TISSUE REPAIR MADE EASY

by Sergio Arias, La Plata, Argentina

I must confess that I can't remember where I first heard this tip. Nonetheless, it seems worth passing along.

This is it. Let's suppose you have a tear on your model's tissue. We usually deal with it the old fashion way — gluing a piece of tissue right on top. But, what if you have some elaborate artwork/decals/numerals in the area? Well, all you have to do is brush some dope over the damaged tissue. You don't need to thin it down too much. Then cover the area not with tissue, but with a piece of Saran Wrap or similar plastic film (make sure the film is not affected by dope thinner).

Leave to dry as long as it takes. Overnight should be OK (it will take longer than uncovered dope). Once dry, peel the film off and, Presto!! The dope magically joined the torn pieces together! Unbelievable? Try it, it works. You can always add a patch of tissue on top to reinforce the area but it is actually not necessary.

I came back from the field with a couple tears on the underside of the wing on a small glider and took advantage of them to test the method and the results were incredible. Best of all, the pieces return to their former place by capillary action as the dope dries.