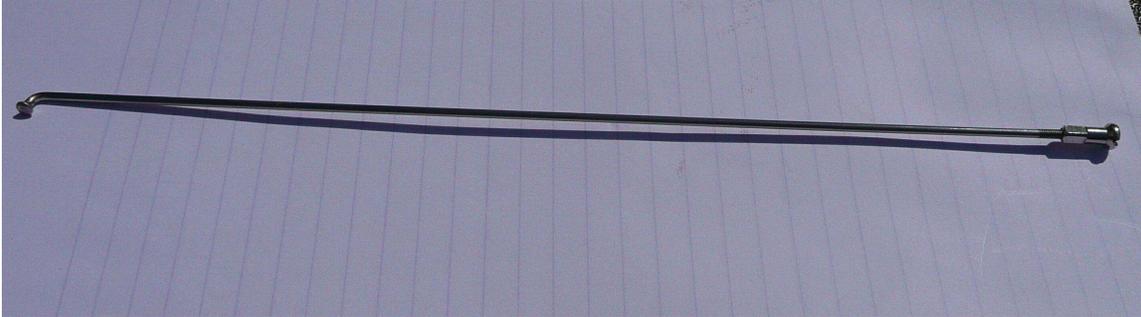


## Easy open screen door latch for the Born Free

I'm just passing along this information and some pictures I took of my installation, the credit goes to Bruno Panek from Chicago (Born Free owner) who found this installation on the internet: <http://rvtravel.com/blog/rvnow/2007/02/screen-door-easy-open-latch.html> and showed his installation to me at Catalina State Park in Arizona in February 2009. I thought it was such a good idea I thought I would write it up and post it on the Leap'n Lions forum. The total cost is about \$1.00 for the stainless steel bicycle spoke. The spoke I used is about 10 inches long. Some of the pics are mine the others from the article.



Drill one hole in the latch handle (3/32" bit) being careful to allow room for the retaining latch to be able to grab the release handle, then drill another hole at the top of the plastic door slide stop/handle. (Note: do not drill a hole in the sliding cover, but the cover stop/handle as pictured below).



Choose where you will drill the holes before you do it. There are two considerations here. First you must make sure the spoke will not interfere with the retaining latch on the main door.



I had to reposition my catch on the door about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the left to give me enough clearance.

Insert the spoke so the button will be facing the outside of the coach.



You will have to flex the spoke a little in order to feed the threaded end up through the hole in the plastic door slide stop/handle. The better way to do it is to remove the stop/handle (only two retaining screws) and feed the spoke up through the hole and then replace the handle. This way you don't permanently bend the spoke out of shape.



Screw the retaining nut back on the spoke and now you can open your screen door without having to slide the plastic door back. Just push down on the retaining nut and the door opens. The spring action of the latch keeps the spoke in place. Since the spokes are stainless steel, they resist rust and look good. No more sliding that plastic door out of the way just so you can reach the latch - one finger is all you need. (Put a drop of Loctite on the spoke thread to keep vibration from unscrewing the nipple/nut.)

Note the “V” shaped notch filed in the sliding plastic cover for spoke clearance. I used a small triangle file to cut the notch.



Here is an additional close-up picture.



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