

LET'S HEAR IT FOR BAMBOO!

By Grant Carson

*From the SAM 26 November 2012 Newsletter; Bob Angel,
Editor*

Grant Carson sent the following across the internet in praise of bamboo as a construction material. He uses it mostly on small rubber models, but it can have application on small power models as well.

“When you are planning your next model, consider the merits of bamboo:

--It's really cheap. You can buy enough bamboo skewers at your local grocery store to keep you supplied for the rest of your life for about two dollars.

--Over a hot soldering iron it can be bent to any shape, and once bent, it will retain the shape.

--It can be stripped to any width desired by starting a slit with a hobby knife and then just pulling it against the knife. The bamboo for the wing tips of my Embryo is 1/64". The wing tips of my twin pusher are 1/16".

--It's a lot easier than building wing tips from sheet balsa, and stronger, with less weight. This is where bamboo really shines, in my opinion.

--For the landing gear on my Embryo, the equivalent wire would have been heavier. A smaller diameter wire could have been used, but it wouldn't have the stiffness of the same weight of bamboo.

Don't feel so sorry for those early modelers who didn't have balsa. They had bamboo!