

PINLESS AND PAINLESS

A no pin method of making small scale models. By Peter Fostick from Aeromodeller February 1995
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To build a fuselage with this method, two photo copies of the plan are required. Set up the plan in your favourite machine and run off two scrap copies to warm up and stabilise the original. Subsequent runs should then be identical. Cut out the area to be built and glue it to a small building board with "Scotch Spray- Mount" (a can will last for years) spraying the back of the drawing and not the board. The sticky layer is made from clear self adhesive book covering film as sold in most art and reprographic shops. Cut the film slightly larger than the workpiece, leaving backing paper on, then spray the glue on the shiny plastic side very lightly and leave to dry for a minute to achieve a removable low-tack bond. Press carefully into position over the plan then lift a corner of backing paper and peel it off slowly. Masking tape securing strips at the corners complete the sticky plan.

Now we come to the really nice part. Build as normal but just press the components lightly onto the plan and omit the usual forest of annoying little pins. Use a good quality white glue sparingly, you can always add more later. When the glue has set, remove the masking tape strips and slide a taut length of the discarded backing paper between film and plan. If you have got the glue tack right a few gentle sawing motions will free the film plus structure. "But how do we get the film off?" I hear you ask. Surprisingly simple: just pull the film slowly and in tension over a sharp edged board or table at a slight angle and watch the structure free itself. There you are, nothing to it. You can breathe again! For building very delicate structures the films tack may be lowered with an even sprinkling of balsa dust, yes we all have plenty of that!

