

CUTTING TUBING FOR .047 PROP SHAFT

By George White

In last month's issue of this rag, I discussed the availability of brass tubing which fits perfectly inside 3/32 aluminum tubing, and which has an inside diameter just right for a .047 prop shaft. What I failed to discuss is the process by which you can cut that stuff. The tubing wall is extremely thin, and if you cut it with a dremel wheel, or just roll a razor blade over it to cut it, a burr will be created which is folded in. That burr can only be removed by pushing it out from the inside. To do that you should always make your cuts from the same end of the tubing. Upon making your first cut from a new piece of tubing, you can easily run a .047 wire into the tubing and push the burr out of the piece you just cut. You cannot push it in or use a flaring tool, reamer or drill bit to clean it out — ask me how I know. Then before setting aside the long piece from which you made the cut, ensure that you've inserted the same long piece of .047 wire from the virgin end and push the burr out that you created with that first cut. Then, as you make subsequent cuts, you will be able to deal with the burr. Once you have a burr on both ends, you might as well toss the tubing.