

Eleven Tips From Ed Lidgard

These ideas and practices come from Ed Lidgard, as printed the newsletter of the Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta:

- "1. Find that a hole is too tight for the wire you want to use? Roll a coarse file over the wire to roughen the surface, then use this disposable wire to ream out the hole.
 - "2. To avoid dope running under masking tape or frisket paper, coat the edge with clear dope, let it dry, and then color dope.
 - "3. Silk or tissue tend to bubble on the trailing edge? Soften the area with acetone, then rub full-strength dope over the bubble until it flattens out.
 - "4. Field too small for full turns? Make a stick one-half the weight of the rubber motor and one-half the distance between the hook and the rear peg. Wind one-half maximum turns.
 - "5. Optimum thinning for applying dope to silk by the tissue flowing method is 65 to 70%.
 - "6. You have .055 inch wire and need a bushing? Place the wire in a piece of 3/32-inch O.D. brass tubing and crimp the tubing with cutters every 1/8-inch in three rows down its length.
 - "7 . You need to solder a washer on a wire and there are no washers with the right size hole? Place a washer with a too-small hole on the end grain of a wood block. With an awl hammered into the washer hole, make the washer fit your wire.
 - "8. Silk or tissue sticking to your formers? Rub beeswax or candle wax on the formers after all gluing and sanding is done.
 - "9. Edges of your props getting nicked? Hold a piece of wax paper against the underside along the edge. Doing one inch at a time, run a bead of medium viscosity CA along the edge. Immediately sprinkle or blow baking soda onto the CA. Repeat to add volume, then turn over and repeat if needed.
 - "10. On new props, run the outside edges of the prop through a puddle of CA to harden the edges, then sand as required.
 - "11 . When silk or tissue does not tighten properly and the first coat of dope does not help much, re-spray with water. Let dry well and re-dope.
- So, there you go. All of us can take some good advice from one of the masters of the hobby. Thanks, Ed.