

SOME SOLUTIONS TO THE “POTATO CHIP” STAB

A couple of articles from the May2011 Scale Staffel Newsletter,
George Mansfield, Editor

One solution from Michael Heinrich-Small Flying Arts Forum

(<http://www.smallflyingartsforum.com/YaBB.pl?num=1303503309>)

Everybody's got a different take on warps, and they all will work for someone. Here's mine--I've not found preshrunk to be helpful, as you then must ask your framework to carry that load that the traditional dynamic of "balsa compression, tissue tension" would normally do--not my preference. I'll build a stiff outline and cover with Esaki, tacked to every bit of surface available, and shrink, & dope. Keep pinned down during the shrinks & dries, and a few days after doping if I can. Then I just watch for warps and deal with 'em if & when.

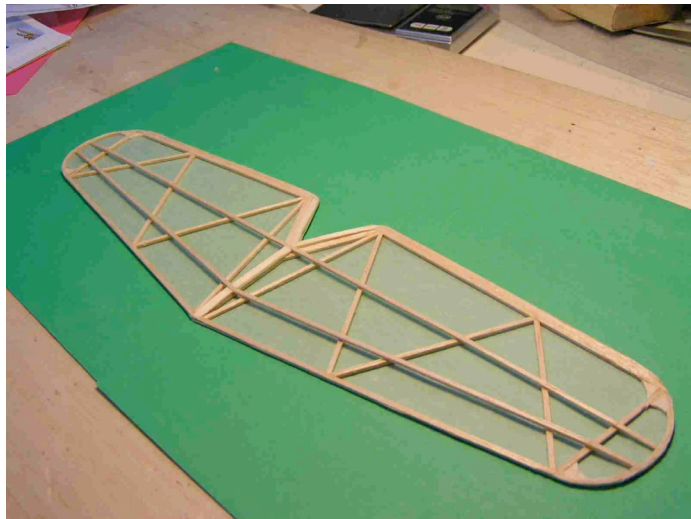


I've shown this in a couple of places--my version of the Stahl foil is to lay a central spar in and build the outline, then spring sticks over that spar to dive inside the outline structure, making that side of the foil; flip over, chock up outline, and spring sticks over that side, to overlap as they dive down to LE & TE. It's micro-lighter, less sanding, and no feathering out the grain--runs continuous through the structure. Also less glue in the laminating, & what's there is along the laps where the sticks meet.

Another solution — Chris Starleaf's — as interpreted by George Mansfield:

After building my Starleaf-designed Fairey Barracuda in 2008 having an absolutely flat (until warp time!) stab with the spars in the same plane as the diagonals, Roger Willis let me know that I didn't follow the plans correctly. DUH! Here is the correct construction. 1. Except for the spars, build all of the stab flat. Glue full-length medium balsa spars to the tops of the diagonal 1/16 square 'ribs'. 3. Score the spars at the outermost diagonals, then bend them down, and cut them to be glued flush with the stab tips' inner faces. 4. Preshrink your tissue two or three times. 5. Cover using a glue stick, lightly mist and pin down for a few

days. 6. Dope or Krylon and pin down again for another few days. Looks good so far--crossing my fingers. John Donelson swears by this construction and says he's never had one warp! Here are a couple of pics:



Still another solution is provided by Bill Henn, in an article you can find on the PFFT website under the title “Stab Sections for Small Models.”