

# CUTTING DIHEDRAL BREAKS

By John Pakiz

I discovered the slickest way to bevel dihedral joints. This may not be new but it's new to me.

The usual practice is to cut and separate the L.E. or T.E., or even make separate L.E. and T.E. for different sections of a wing, then cut or sand a bevel for the angle. Instead, make them all one piece for both sections and draw a light line on the wood where the joint is going to be. On both sides of the line, make shallow inward angled cuts. Stay next to the line and make little cuts. Then make a few small vertical cuts. You don't want to cut all the way through the wood. The idea is to remove just enough wood in a little V shape that will allow for the dihedral angle.

Lastly, gently bend the wood in to position and make any necessary adjustments to the desired angle. Double glue the joint (I use a pin to get the glue in to the V) and prop the piece in to position while the glue dries.

I've done this a few times now and the joints are perfect. And since the wood is not completely separated, that adds to the strength and lessens the possibility of a weak joint due to a poor gluing job.