

Easy Spinners For Your Models

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I was asked many questions about my new models (D4Y "Judy", Fiat G.55, Heinkel He-100D etc.) this past season, but the most frequently asked one was how I went about making the nice spinners on their front ends. The answer I gave, that I didn't really make the spinners but purchased them in the local Wal-Mart, was a surprise to all who asked.

No, Wal-Mart hasn't started selling modeling supplies, but they do sell plastic Easter eggs - at Easter time - that can be very easily turned into excellent spinners. The spinners are light, very durable and quite cheap price wise. They come in an incredible number of shapes and sizes, and they can be readily painted if their color doesn't suit you. The only drawback, as mentioned before, is that they are generally only available during the Easter season. You have to stock up while you can, because they are very hard to find during the rest of the year.

If you can't find a plastic egg that's the right size for the spinner you need, a larger one can be cut down with a sturdy pair of scissors or a Zona saw to the required size. Use a compass to draw the desired diameter on a piece of stiff card stock, cut out the inner circle with a sharp hobby knife and place it over the plastic egg. Now, trace the circle around the egg with a marking pen and cut off the unwanted portion. Bingo, there's your spinner ready to be finished off.

I cut out the openings for the prop blades with scissors then round off all the rough edges with sandpaper. If you're going to paint the spinner, sand the entire unit down to make its surface more amenable to spray painting. Finally, follow the usual procedures you employ for mounting spinners on your models and you'll be done. Believe me, it's a quick and easy way of dealing with the spinner problem, one that you'll be glad you tried.