

## Stripping Tissue Off Models

Another worthwhile article shamelessly lifted from the SCIF "Flightplug," Mike Myers, Editor

What would an Editor do without that man Wallock? Mik Mikkelson sent me the following, which he'd received from Gene. Mik said it would make a nice piece for the Plug, and who am I to argue with Mik. [After all Mik keeps a notebook listing every contest event he's won---and I've been the anchor clanker or otherwise well down the list of competitors in many of those self-same events. I know my place usually one or two spots out of the money—but I digress.]

Gene strips tissue off using Acetone brushed on small areas. The Acetone will instantly soften the dope. Gene gently scrapes with commercial razor blades till he is near the wood. It may take several applications to clear an area. Gene says it takes about 2 hours to strip a Duplex Wake fuselage. He sands the stripped frame with well used 150 sandpaper, re-dopes and re-covers. Gene says he has used Commercial Paint Strippers before and they're a lot messier plus they leave a wax residue that has to be scrubbed off with a terry cloth towel and Acetone. This works on big models.

Gene says he runs into problems when he hits areas he patched with CA. He carefully cuts the CA away. He removes all the hooks and soaks them in a small jar of Acetone to dissolve any CA.

I have a couple of observations on Gene's technique which really starts with how he covered the original model. He sands his framework very smooth and puts two or three coats of dope on it before adhering the tissue with dope thinner or acetone. So he's got a clean surface to work against when it comes time to re-cover. He works a small area at a time. A lot of the difficulty in stripping tissue from a framework occurs when you have too much area with partially dissolved adhesive and bits and scraps of tissue adhering/stuck to the framework. Slow but steady wins the race. And finally, if Gene could strip a Duplex Wake fuselage that I'd covered in just two hours — well then I could jump over the Washington Monument in a single bound---or I'd be delighted to pay him \$20 an hour to do the job! [Your editor hates stripping old covering—it's quicker for me to build a new model!]