

ATTACHING THAT LAST PIECE OF TISSUE ON A ROUND FUSELAGE

By George White

While perusing some back issues of Flying Models, I came across an article by Tom Arnold in the July 2010 issue describing how he used some very unique techniques to build a Fairey Firefly. A couple of photos in the article described how to get that last segment of tissue on a round fuselage so that it has a nice clean line. Tom was kind enough to send me the photos, which are included in this discussion.

Tom was quick to remind me that the idea did not originate with him, but with Bob Schlossberg, the master model builder who built all the models you find in the Golden Age Reproductions catalog (if you're lucky enough to find one these days).

The secret of this technique is the use of "Nexcare" First Aid tape, which is a paper tape used for bandages, available from your local friendly pharmacy. After you've glued the last strip to one side of the last open section, fold it back and put a strip of Nexcare on the tissue already on the other side of the open section, leaving the tissue covered stringer exposed.



Tom uses thinned white glue to attach his tissue, so in these photos he attaches the last strip of tissue to one stringer of the open bay without the use of the

tape. He said the smart move would be to use tape on both stringers, but he found the job of cutting the tissue straight to fit one stringer was easy enough so he didn't use the tape on that one. As ham fisted as I am with tissue, I would have used the tape on both stringers.

Anyhow, he applies white glue to the stringer next to the tape without concerning himself with being precise — you want some of the glue to get on the tape. He then applies the tissue, overlapping onto the tape. If you look carefully, you'll see that the glue has smeared out onto the tape under the tissue overlap.



Once the glue is dry, carefully peel the tape back on itself and you have a nice clean line right to the edge of the stringer. If there's a bit of fuzz left, just wet it down with glue and you're home free



Incidentally, that paper tape is also great for holding canopies in place while the glue dries.