

# Open Source Rover: Corner Steering Assembly Instructions

Author: Eric Junkins, Michael Cox



Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply its endorsement by the United States Government or the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology. ©2018 California Institute of Technology. Government sponsorship acknowledged.

#### Contents

1	3D printing	2
<b>2</b>	Machining/Fabrication	2
	2.1 Shaft Coupler cuts	2
3	Mechanical/Structural Assembly	3

## 1 3D printing

First, print the 3D printed encoder mounts. The STL files for this are located in the Corner Steering Assembly folder, under 3D Printed Parts. If you do not have a 3D printer there are many online 3D printing services available. One such service is:

• https://www.makexyz.com

To order these parts from Makexyz upload the STL file, select FDM under process, and PLA for Material, and then your desired color. You will need a total of 4 of these encoder mount pieces.

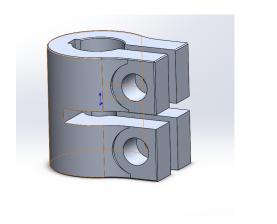
## 2 Machining/Fabrication

## 2.1 Shaft Coupler cuts

### Parts/Tools Necessary

Item	Ref	Qty	Image	Item	Ref	Qty	Image
0.25 Inch - 4mm Shaft Coupler	S23	4		Metal Hacksaw or Bandsaw	N/A	N/A	
Vice Clamp or C clamps	N/A	N/A					

We use shaft couplers to attach a motor shaft to another shaft; in this particular instance the coupler attaches the corner steering motor to a 0.25 inch shaft. This system must hold the max torque that the corner steering system can see to keep the shafts from slipping or free spinning. However, in our testing there was too much material in these couplers to allow them to deform and fully grab around the two shafts. We also make another horizontal cut in the couplers which de-couples the clamping done by each screw. This allows the coupler to grab on each shaft independently which reduces slippage.



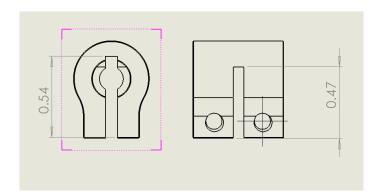


Figure 1: Cutting the Shaft couplers

We used a clamp or vice to hold the coupler while making these cuts. This allowed us to better align the cutting blade with the channel in the shaft couplers **S23** and protected our hands. Use the drawings in Figure 1 to determine how deep to go with each cut.

## 3 Mechanical/Structural Assembly

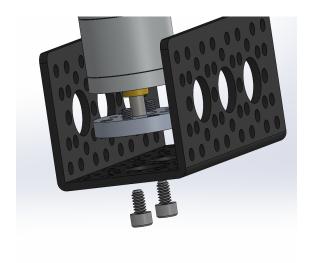
The Corner Steering assembly contains the steering motors which allow the rover to utilize Ackerman steering. One important aspect of this assembly is the use of the bearing blocks. These blocks help to take forces on the motor shaft against the gearbox and minimize lateral moments applied against the motor shaft. By using the bearing blocks, we help protect the motor and motor shaft from these forces that could otherwise damage the motor and its gearbox. The lever arm for the corner steering system is much farther away from the motor

than at the drive motors, where we can get away with directly attaching the load path to the motor shaft.

Parts/	lools	Necessary

Item	Ref	Qty	lmage	Item	Ref	Qty	Image
3 Inch Channel	S2	4		Gearmotor w/o Encoder	E6	4	The state of the s
Motor Mount F	S9	4	1474	Absolute Encoder	E7	4	
0.25 Pillow Bearing Block	S10	8		#6-32 x ¼ Spacer	T1	16	
0.25 Inch D-Shaft	S15	4		#6-32 x ¾ Threaded Standoff	Т3	16	
0.25 Inch - 4mm Shaft Coupler	S23A	4		6-32 x ¼ Button Head Screw	B1	24	
16 Tooth Set Screw Gear	S27	4		6-32 x ¾ Button head Screw	B5	16	6
3D Printed Encoder Mount	S31	4		7/64 Allen Key	N/A	1	

1. **Motor Mount:** Begin by mounting the motor **E6** to the 3 inch channel **S2** using the motor mount F **S9** and screws **B1** as shown.



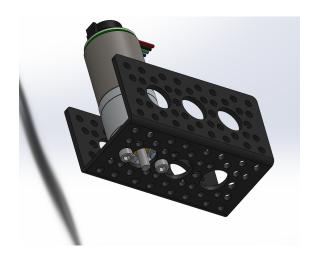


Figure 2: Corner Steering Step 1

2. Shaft Coupler/Standoffs Attachment: Attach the motor shaft to the 0.25 inch D-shaft S15 using the shaft coupler S23. Also take the 0.75inch long standoffs T5 and attach them to the bottom of the channel centered around the motor using screws B1 as shown in Figure 3.

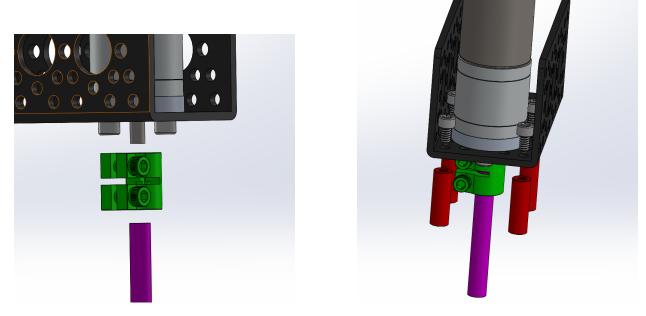
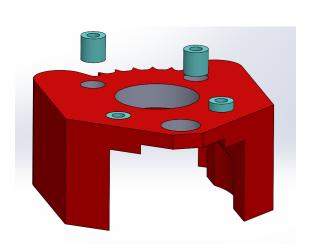


Figure 3: Corner Steering Step 2

3. Encoder Mount: Press the 0.25inch Spacers T1 into the 3D printed encoder mount S31. If they do not fit, you can drill or file out the holes slightly until the spacers fit as shown in Figure 4 (The size and tolerance of the holes will vary slightly based on different 3D printers and materials). Attach the encoder mount and bearings to the threaded standoffs T3 using screws B5 and 0.25 inch pillow bearing blocks S10.



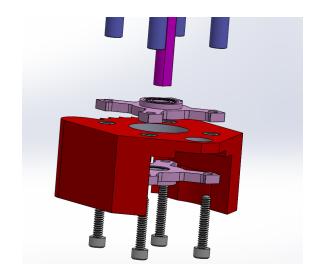
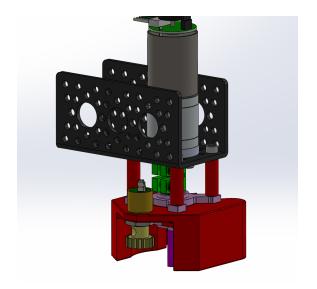


Figure 4: Corner Steering Step 3

4. Encoder: Attach the encoder E7 to the encoder mount S31 and then attach the 12-tooth gear S27 to the encoder shaft. We will worry about its exact position later on. You should now have one finished corner steering assembly. Repeat the steps above to build the other 3 corner steering assemblies. Note that unlike other assemblies, this assembly isn't identical for all four of them! You will need to build two versions where the encoder mount is mirrored about the motor shaft (see Figure 5 for an example).



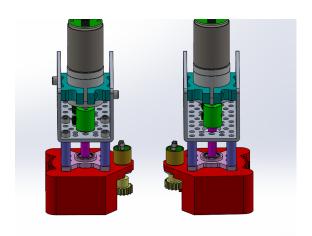


Figure 5: Corner Steering Step 4