

In-fill of Round Cowls

as taught by
John Hutchison

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(PFFT Ed. Note: This idea is certainly not confined to scale models. Planking the round nose of any model will not only make it look good but add to its crashworthiness — ask how I know!!)

At the last hangar flying session John showed us his method of filling in the spaces near the cowl of round fuselages. While it is easy to do the 'square' fuselages that show the pieces full size in plan and profile views, something more complicated is required to fill in the spaces of round fuselages. John cuts a small piece of paper and holds or tapes it over the opening to be filled. Then using the side of a regular wooden pencil lead, he traces around the opening by just rubbing the lead against the formers and stringers. He then cuts out the pattern slightly oversize and using a 'post-a-note' glue stick (Ed: 3m Blue tube glue stick), puts the piece on a sheet of balsa. Watch the grain direction. After cutting and sanding to exact fit, he glues the piece to the plane with the center (not the ends) flush with the front and rear former. This way no filling is required. He cautions that you should use a sandable glue, especially not CyA.

Editors note: These pieces can be curved prior to gluing in place by rolling a small round dowel over the inside. The piece will curve up from your building board.

