

# NEW NEEDLE VALVE ON THE WAY FROM HANK NYSTROM

*An article by Mike Myers, Editor of the July 2007 issue of Flight Plug, the newsletter of the Southern California Ignition Flyers*

Many of the needle valve assemblies on the older small glow engines were lousy — to put it charitably. Some of the SCIFs are flying early Nostalgia glow events. Most folks like to fly with mild pressure systems which can be made from penny balloons or from the Little Red Caps sold at Ace Hardware Stores. But sloppy needle valves don't like pressure of any kind. And because they're sloppy, they don't needle all that well on suction either. Now comes Hank Nystrom of Texas Timers to the rescue. Sez Hank: "I will shortly introduce a 128 thread per inch needle and spray bar that can be used with any small engine. This is the same type set up used in the one sold for use on the TD 049/051. The needle has a lot of taper so it is easy to set it for the best run under pressure. It comes with the same friction seal used in the TD. The spray bar will be held in the engine venturi with JB Weld so it fits just about anything. " Nystrom says that the fine thread needle valve will not turn a dog of an engine into a power house, but the finer threads allow for more precise adjustment of the valve setting with or without pressure. Most small engine needle valves are on a clicker so you have no setting between the clicks. The precision one is continuously adjustable."

Now one of the things that gives Bootsie the vapours is the installation of a Cox .049 venturi and spray bar in the intake tubes of big sideport spark ignition engines. Some fellows have put them in Brown Jrs. Others (Dave Harding included) have put them in the intake tubes of Ohlsson Big Port .60s. The use of the Cox venturi allows use of the Cox needle valve and spray bar and, in turn, the use of a 128 thread per inch needle valve. It strikes me that you could probably just insert this new needle valve in the intake tube of any sideport engine where it might fit — and get the same benefits. Candidates for such a conversion would include the Brown, the Ohlsson sideports, the Mills .75, the Mills 1.3 etc. Just a thought — but a tinkerer with a drill and a couple of tubes of JB Weld might want to run with it.