

Nose Gear Door Actuation

John Vukos (WI - Dave Ronneberg showed me the basic design of the actuation mechanism while he was building the Berkut. He uses a two door arrangement. I went with one door. He just made the actuation link symmetrical on both sides of the spring steel (*see sketch on next page*).

The door is made of 4 - 5 plies BID laid up over foam stuck into the NG housing.

I hinged the door with two pieces of aluminum angle, bushed on the fuselage end, pivoting on two stainless bolts buried in floc in the fuselage. I've seen piano hinge used too.

I located the optimum actuation link attachment/pivot point on the door by trial and error.

The actuation spring is made of 1" wide spring steel, the thickness depends on what width you find; I just hunted around until I found some steel that "felt right".

I put a gradual bend in the spring steel strap that keeps the door open when the wheel is not in the housing.

The actuation link is made of music wire, approximately 3/32" thick. The bend in the wire provides spring action in the link.

I used set collars from a hobby shop to hold the link on the spring steel and on the door hinge. I grooved an aluminum block to accept the actuation link, and riveted it to the spring steel.

This arrangement is simple, light, and works fine.

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