

NOSE BUTTONS AND NOSE BLOCKS, MORE

By George White

In a recent article in the Flying Aces Club News, Wally Farrell published a lot of great information about Gizmo Geezer nose buttons and nose blocks. I've reproduced the article elsewhere in this rag and I want to say "yea verily" to everything he said. I also want to amplify on some of the things in that article.

First, I must echo Wally's comments about what a major improvement on ease of trimming the Geezer button is over the old idea of wedging the noseblock with various sorts of shims. On a scale model, you often end up with a nose block arrangement which looks like a frogs ass stitched up with a logging chain. To the many readers of this rag who aren't into scale building, don't be mislead into thinking that that Geezer button only works on scale stuff. I have one on my Jabberwock, and have used it on other endurance jobs which have long gone out of sight through DT stupidity. The button is every bit as strong as the front of the model. If you face the nose plug with plywood, it holds its setting through anything I've encountered including bent prop shafts and front end crunches. I use the thing on all my models from dimers on up.

The Geezer button is designed to take .055" wire. If you want to use .047" wire, you need to drill the thing out with an .063" drill bit and bush it with a special thin wall brass tubing. Below is a photo of that tubing, which among other places, is available from Volare Products/Shorty's Basement. Since you're drilling in plastic, it seems that the .063 drill doesn't seem to make the hole big enough, but if you'll run the drill up and down a few times, you'll be able to push a 1/2" long piece of the tubing in place.

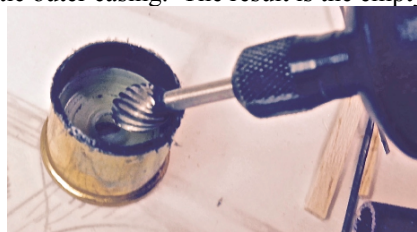


Wally showed how he created a round nose plug using a special cutter that I made for him. I must credit Gene Smith for the idea, and I have three different sizes made from 20g, 12g and 10g spent shotgun shells. I've found that the 10g shell cutter to be the most useful, and naturally, 10g shells are the most difficult to find in these days of gun paranoia. Since I'm not a gun nut, I had to find one who would remove the powder and the primer from the shells. If you don't know what you're doing, let someone who does do this for you. It's really very simple.

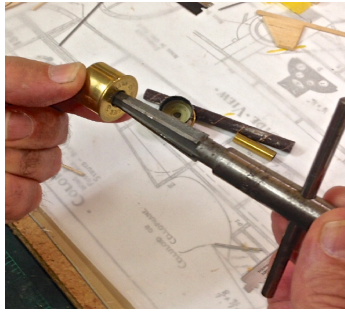
After the powder and primer is removed from the shell, cut the paper/plastic forward portion of the shell off. Then, you'll find the brass portion filled with either tightly spiraled paper or a plastic mold as seen on the left. If the filling is paper, you can



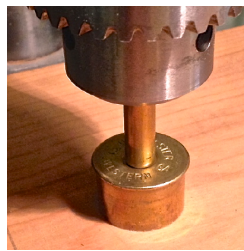
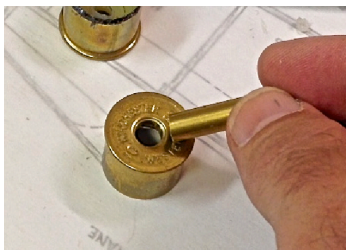
put the shell in a pan of water and boil it for a few minutes to soften and you can drill holes in the paper and pull it apart with needle nose pliers. If it's plastic, you'll need to use a small Dremel cutter to remove, and in any case, you'll need the cutter to remove the remainder of the plastic outer casing. The result is the empty shell on the right.



In order to be able to use the shell as a hole cutter, you'll need to put a piece of brass tubing into the hole where the primer was removed. I like to use 1/4" tubing for this, which means that the primer hole has to be reamed slightly. Reaming tools are easy to find at any big box hardware store.



Don't get carried away with this. You want the 1/4" piece of tubing to fit tightly in the primer hole. If you do get carried away and make the hole too large, just use the next size larger tubing. This is to allow you to push the tubing into the primer hole by use of a drill press. By placing the shell on a flat surface on a drill press, then pressing the tubing about 1/8" into the primer hole, you are assured that the cutter will run true after it is soldered. Once you press the tubing into the primer hole, VERY carefully remove it from the drill press and VERY gently place it on a surface where you can use a small butane torch to solder it in place. Don't disturb that alignment!!



Put some good solder flux on the joint between the tube and the shell, being careful not to disturb the alignment, heat the junction very hot with a torch and touch with solder and you've got yourself a tool for cutting nose plugs as shown in Wally's article.

You'll immediately find that the nose plug you've cut fits too loosely into the hole you've cut in the nose block because of the thickness of the brass shell. I recommend wrapping the plug with either bond paper or tyvek and gluing it in place. I also recommend that the nose plug not be too deep in order to allow it to easily rotate forward when the prop hits the ground.