

Want Some 1/20" Wood?

The following tip is from the April 2002 Issue of the Southern California Ignition Flyers Flight Plug, Mike Meyers, Editor

Some plans for the Grant Cloud Tramp call out 3/64 wood for the wings. Now that's within 2 or 3 thousandths of an inch of 1/20 sheet—but there are inquiring minds who want to know how to get 3/64 — and there are some Brits out there who are such sticklers for accuracy that only 3/64 will do. Here's a solution. Cyano two parallel pieces of .047 wire to a flat surface at a distance equal to the width of your sheet of balsa. Slip a piece of 1/16 balsa (which is about .063) between the pieces of wire, and sand gently along the grain away from yourself until your sanding block contacts the wire. I would suggest sanding in just one direction—and trying to take the same amount off each side to avoid any tendency for the sanded wood to curl.

Another way offered to achieve a similar result is to wrap layers of masking tape around each end of your sanding block. Sand the wood gently, on a flat surface, between the two taped ends. By adding or removing layers of tape, you can control the thickness quite accurately. I am told that this was an indoor modeler's trick.