Making Lamination Strips Easily

The following idea from Glenn Beary, was published in the January 2005 issue of the Windy Sock, newsletter of the Alamo Escadrille, Joe Joseph editor.

Glenn’s jig shown below will yield 1/64 thin strips of wood. The jig shows 1/16 and 1/32 slots, which need to be exact in width. The blade must be secured by CA as close to the edge of the slots as possible to minimize flexing of the blade. Add as many strips, which you’ve made this way, together to get the right width for a laminated wing tip, stab, rudder or fuselage former.

Your friendly Thermalier editor’s comments: After talking to Glenn, he agrees that rather than using cardboard as the base, it would be better to use a 1/8” or better piece of bass or plywood. Also, if you don’t have any double edge razor blades, they are available from Tim Goldstein at http://www.timgoldstein.com/secure/eStore/. Those are extremely sharp. You can also do the old disposable Gillette razor trick described in the May/June 2002 issue of this exciting newsletter and make your own blades really cheap (they are also extremely sharp and great for trimming tissue as well). If, inconceivable as it may seem, you don’t have a copy of that issue, send White a buck and he’ll mail you a copy of the article.