

Elecraft® KXPD3 Precision Keyer Paddles

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The KXPD3 paddles are designed for use with the KX3 transceiver. They mount directly on the KX3 to provide smooth, stable and compact operation anywhere with the KX3 sitting flat or standing on its tilt feet. Each paddle features fully adjustable contact spacing.



Figure 1. KXPD3 Paddles Mounted on KX3.

Parts Included

Included with your fully assembled KXPD3 paddles are the following wrenches and springs that you can use to customize the feel of your paddles. Full instructions for doing so are included on the following pages.

KXPD3 Tension Springs

Your KXPD3 Paddles are supplied with a medium weight spring (E980240) installed. A firmer spring (E980218) and a lighter spring (E980239) are supplied (see *Spring Replacement*, pg 3).

KXPD3 Wrench Set

The wrench set (E850522) includes one 0.035" hex wrench and one 0.050" hex wrench for adjusting the contacts (see *Contact Spacing Adjustment*, pg 3).

Also included is one 3/32" hex wrench required for changing the tension springs.

Mounting the Paddles

Before attaching the paddles to the KX3, be sure the thumb screws are installed so that the screw with the blunt end is on the right hand side when looking down at the top of the paddles side shown below. Reversing the screws will eventually cause a short circuit inside the KX3.

Plug the paddles in carefully, taking care not to bend the pins of the connector inside the KX3, until the paddle housing is flat against the KX3 enclosure. Screw in both thumb screws until they are finger tight.

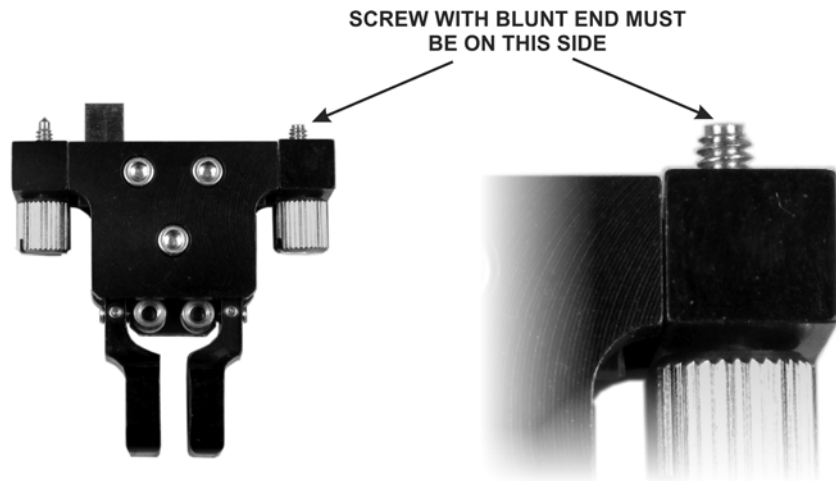


Figure 2. Checking the Mounting Screw Orientation.

Enabling the Paddles

The paddles may be used in right hand, left hand or manual key mode selected in the KX3 menu as follows. See the KX3 Owner's manual for complete CW setup and operating instructions.

- Turn the KX3 on and tap the MODE switch to select CW.
- Set PWR to *0.0* or connect a dummy load to the KX3
- Hold the MENU switch to access the menu. *BKLIGHT* will appear on the display if the menu hasn't been accessed since power was turned on.
- Rotate the OFS / B knob (above the MENU switch) to locate *CW KEY 2*. (*CW Key 1* controls the separate key jack on the KX3 side panel).
- Rotate the VFO knob to choose either *LFT = DOT* (left paddle produces dots), *LFT = DASH* (left paddle produces dashes) or *HAND* (either paddle keys the KX3 as long as it is held closed).
- Tap MENU to exit and test your paddles.

⚠ If one or both paddles fail to key the KX3, first check the contact spacing adjustment below. Also, the keyer will not respond if the thumb screws are not tightened to provide a ground return path.

Contact Spacing Adjustment

Each paddle has a contact adjustment screw and a locking screw that keeps the contact adjustment screw from turning. A wrench for each screw is provided with your KPD3. Be sure to loosen the locking screw before turning the adjustment screw. Do not over-tighten the locking screws. You can damage the threads of the contact adjustment screws, making further adjustment difficult.

⚠ If you back the contact adjustment screw out too far it will no longer reach the stationary contact and the paddle will stop activating the keyer.

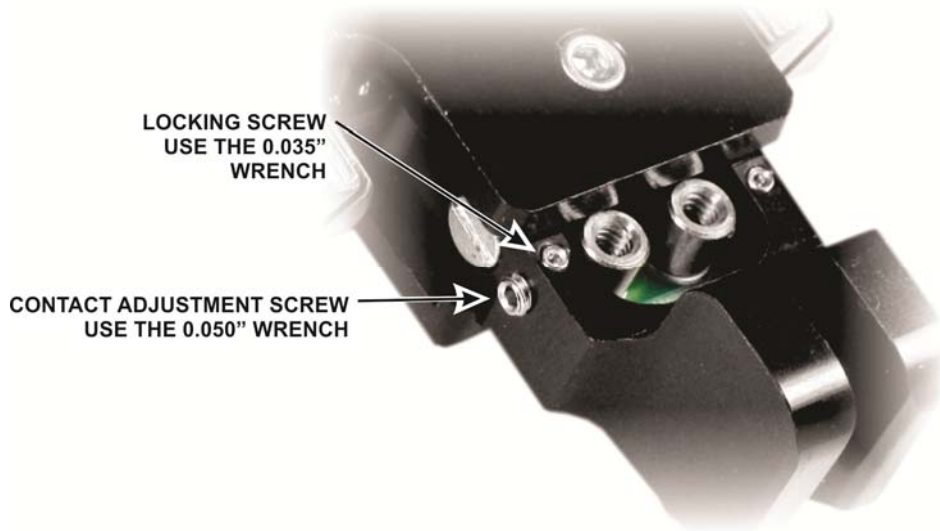


Figure 3. Contact Spacing Adjustment.

Spring Replacement

The KXPD3 is supplied with a medium weight spring installed. If you'd like a lighter or heavier touch, suitable springs are provided with your paddles. Replace the spring as follows.

Remove the KXPD3 paddles from the KX3.

Use the 3/32" (0.09") wrench to remove the three screws shown in Figure 4 and lift the top cover off while holding the paddles closed. The top cover is a tight fit. If you must let go of the paddles to remove it, the spring tension may cause one or both levers may jump over the travel arm stops. If that happens it is easy to reassemble, but take care not to break the wires connecting paddle arm to the pc board. The pivots (Figure 4) may stay in the bottom or come out with the paddle arms.

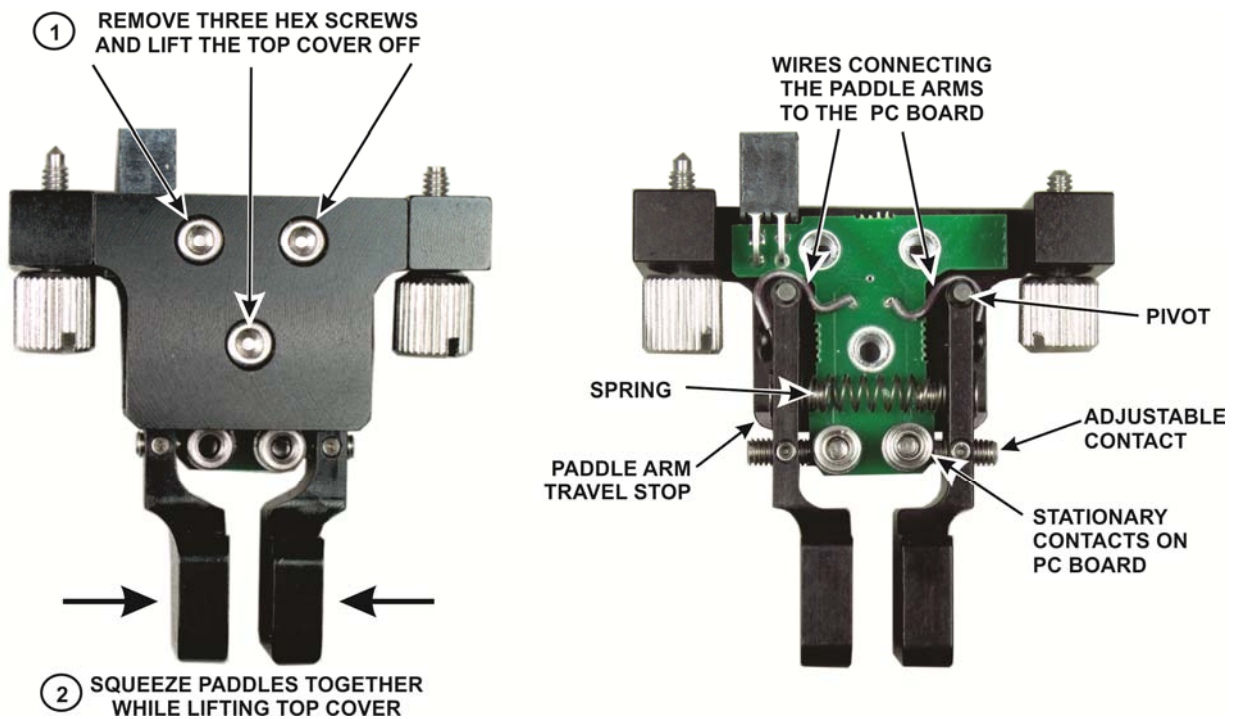


Figure 4. Removing Top Cover.

Free the spring as shown in Figure 5 and replace it with the desired spring. Move the paddle arm back over the travel stop with the spring captured by the screw in each paddle arm, and then hold the paddles compressed together against the stationary contacts while you replace the top.

Be sure that:

- The pivots are in the bottom and top cover recesses.
- The spring is positioned between the screws.
- The paddles are positioned inside the travel stops.
- The pivots fit into the recesses in the top cover.
- You replace all three hex screws securing the top cover.

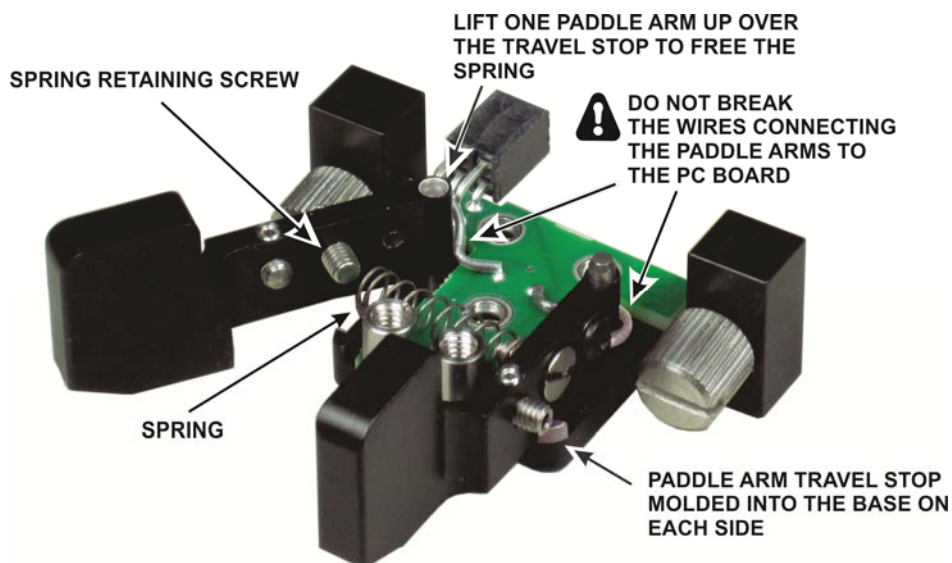


Figure 5. Replacing the Spring.