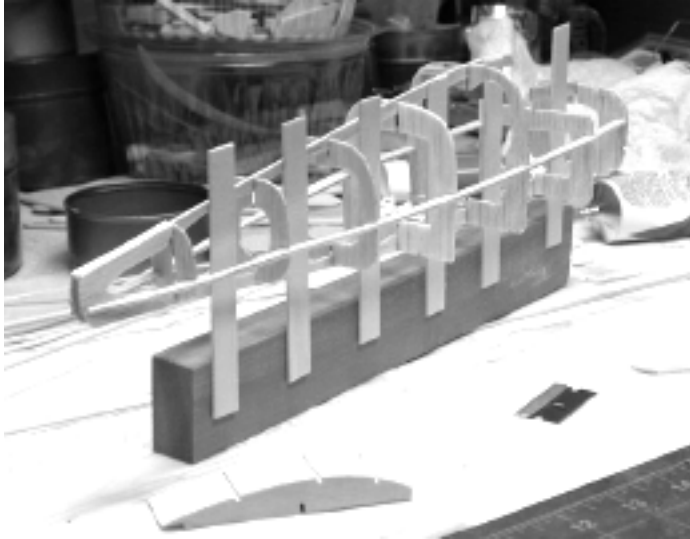


Finding the Right Size Utility Wood

By George White

If you're like me, when it comes time to pin that wing or stab down after covering, I'm always scrambling about looking in my collection of "scrap balsa treasures" to find the right number of pieces of the correct thickness. Likewise, when I built a fuselage using the crutch and former method, I needed some wood strips to keep the crutch in alignment while building the fuselage around it, as seen in the photo below. So, I took some of my lunch money allowance and bought some nice 36" long 3/4" wide basswood strips from Hobby Lobby, which cost me about half of my day's lunch money.



In discussing the project with my Oklahoma friend Gene Smith, a man wise in the ways of doing things right, he told me about some things called "Craft Sticks" which Hobby Lobby sells for \$2 per package. A package consists of 75 6" long basswood sticks. They resembling tongue suppressors, and are reasonably straight. They are ideal for keeping that wing raised just a bit so that air will circulate under it when when you pin it down wet. They would have been perfect for the crutch built model as well. For two bucks, you get nearly a lifetime supply. Don't look for them where you would expect to find them, they are in the unfinished wood section of the store.