

THE DEMISE OF WALMART

DUCO

By George White

When I first came back into this model building game I initially thought that the only reliable way to join balsa was by using Ambroid. I was eventually disabused of that idea by Bob Isaacks, who's often referred to as the "Duco Guru." I tried Duco and sure enough, no more yellow around the joints! Then Buzz Trabbic convinced me that using Duco straight out of the tube was not the best plan. He advised buying a 1/4 oz needle cap bottle from Tim Goldstein's A2Z (<http://www.peck-polymers.com/store>) together with a 20 gauge needle cap. Then, he recommended using that bottle to apply Duco which had been diluted 50% with acetone. He theorized that the thinner glue would better soak into the fibers of the wood — **provided** you double glue each joint and don't leave obscene gaps in the joint. Without double gluing, the bond will be too weak. I tried his scheme and have been hooked on the plan ever since. One caution, keep a short piece of .020" wire handy — the needle will tend to clog.

Life was especially good insofar as Duco was concerned — I could buy the stuff at our ever-so-friendly Walmart for \$1 per tube. Then, the other day Lou Cumpston, our moneybags, dropped the bad news that Walmart no longer carries Duco. I have to wonder if the scumbag lawyers convinced the Walmart bean counters that one of us might sniff the stuff!!!

So much for that good deal. Joe Josephs tells me that he can buy Duco at Dollar Stores, and Bob Isaacks tells me that it's also available at Ace Hardware stores and auto supply stores, but not at Walmart prices. I found the 1 oz. Duco at O'Reilly's Auto Parts store for \$2.30 and Lou Cumpston has found some stuff called "Fix-All Adhesive" at a Dollar Tree store which seems to have all the ingredients of Duco at \$1 for 5/8oz.

If you want to get into the national spirit of "change," I've gotten recommendations from a couple of very learned folks for some glues which in their opinion are just as good or perhaps better than Duco. Gene Smith says he has used Duco and Sgment interchangeably and successfully for quite a while, diluting both with acetone. The cheapest I've found Sgment was at Penn Valley Hobby Center where you can get a 2 oz. tube for \$2.25 or 4 oz. for \$3.34, all plus shipping. Since the \$1 Duco at Walmart was a 1 oz tube, that's not a bad price if you don't let the shipping get out of hand.

(<http://www.pennvalleyhobbycenter.com/controlline/S>

[upplies/glues.htm](#))

Then, Rich Weber (aka Wingnut) advises that he has found Beacon 527, diluted 50% with acetone to have the same strength as Duco and is slightly more flexible. 527 glue, in what looks like 2 oz. tubes is available at Hobby Lobby and Michaels for \$4. Our local hobby shop tells me that 527 is getting difficult to obtain. In the event you don't find it locally, I found 527 glue for \$3.25 at: (<http://www.mcmowdirect.com/bond-adhesive-p-1500.html>).

A couple of other highly skilled builders, Wally Farrell and Rich Adams, are convinced that Ambroid is still the way to go, and per fluid ounce, is cheaper than Duco. The only significant difference between Ambroid and Duco seems to be the addition of mustard seed oil in Ambroid to keep us rascally modelers from sniffing it while we build!!! With that you get a bit of yellow in your joints. Some folks around the country have heard from their hobby shops that Ambroid is being discontinued. However, our local Bobe's Hobby Center says they have plenty. Who knows!!

After hearing about the demise of Walmart Duco, Paul Grabski did some more research and advises we won't have to switch from model building to stamp collecting due to the high cost of Duco. He's found it for \$1 at a Family Dollar store.

I was afraid that \$1 Walmart deal was too good to last. But with Family Dollar Store to the rescue, joy and glad tidings can continue to exist throughout the land!!!