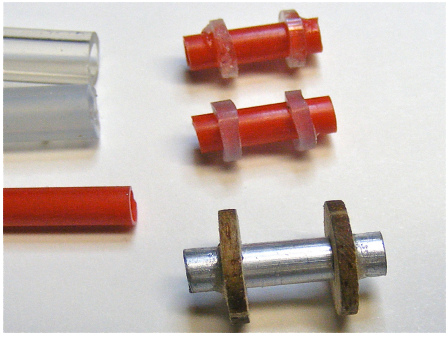
MORE ON THE WOBBLY PEG

by George White

In the May 2010 issue of this exciting rag, I wrote about Stew Meyer's experiments with taming the rear motor's tendency to have a gathering in the tail of our airplanes. The trick seems to be to have a small bobbin on the tail end of the motor, with the bobbin being at least two sizes larger than the rear motor peg. That allows the thing to twist in two dimensions, keeping the motor from bunching.

Now, in the latest issue of MaxFax, Stew describes an improvement which Doug Beardsworth came upon. Instead of making the bobbin of aluminum with wood flanges, he makes them of something called Sullivan Gold-N-Rod #503, a 3/16 OD pushrod tubing used by the RC folk. He makes the flanges from either large fuel tubing or from the soft plastic tubing you can buy at Lowes in the plumbing section. This is what the finished result looks like.
The top sample has the flanges made using Tygon (plumbing tubing from Lowes), the center one uses large fuel tubing, and the bottom one is the aluminum version, using balsa flanges.

I decided to give this a try and went to the local hobby shop/AKA RC emporium and found the Gold-N-Rod stuff.

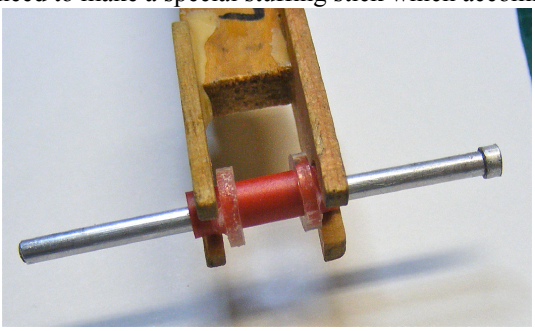


Alongside it was a similar item by DuBro, which appeared to be a bit larger, but since they were both bound up in plastic I couldn't tell. I bought the DuBro. I should not have because it has ribs on the inside to ease the passage of the pushrods used for RC flight control. The Gold-N-Rod does not, but puts the ribs on the push rods instead. This is what the Gold-N-Rod looks like, which of course you toss the inner (pushrod) portion.

Since Stew advertises this type bobbin as lighter than the aluminum one, (and probably easier on the motor than the less than smooth plywood flanges I've been making) I made one to give it a try. I turned out to be about 1/3 lighter than the aluminum one, using the soft plastic tubing from Lowes.

The downside of this is that these rods come in packages of two rods, each 3' long. Enough for several lifetimes of making bobbins. One package per club would be a good order, although the package is only about $8. Having a good friend who does RC would be even better.

Don't forget, you' have to leave enough room outboard of the flanges for your stuffing stick, and you'll almost certainly need to make a special stuffing stick which accommodates the bobbin. I've done that and it's no sweat.



Here 'tis in action in Stew's motor peg test stand. Looks like a winner.