

Top tip: applying sheet to fully sheeted wings

This is for my Mosquito. The wings are fully sheeted. In the past I sheeted one piece at a time. This made pinning easy but left pin holes and led to less than perfect sheet joins. This time I followed Tony Nijhuis's advice and made up a sheet to cover the whole wing at once. I edge joined three sheets using tape and balsa cement, wiping off the surplus cement with Lidl solvent. I then sanded both sides with a foam block, especially the joins. The cement worked very well. I laid the wing on the sheet and marked around it, then cut the sheet with a decent allowance all round.

I then wondered how to hold the sheet down on the wing whilst the glue dried, without being able to see if the sheet was properly in contact all over. The above method using pins seemed a bit hazardous.

I decided on what I think might be a new method. After pinning the wing frame to the building board, I pushed in pairs of pins, one on each side of the wing, at an angle to hold rubber bands. A trial run without glue showed it worked. I pinned down balsa location blocks to make sure I placed the sheet correctly.

I used a wide syringe tip with PVA for the actual gluing. I filled two syringe bodies with glue otherwise I would have run out.

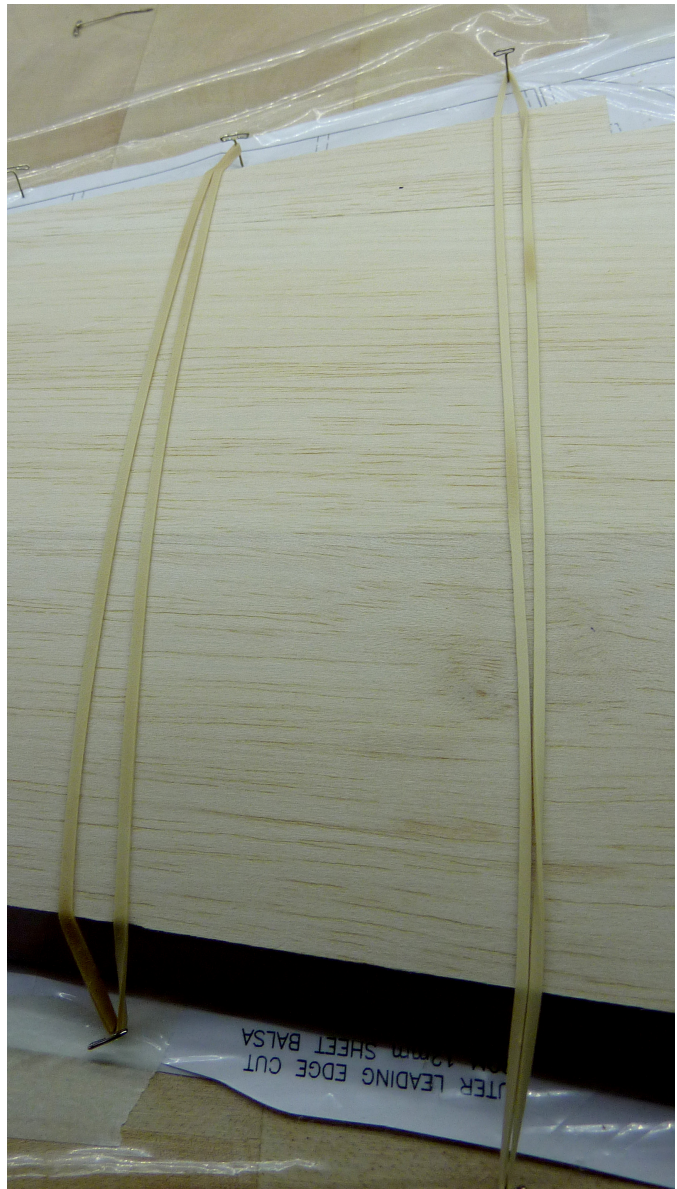
Here is the whole wing with the bands on. Take care as you put the bands on in case the farther pin jumps out into your face.

Note the four balsa positioning blocks held down with pins. The sheet is butted against them before dropping it onto the glue.

Extra small pieces of sheet are needed in two places.



This detail shows two pairs of pins and rubber bands in place.



To avoid warps Tony suggests making some jigs to sit the wing on when sheeting the underside of the wing.

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