

EASY WING FILLETS

by Mike Nassise

As published in the July/August 2005 issue of Tailspin, Journal of the Bay State FAC Squadron's Pilgrim Flyers

I have used this method of making wing fillets on the last two models (Heinkel He-100D and Fiat G.55) that I've built and it's worked extremely well. In fact, not only did it produce very nice results, but the effort involved was much less than I normally have expended to do the job. I am not, however, the one who originated this technique. I first read about it in a piece by Tony Peters in *Flying Models* and I believe he should be given credit for it. Here's what's involved.

Instead of trying to make fillets using bond paper and colored tissue as I have done in the past, I followed Tony's suggestion of using tracing paper (artist quality) in place of the bond. Two things become readily apparent when you do this. The first is that the tracing paper is much lighter than bond paper, and it can be more easily "formed" into the curved shape of a fillet. The second is the color of the tracing paper does not show through the tissue the way the color of the bond paper does. It's virtually invisible underneath. Both points are significant advantages.

To make wing fillets in this fashion, you must first layer together a piece of tracing paper and a piece of appropriately colored tissue. I like to use permanent glue stick (UHU) to quickly and easily bond them together. Then, using a card stock template of the desired fillet, draw the shape on the tracing paper side of your laminate. Remember, you will need both right side and left-side fillets. Now, cut out your fillets with a pair of sharp scissors and you're ready to mount them on your airplane.

Again, a permanent glue stick is used to attach the fillets in position. Use your fingers to "form" and smooth each fillet into the wing/fuselage junction. If things don't go your liking, a little isopropyl alcohol put on with a brush will allow you to lift up a fillet and try again. (*Ed Note: If you use fresh denatured alcohol, you won't get wrinkling of the tissue caused by the water in the isopropyl.*) The fillets can then be doped or given a coat of clear Krylon to finish them up. There you have it, a fast and easy way to do a job that can often be quite frustrating. Give it a try, sticksters. I think you'll like the results you get.