

Making Those Fiddly Scale Bits With Less Hassle

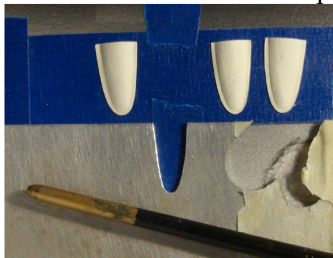
By George White

As I was reading Dave Mitchell's column in the July 2013 issue of Flying Models, I was fascinated by the information he'd gleaned from the superb craftsman Tom Hallman. Hallman is famous for taking the time to make those extra little things that many of us either ignore or just do a lousy job of making. His models consistently outscore a lot of us as a result.

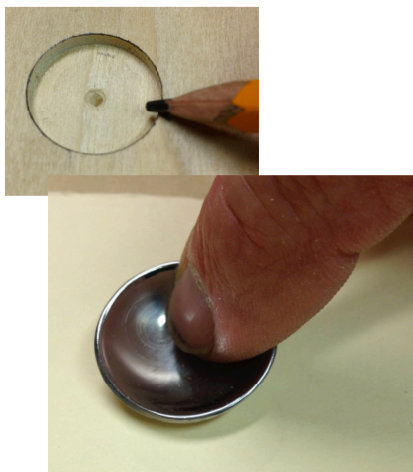
Dave has passed along the photos which Tom provided him which show how to make small scoops and cable fairings and domed wheel covers. The principle obviously can be applied to a lot of other details to make your model a piece of artwork.

For making scoops or fairings Dave says Tom grinds an appropriately shaped slot in a piece of thin (say 1/16") aluminum, then presses a piece of card stock down into the slot with the handle of a paintbrush to burnish the card stock down into the slot. The sharp edge of the aluminum slot will create a sharp line which serves as the cutting line for the scoop or fairing. If the scoop or fairing needs to be deeper, I would assume the same result could be achieved by grinding a slot in the edge of a piece of basswood. With wood, you'd need to use a pencil, as is shown below in the discussion of domed wheel covers, to mark the outline for cutting the finished product.

The photo below shows only the finished product, together with the paintbrush handle used to burnish the scoops.

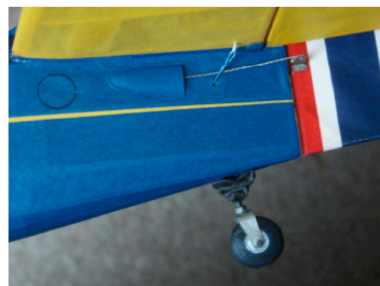


For making domed wheel covers, as shown in the photos below Dave carried the idea further and carefully drills a hole in hardwood the diameter equaling the size of the desired wheel cover. It would be critical to ensure that the edges of the hole not be ragged, so your drill must be sharp. He marks the edge of the hole with soft pencil then burnishes a piece of card stock (manila folder material works fine) in the hole, then trims to size. It's important to have the card stock considerably oversize to prevent the edges from being kinked.



In the next photo Dave is pressing a small measuring spoon into the card stock to press it down into the hole to form a wheel cover. He returned the spoon to his wife!!

The photo below shows the result of making a cable fairing for the fake rudder cable on Tom's PT-26.



Dave also discussed the use of a product called "Hearty Clay" (or another essentially the same product called "Delight Air Dry Modeling Compound" which Tom used to make the tailwheel boot shown above. I've Googled "Hearty Clay" and found it at a Kmart site:

<http://www.seesimilar.com/search.php?query=Hearty%20Clay&cid=4146&gclid=CNXzjPXQg70CFUxp7Aodz1gAOA>

and Delight Air Dry Modeling Compound at: <http://www.amazon.com/Creative-Paperclay-Delight-Modeling-Compound/dp/B000YQH4H2>

You might also find the stuff at Michaels.

Both types are extremely light weight and can be molded to whatever shape you wish and it will harden on it's own as it air dries. I leave it up to you to imagine what else you could use it for. It can be rolled into thin sheets, cut and formed into complex shapes, or extruded thru a modeling syringe to make exhaust pipes, cockpit coaming, cabling or hydraulic lines. It's sandable, flexible, not inclined to crack or break once it's set, and paints nicely. Dave understands that the brick shape that it comes in will dry out quickly once the package it comes in is opened, and Hallman recommends keeping it in a sealed jar.