



Keeping on the Straight & Narrow

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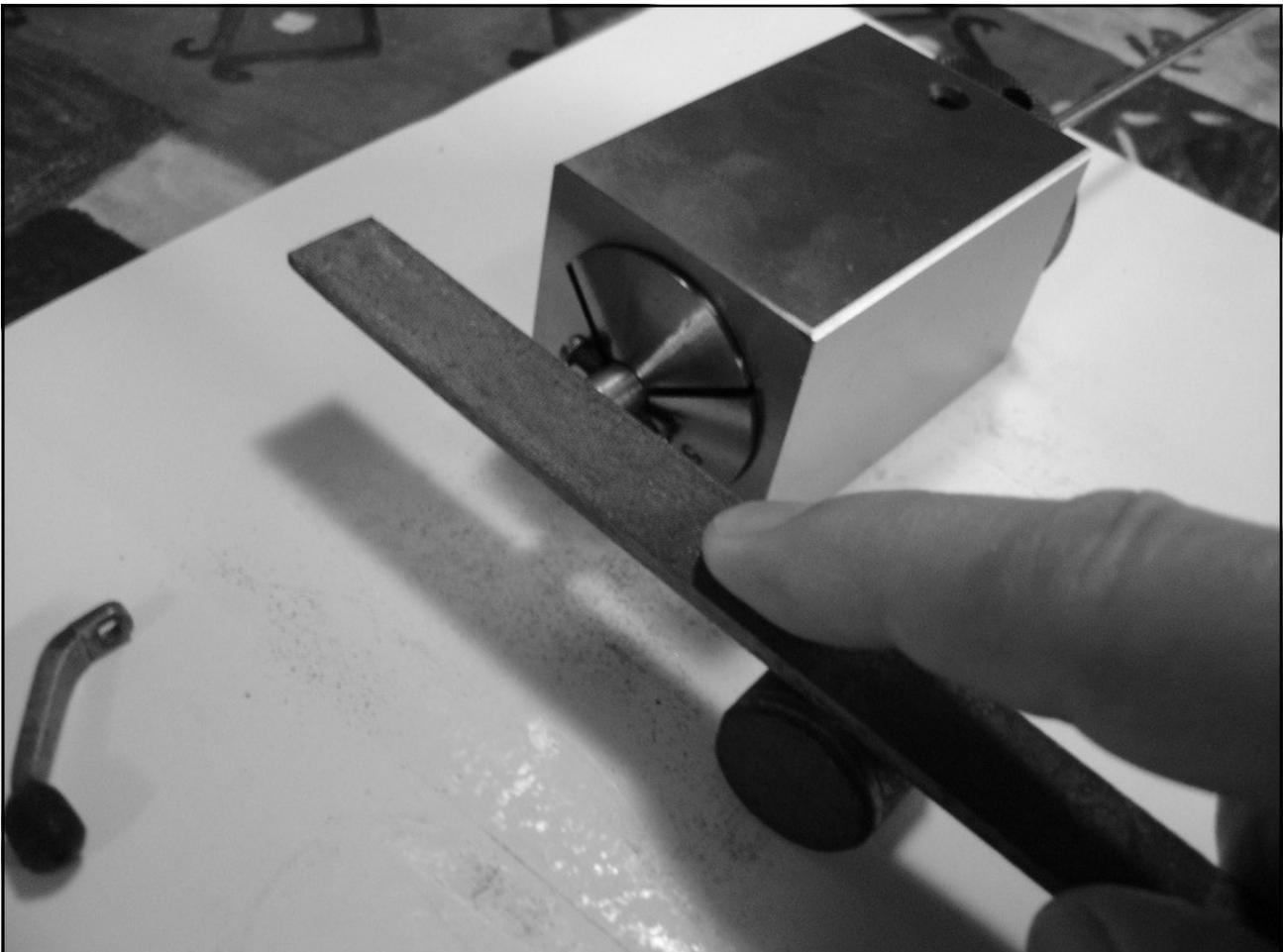
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I've been having problems with raising pressure on the Atlantic for some time now. After much hesitation I decided I had to strip the loco down and have a good look at what was causing the problem. This has been proven to be slow work, with the boiler and in particular it's regulator having been stripped several times over the winter.

One small issue noticed in this process was that the stainless steel regulator spindle was quite pitted where it came through the back head. On the first rebuild (not having any $\frac{1}{8}$ " S/S rod) I fudged it by cutting the rod in half, reversing the pitted end and rejoining the two with a silver soldered copper tube (OK, I know, not wonderful but it worked). As part of this modification, I had to file a small square on the new 'handle' end. This seemed easy enough, but the end result was more like a 'broach' tooth than a square and the handle wobbled badly on it. I clearly could not file straight and level.



As it happened, the regulator didn't seal and so it was back to square one. However, I had by now ordered a replacement length of $\frac{1}{8}$ " stainless rod to replace the modified one. One end was heated red hot and beaten to a flat to fit the regulator disk. So far, so good, but what should I do about my seeming inability to file the end square? I considered several options, each one getting more time consuming and frankly silly. Should I finally make that GHT filing rest for the lathe? I did consider it.

