

TAKING CARE OF YOUR BRUSH

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*An article published in the September 2009 issue of the
Wichita Historical Aircraft Modeler newsletter,
Jeff Englert, Editor*

Presented here is a technique that I have used for years in my model building. I'm not a fan of plastic films and use a lot of silk and dope as well as polyspan. If you allow a dope brush to dry out between applications of dope in the course of building a model, the chances of hair fracturing and shedding are greatly increased. A good dope brush is usually expensive and a valued tool in your modeling repertoire.

The diagram shows a method I have used to very good effect for many years, and thought I would share it with my friends. Obtain a premium glass cigar tube from a friend who smokes them or golly, maybe you smoke these yourself? It may be worth buying one outright and doing what you will with the cigar itself. Anyway, cut a round hole carefully in the soft polypropylene cap with a no. 1 X-acto knife that fits snugly around the brush handle when the brush is about 3/4 of the way in the glass tube. The brush will stay nice, wet and soft between dope applications of a given model building project.

Clean the brush thoroughly in thinner and store away dry only when you are finished with a given project, and will not be using it for awhile. There are also cigars sold in aluminum metal tubes but have 3 drawbacks. You cannot see when inserting the brush if you are abusing the hairs and bending them backwards. The caps on these screw on, and are not as air tight. Lastly, the metal cap presents a problem making a nice, resilient hole in it that seals well.

