

STUFFING STICK IDEA

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This idea was published quite some time ago but as I have been using my collapsible stuffing stick today, I thought that the idea bears repeating.

Take an old or spare R/C transmitter antenna and cut off the last top small wire section. It will then fall out the bottom of the assembly. Now file, grind or sand the top of the small next section down to bare brass and tin it with soldering paste and solder to a nice tinned surface. While still hot and molten, you can sling (be careful) or wipe the excess solder off to leave a smooth shiny tinned surface. Now make up two 1/32" music wire forks to hold the rubber motor for insertion in the model. Tin these at the attach point by holding them submerged in soldering paste until they are nicely tinned also. Position them one at a time on the prepared end of the antenna and tack solder them in correct position. If need be, keep removing and re-soldering them until you get them positioned perfectly. Now wrap the assembly with bare copper wire and then carefully sweat solder the entire unit. Clean the finished work with lacquer or dope thinner to remove the flux residue.

You now have a collapsible stuffing stick that extends only to the length you want. It can be marked to indicate the length inside a blind (P-30) fuselage where it will index with the alum. rubber motor retainer hole for easier insertion. This unit will then collapse to only 8 or 9 inches, making it very small to store in your field box. It is best considered for use in small to intermediate size models and not to handle 10 to 40 strands used in a larger ship. It really works well for me and you can usually find an old antenna around or ask your friends.

