# VMC Pilot Build Blogs

Chris Brainwood

As one of the more experienced balsa builders I must admit to being thrown slightly by the lack of a full plan to build from and the use of IKEA type instructions. However they are very clear and easy to follow. Cutting the plan up into wing plan, kit parts guide and the instructions helped a lot.

I did make a change to the build seq by not fitting the undercarriage until I had built the fuselage. This allowed the fuselage to be checked for square more easily.

My first stage was to glue the two formers to one on the sheet sides using a square to keep things straight . Once that was dry I could assemble the other fuselage side and add the other small part fomers to this box section. While things were drying I assembled all the laminated parts such as wheels and nose formers
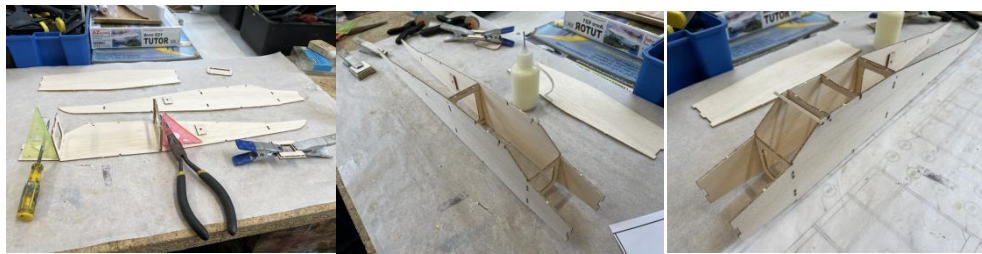
Once this box section had dried I could join the tail section. Without a plan I drew some parallel lines on one of the plan off cuts to line things up, masking tape was used to hold things in place. Only once that had dried could I add the nose former


Wing building is pretty straightforward. The Undercarriage wire was now added to the former F2. I used a pencil to scribe a line where the wire goes so that the reinforcing parts can be glued firmly to the former. I used a small amount of 5 min Epoxy for this and some spring clamps to hold it while the glue dries

With the basic construction done the next stage is sanding. I think the key thing to note with the wing is to make sure you follow the plan with regard to the nose profile of the Leading Edge. A good way is to sand a small 45 deg flat on the underside to the LE and then round that off . With the separate wing panels sanded they could be joined using blocks to give the correct 2 1/2" dihedral

I did a quick check on the tail plane assembly and discovered a slight twist in the tail in relation to the wing. You don't want this it will produce a turn in flight so I gently sanded the RH sheet side to get the tail flat
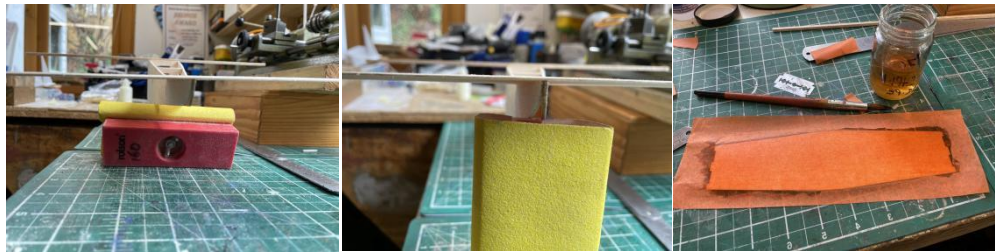
I decided to cover the fuselage in tissue. I found some non wet strength orange in my tissue box I'll never use for anything else so went with that. I'm not a fan of EzyDope so I'm afraid I'm using cellulose dope. Most of my covering with small models is done with Non Shrinking Dope mix 30% to 70% cellulose thinners but for the fuselage I did use some Shrinking dope at 50/50 thinners. For sheet surfaces I dope the sheet apply the tissue and dope again on top

I hope to fly mine indoors where the walls come up alarming quickly so I've added a trim tab to the rudder . After I'd covered the fin I cut out a section and used some small diamond shaped pieces of aluminium cut from a drinks can . Some thin Cyano was used to fix the ali to the balsa fin

For covering the wings I used some wet strength tissue from Carnival Papers mainly because I have loads of it . I use DeLuxe Tissue Paste to stick the tissue onto the airframe aplying it to the spars and ribs as well. I find this not only adds extra strength to the structure but also aids repairs as a small section can be cut out between the ribs and re applied easily

Once the tissue paste has dried I could water shrink the tissue by lightly spraying one half of the wing with water from a plant mister type bottle. This is then pinned down while it dries. I have used some scrap balsa strip to hold the wet tissue away from the building board. Note also that the wing is packed up at the rear edge of the wing tip by 1/16". This gives some washout to the wing which will help with stability in flight and was done equally to both sides

After doping the fuselage part of the covering looked a bit naff so I decided to replace a section . As I had glued the covering to all the cross members using tissue paste I could just remove the wrinkly bit by cutting out with a very sharp scalpel and using tissue paste to stick in the new section. This method is useful for any repairs you may need to make later
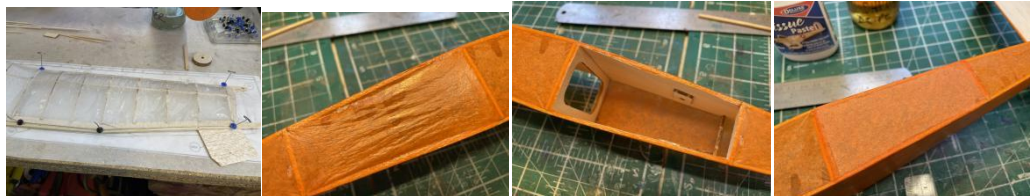
I love the ease of build of this model and the great design, it didn't take too long to get something that looks like an aeroplane