

Fuel Proofing

*(More stuff borrowed from David Ramsey, MMFC via the SCIF 'Flight Plug' - editor Mike Myers.
(Ed Note: Another article found in the files left me by the late Jack Bolton with a note saying it was published in the SAM 86 Speaks, Dan O'Grady, Editor)*

"Here are some fuel proofing ideas I can vouch for:

- 1 Fuller's Plast mixed 16-1 with Plast Catalyst can be thinned 2 parts acetone to 1 part Plast mix and brushed over nitrate dope.
2. Hobby Poxy, K&B Super Poxy, or Aeropoxy mixed per instructions -thinned 2 to 1 can be brushed over nitrate.
3. A person who is proficient with a spray gun can spray epoxy or Plast. I have not.
4. Do not put epoxy over butyrate dope, the outgassing can cause blistering of the epoxy.
5. AeroGloss Fuel Proofer (the no-lead kind blushes). AeroGloss and butyrate dope are good for 10-15% nitro.
6. K&B Ultrapoxy is presently available from K&B Model Products, Inc. a sideshow of RJL in Monrovia, CA."

Some observations from Mike Myers from Flight Plug, the SCIF's newsletter

Fuller's Plast is, I believe, a catalyzed varnish. I didn't know that the thinner for it was acetone. The SCAMPS have long been fans of Plast. Abe Gallas, Gene Wallock, Jim Adams, Bob Oslan etc. and others have nice pretty shiny ships with Plast fuel proofing. Plast seems to be fairly flexible and not prone to cracking. It's hard to find these days; I have a gallon I got from a paint store in Fullerton through Jim Adams years ago. Because I'm a little suspicious of the catalyst (I understand it's bad if it splashes in your eyes), the gallon can and the catalyst bottle have sat unused and unopened to date. I don't even know if you can buy Plast today. Jim Adams, or perhaps David Ramsey, can direct you to where you might get it. The original formulation of K&B Super Poxy disappeared years ago when air quality regulations limiting VOCs (volatile organic compounds) drove K&B out of the Los Angeles Basin to Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Even then K&B ultimately had to reformulate. I don't know if the new formulation of K&B Super Poxy has a "clear" color in it. In the old formulation, K&B Super Poxy stood up quite nicely to even 65% nitro. I agree with David Ramsey that Aerogloss, Fuel Proofer and butyrate dope--or either, seem to be good for maybe 15% nitro - no more than that. Of course, all of these fuel proofers are helped immensely if you wipe down and clean up your model as promptly as possible after fuel exposure. For those with connections to friends in England,