone.

Adjustment

There are three adjustments, each consisting of an adjusting screw and a lock nut. The lock nut holds the adjusting screw in place when correct adjustment has been achieved. Contact spacing and lever tension are adjusted simply by loosening the lock nut, turning the screw in or out, and re-tightening the lock nut adjusting the screw. If you have not developed other preferences or are using a straight key for the first time, the contact spacing should be set for about 1/16" or the thickness of a folded business card. Tension should be light enough that you can easily send with minimal effort but adequate control.

The trunnion bearings should be correctly set at the factory, but If it is necessary to adjust them, refer to **Figure 3** and loosen the lock nut. Rotate the bearing cup in or out and re-tighten the nut. When properly adjusted, the lever should sit squarely in the center of the key with the contacts lined up, and move up and down freely with no apparent drag, and little or no perceptible sideways movement or "play."

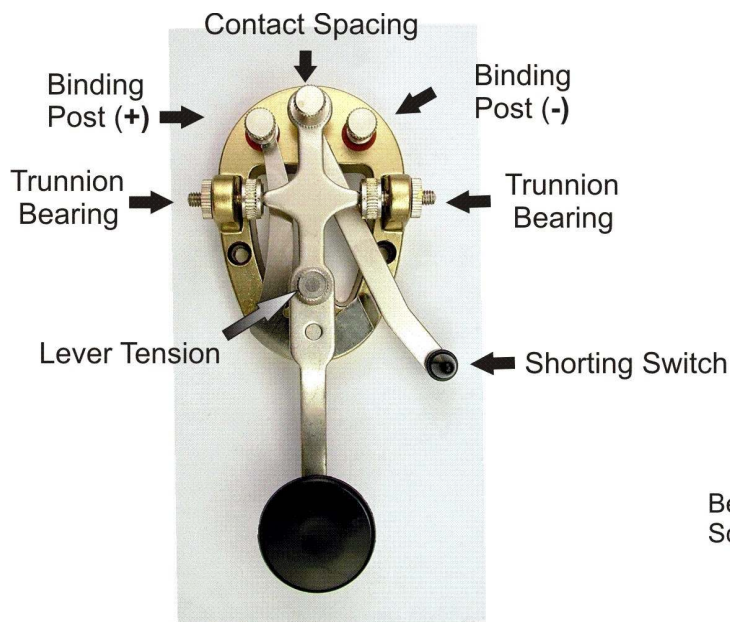


Figure 1

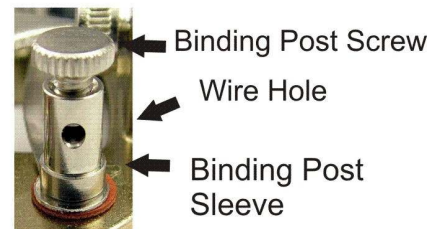


Figure 3

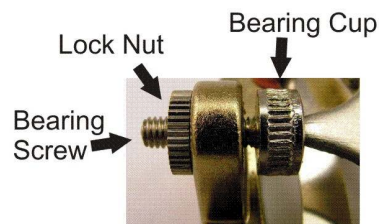


Figure 2