HOLDING THAT STAB DOWN – SUBTLY
By George White

Those of us who use button DT timers are quick to realize the conflict with having a reasonably strong force to lift the stab when it's time for DT, and the need to control the force on the button timer. When building a non-scale model, the easy solution is to simply add a peg protruding from the fuselage somewhere between the tail and the timer. You then wrap the hold-down line from the stab around it so that the kick-up force is taken by the peg. You can then adjust the activation force on the button timer as necessary independent of the stab force.

Having such a peg sticking out of the side or bottom of a scale model has a certain lack of class. Paul Grabski has come up with a very subtle and effective solution as may be seen in the photo below. It allows you to have a very short, inobtrusive hold-down, and the round cap prevents the line from slipping off the peg during those frenzied mass launches.

He simply used a single hole paper punch to make a round piece of 1/64 ply which he glued to a short piece of round toothpick, CA'd into a reinforced part of the stem post of the airplane. Works like a charm.