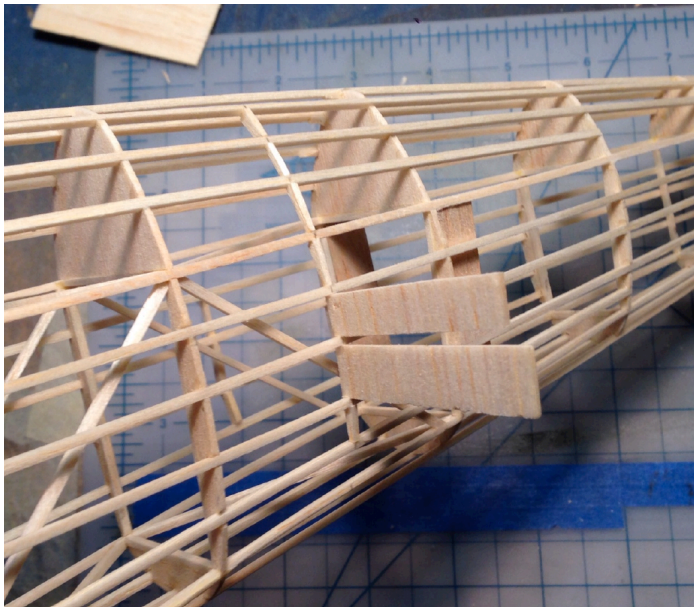


SPIDER FRAMES/FORMERS

by George White

In the March 2015 issue of the Flying Aces News, Rich Weber, Editor showed photos and comments by Tom Hallman of a scheme he used to create false formers for the purpose of creating anchor points for different colored tissue. As we often find, tissue color breaks can occur between structural frames, leaving nothing on which to anchor the tissue. Of course you can always add another cross piece and former, together with the extra weight it entails. Being the master of lightness, Hallman figured a better way.

As you can see in the first photo below, where he decides to create a spider frame, he takes a piece of sheet 1/16" balsa, cuts it into a slight wedge shape, so that the end of the piece just fits between two longerons/stringers, glues the end between them, then cuts away the sheet balsa so that he has a piece about 1/16" square that fits just right, with a bit of curve where appropriate. In the photo he's doing two spider frames at a time.



Not a bad idea for use just to provide light-weight strength where there is considerable distance between formers, and avoiding the "starved horse" look when tissue shrinks some delicate stringers.

