

# SOME COMMENTS FROM TOM HALLMAN RE TISSUE

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Tom Hallman uses a glue stick for covering with tissue. He says, "(I) apply the tissue in the standard way, tugging softly as I move down the fuselage, floating on some alcohol (91% isopropyl alcohol Thermalier Ed.) through the tissue with a small brush. The alcohol is tissue friendly and doesn't break apart the fibers as quickly as water would if you were using white glue. Still, you need to be gentle. The glue stick allows you to lift and reposition the tissue as often as you'd like, so again the pace is less hectic. For me this is very important, because I like to think of the covering process as a relaxing experience and not one of 'spinning plates' as on the old Ed Sullivan show. When overlapping the tissue on a frame, I float some alcohol on the seam and softly rub it in with my finger. This appears to melt the seams together, creating a soft and nearly invisible overlap. Some have suggested additionally sealing the overlap with dope, etc., for fear of becoming unglued in damp weather, but I haven't found this to be a concern in the twelve years of using the UHU glue stick. (Thermalier Ed Note: I once left a P-30, with tissue adhered by UHU, on the field overnight in the rain. I picked it up the next morning, put it in the van and it dried out with no disconnect at all).

"Generally I pre-shrink and pre-color my tissue on a frame, using acrylic enamels and an air brush. I also try to apply any markings or numbers with an air brush before I attach the tissue to the model. This makes for a lighter and cleaner appearance. However, occasionally markings are attached with colored tissue and a glue stick, again using alcohol to reactivate and seal. Finally, after the tissue is shrunk on the model's frame with alcohol or water, I 'dust' the model with either Krylon matte or crystal clear (gloss). This seals the tissue and more importantly has proven to prevent its continual shrinkage, which often turns our beautiful, perfectly trimmed models into pretzels. I've had models 8-10 years old that are the same today as they were when first completed. It's magic in a can, adding very little weight to the model.

"I usually try to add some opacity (not letting light pass through ... Webster) to the tissue, even if it's yellow tissue, as on the Cessna C-38. I feel it helps keep the look consistent when you cover not only the frame but also the sheet balsa. The look where the sheeted areas are far brighter or different texture, etc., than the framed areas always makes the model look odd. So again, spraying the tissue yellow in this case, with a bit of white added to the yellow, seems to make the surfaces closer together in color. But it's a fine line of course. You can go overboard with the spray, and suddenly it's looking and weighing like a dope job over silk instead of tissue. I like to come in somewhere between Pres Bruning and Chris Parent. Dave Rees is my mentor, so I often look to his approach, although Dave goes a few steps closer to the lighter ships than I care to."