



SERVICE No. 133 BULLETIN

Piper Aircraft Corporation

Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

January 18, 1955

SUBJECT: Landing Gear Down Lock Latches

MODELS AFFECTED: PA-23, 23-1 to 23-63 inclusive, 23-65 to 23-111 inclusive

This bulletin supplements the telegram sent to each PA-23 Apache owner on January 7, 1955. The telegram read, "Request immediate inspection of the three landing gear down lock latches on Apache. If cracked, call factory immediately. Details to follow."

Two Apaches have been found with broken down lock latches and, as yet, it has not been determined what the exact cause is. It may be a weak fitting or the gear actuating cylinder may be out of adjustment. However, to preclude the possibility of cracks starting because of a weakness in the material, it is requested that all three latches be removed and reinforced according to the instructions on the reverse side of this bulletin. It is also requested that the actuating cylinders be adjusted as follows AFTER the latches have been modified.

1. Put airplane on jacks.
 2. Remove top rear engine nacelles.
 3. Disconnect the gear actuating cylinder shaft at the point where it attaches to the "down lock latch".
 4. Remove latches and modify per instructions. (Be sure to magnaflux or dye check for welding cracks.)
 5. Reassemble latch to drag link.
 6. With the drag links in the extended position and the "down lock" firmly latched, and with the actuating cylinders fully extended, adjust the self aligning bearing in the end of the shaft so that the attachment bolt will be a "slip" fit in the bearing and the latch.
 7. Remove bolt and screw the bearing out one-half turn (180°).
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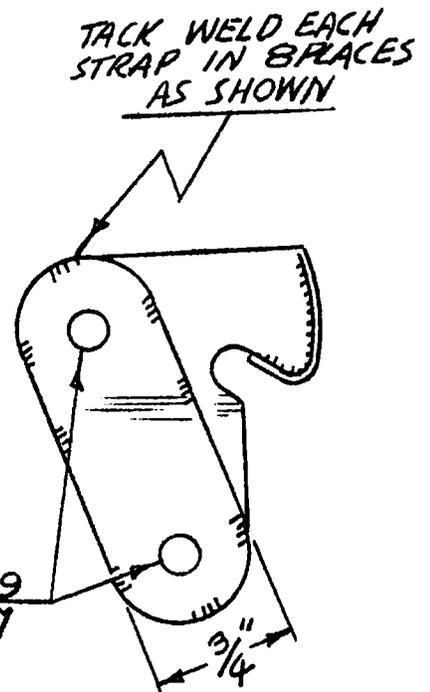
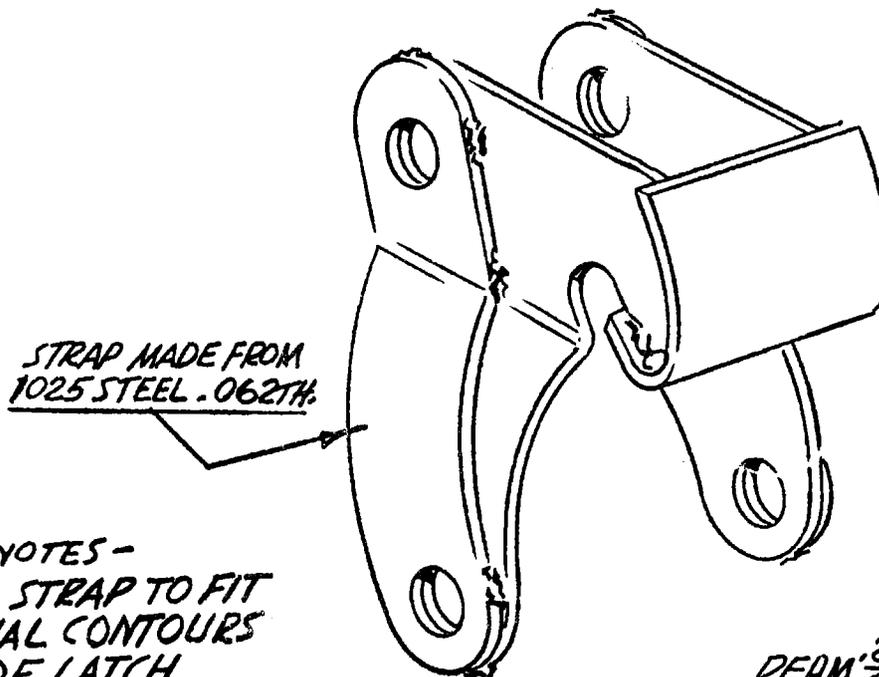
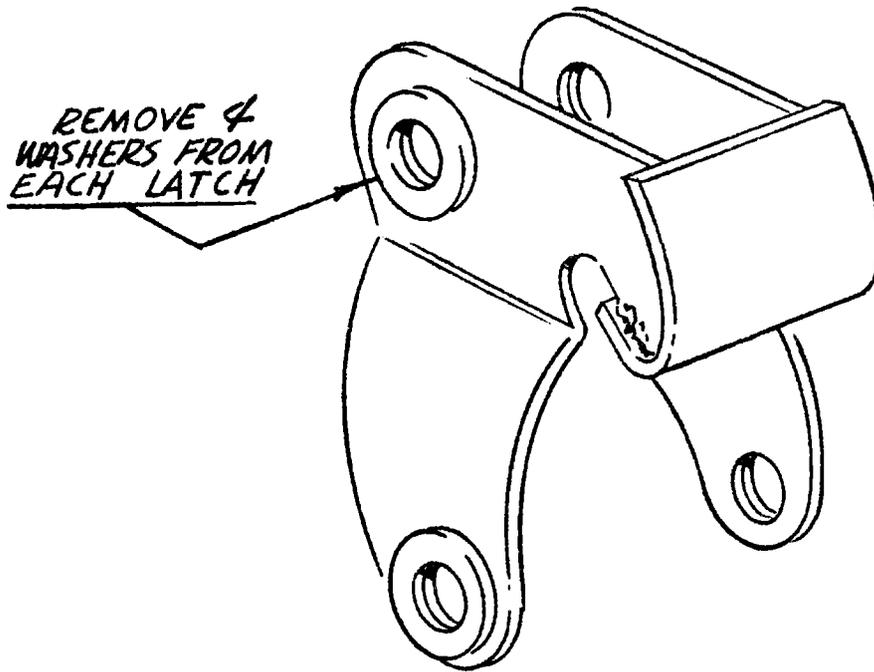
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8. Reassemble bearing and latch by "breaking" the drag link slightly and relieving the pressure in the cylinder by putting gear lever in up position and actuating hand pump.
9. After reassembly, actuate the gears several times, check operation of system as well as position indicating lights.
10. Replace nacelles and remove from jacks.

Four hours warranty labor will be allowed upon receipt of a duly executed Warranty Claim form through the distributor.

NOTE: This change is mandatory and down locks must be inspected every 25 hours until the change can be accomplished.

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-NOTES-

1. FORM STRAP TO FIT ORIGINAL CONTOURS OF LATCH.
2. MAGNIFLUX OR DYE CHECK AFTER WELDING. THIS MODIFICATION APPLIES TO NOSE GEAR AND BOTH MAIN GEARS.