

TIPS CONCERNING CANOPIES

The following was published in the June 2009 issue of The Windy Sock, Joe Joseph, Editor

Hey, it's nice to be able to see through a canopy that has been so lovingly molded, not only from the inside looking out, but from the outside looking in. To improve clarity we have picked up a couple of solutions. First, Bruce Finley reported that "Future," a floor finish widely available and dirt cheap (compared to nitrate), will clarify a cloudy plastic molding wonderfully. Ye editor tried it on the turret of a Boulton-Paul Defiant under construction, and it works great! Only the inside surface needs to be coated. And another suggestion comes from the Canadian Geezer, Orv Olm: He says to make the first molding but leave it on the mold, then make a second molding on top of it. The second molding will come out sparkling clear and will probably be easier to release from the mold, assuming the temperature of the second molding is not so high as to bond on to the first; Orv assures us it won't do that. (PFFT Ed Note: I've used this method, and another major benefit of making one mold on top of another is that you don't have to spend hours making the wooden mold block absolutely flawless — get it as smooth as you can and the first mold will fill in the tiny imperfections.)