

INDESTRUCTIBLE BLAST TUBES

By Don Deloach, Editor, National Free Flight Journal, May-June 2013 Issue

I'd gone through a couple dozen plastic and PVC blast tubes over the years before I finally wised up: Aluminum 6061-T6 blast tubes are the very best I've ever used for rubber power. They can be used and abused almost indefinitely, for decades. Not so plastic tubes. About the only thing 6061 won't withstand is being run over by a car or truck at the flying field.

A few years ago I ran across a website that sells a wide variety of sizes of 6061 tubing, with wall thicknesses down to .035" (ideal, I've found, for our application) in all the diameters I needed: <www.onlinemetals.com>. Their prices are very good and the product topnotch.

Some of the sizes I've found most useful over the years:

5/8" O.D., .035" wall thickness - P-30 and small FAC models. Motors of 4 strands 3/32" up to 6 strands 3/32"

3/4" O.D., .035" wall thickness. FAC and small Old Timer models in the 20 to 30" span range. Motors: 6-8 strands 1/8" or equivalent.

1" and 1-1/8" O.D., .035" wall thickness. Large Old Time rubber, Moffett, Mulvihill. Motors of 16-32 strands 1/8" or equivalent. if