

## **Jim Bethea Tips**

**Balsa Stripper.** Jim Bethea, our friendly Louisiana Cajun, passed along a tip for getting better results from using the little Master Airscrew Balsa Stripper. We all are familiar with its propensity to wander a bit as it cuts through that important piece of balsa. Jim found that Xacto #17 or #18 Chisel Blades, which have bevels only on one side, will keep the wood pressed against the stripper and help solve the problem of blade wander. Jim also says that fellow Cajun Tony Piazza taught him to put the balsa sheet down on a hard slick surface and set the blade depth to slightly over 1/2 the thickness of the balsa. Cut one side, turn the sheet over and cut the other side. Cuts straight, no more wandering.

**Battery Tester.** Jim has found a battery tester at Ace Hardware, made by GB Instruments called a GBT 500A Battery Tester. It costs about \$14. What isn't clear is how many amps load the tester puts on the battery. For batteries other than LiPolys, that probably isn't a great concern. Putting too much draw on a small LiPoly can ruin it, so be cautious on LiPolys.