ROCK SOLID THRUST BEARING SETUP

by Bill Henn An article published in the July 2007 issue of Tailspin, Mike Nassise, Editor

Here's the way I put together my thrust bearings for rubber-powered airplanes, whether they are endurance models or FAC Scale ships. I use two Peck Polymers PA-7 nylon bearings which come with a .046" hole and a short length of 1/4" aluminum tubing. If I need a larger opening In the bearings, I drill them out so that they fit whatever size wire I have used to make up the prop shaft. The small Peck bearings can also be used with 1/8" i.d. tubing, but they must be shaved or sanded down slightly. Their stock hole is .032" diameter, but again it can be drilled out to suit.

By setting up your thrust bearings as shown in the diagram below, you end up with a very durable unit that gives wobble free prop shaft rotation since a larger section of the wire is firmly supported. As everyone knows, the steadier the prop runs, the better the flight. Yes, It takes a little more time and effort to build the unit, but the results are worth it.

