

COWL BUMPS MADE EASY

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Certain aircraft really require cowl bumps (actually they are called rocker arm covers, but everybody I know calls them cowl bumps) like John Laycock's Stinson Reliant. Making 12 to 20 of them exactly alike is such a tedious chore that it is usually not even attempted. But when done, it really adds class to a Golden Age machine or that B-25. John came up with a neat technique that is quick and gives almost an exact reproduction of each one. First a piece of aluminum bar is filed to the base shape of the cowl bump. Then a block of balsa the same height as the cowl bump is spot glued on the end of the aluminum and the balsa sanded to shape. (Ed note: You use the aluminum to shape the lateral dimension, then sand the vertical dimension freehand.) The completed cowl bump is sliced off (Ed. Note: Use acetone) and the process repeated as many times as needed. How's that for speed?

