

A Pop-Up Tail DT

by George White

After struggling to figure out the best method of adding a DT to my Jimmy Allen Parasol, I called my imaginative friend Bob McLellon of Virginia Beach. Being both a great model builder and a retired architect, of course he had the answer and fired off the diagram below. The beauty of the arrangement is that with a single rubber band pulling (almost) straight down through the center of the fuselage, the tail is less likely to become canted upon pop-up (ask me how I know about that phenomenon and its consequences). The secret is to have the wire hook on the front of the stab extend forward and down at a 10°-15° angle with the hook open just enough to install the rubber band before mounting the tail on the fuselage. Then make a hole in the bottom of the fuselage so that the leading edge of the hole will allow the rubber band to pull down at about a 60° angle from the hook. Place a hook on the bottom of the fuselage just forward of the hole and use needle nose pliers or a simple wire hook to pull the rubber band through the hole. Of course you'll need the fairlead and hold down line from the fuse/timer, plus the key to ensure the tail is straight with the fuselage. And you editor can recommend from experience that you should have a hard section of stab leading edge where it contacts the fuselage, together with an equally hard forward stop/rotating surface on the fuselage which is perfectly square with the fuselage. Before you glue that stop/rotating surface to the fuselage, don't forget to cut a notch for the pull-down wire to fit through, and if the vertical fin is all the way forward, you'll obviously need to cut another notch in the top of the fuselage for the fin to fit into upon the DT being deployed.

