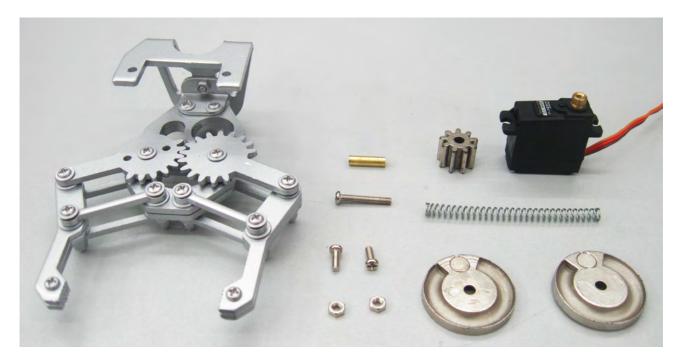
Assembly of Mk II Gripper from



The Mk II robot gripper has many improvements over the original design but like any device controlled by a servo it is important for the servo to be correctly aligned so that the gripper assembly does not limit the servos range of movement.

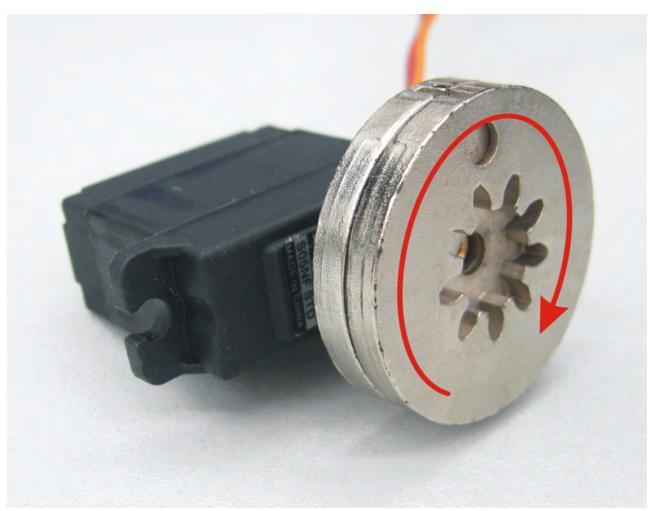


Start by installing the spring in the clutch. Hold the spring in place with one hand while you place the other half on top. When the two halves are joined the magnets will hold the assembly together. The main purpose of the magnets is to lock the clutch when it is not under excessive load.

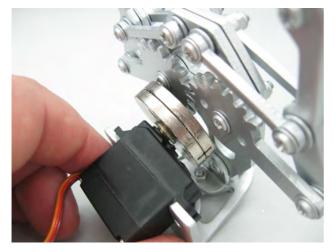


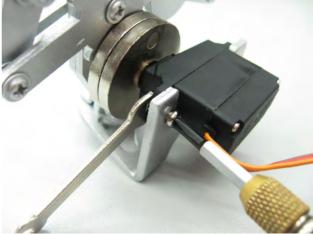


Now fit the clutch onto the servo and rotate the servo fully clockwise. This will be the servos position when the gripper is fully closed. This step is very important to ensure the servo and mechanism is correctly aligned.



Slide the servo and clutch assembly into the gripper and mount with the screws provided. Do not over-tighten the servo mounting screws.





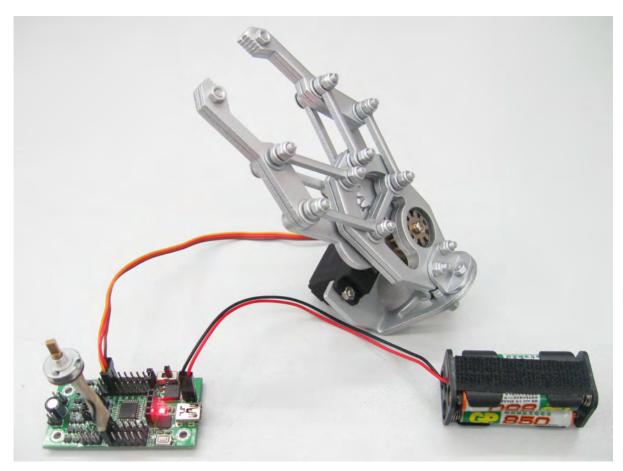
Now move the gripper to the fully closed position. As the servo was also moved to the fully closed position in the previous step they should now be aligned.

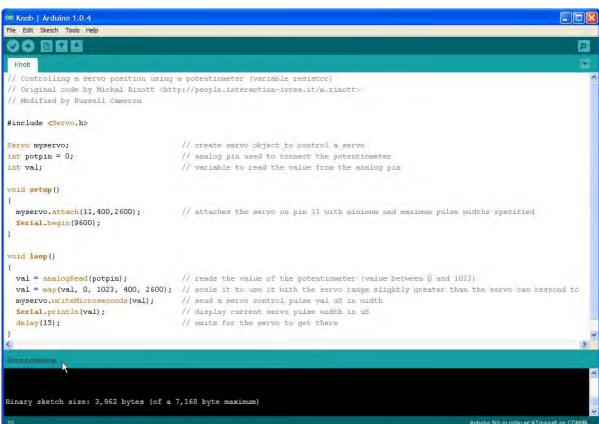


If necessary you may need to force the clutch to slip slightly to get the teeth of the gears to align. Install the clutch pinion gear, brass sleeve and mount them with the screw provided.



Finally connect the gripper to your favorite controller and run some test code. In this photo I am using an Arduino compatible Mini Driver from DAGU and running a slightly modified version of the "Knob" sample code that comes with the servo library.





My modification used the **writeMicroseconds()** command to give me more precise control of the servo. My code displays the position in μS on the serial monitor so that when the servo will not turn any further I can see what the pulse width is.

You may need to experiment a bit to find out what is the full range of your servo. Each servo is slightly different and servo manufacturers can change their design without notice.

When I tested this gripper, the servo responded to pulses from 500uS to 2400uS to get a travel of just over 180°. Beyond this range, the servo could not move.

If your gripper still does not close properly then you may need to take the pinion gear back out and rotate it by one tooth.

Now your gripper is assembled and working correctly, what can you make with it?

