

Helpful Hints From Various Sources Other Than Heloise

Krylon Crystal Clear instead of dope. I've been using this spray can stuff on Jap tissue and it seems to be no heavier than nitrate dope, doesn't shrink as much, and seems to be stable in terms of not continuing to shrink. The secret is to do no more than mist on a couple of coats. If you hit the paper with a heavy, wet coat, it soaks through the paper and gives an uneven finish.

Sources of Just About Everything Model Related. In Larry Kruse's column in the April 2002 issue of Flying Models, he gives an address plus a web site for ordering a compendium of just about every FF resource you can think of. The compendium is free to down-load and print, by going to <http://www.gj.net/~regiaero/cottagewings.html> By the way that's not a dash in that address, it's a tilde (-).

Molding Balsa using Ace Bandages. In the video on molding balsa, the authors recommend using an ace bandage to hold the wet balsa in conformity with the buck. Ace bandages require the use of awkward clips. A better bandage may be found in many stores alongside the Ace brand, it is called SELFG RIP Self-Adhering Athletic Tape/Bandage. As the name implies, you just wrap it around the balsabuck, and it adheres to itself. The video's authors recommend using a foam buck, coated with 30 minute epoxy, with a thin plywood base. Where compound curves are required, slit the balsa as you go, taping the wet balsa to the buck. After the balsa dries, the authors describe a means of permanently holding the compound curves in place. The tape is a worthwhile look see.

Keeping Nitrate Dope in Metal Cans. Your friendly editor White (Grabski is too smart to do this), suffering from a severe case of the dumb-ass, learned the hard way recently that nitrate dope attacks the inside of steel containers. Two years ago he was carried away with bad judgment and purchased a gallon can of nitrate dope and carefully set it on a shelf. He recently noticed that the dope had taken on a slight brownish-orange tint. Yes, rust. His models for the next several months will have a "warm tone" to them. Bottom line, keep your dope in glass, out of sunlight.

Incredibly Sharp, Thin Razor Blades (Cheap). Buy a bag of Gillette Disposable Razors. Use a diagonal cutter to remove the handle. Use a 3/32" drill bit to drill out the four plastic rivets holding the blades, and out will drop two extremely sharp, thin blades useful for fine trimming of tissue and other light work.

Interested in old magazines and plans from the 30's? Here's a great website you'll enjoy: www.ualberta.ca/~khome/ There's a period between alberta and ca, and that's not a dash, but a tilde. Check it out !!