

CLOUD TRAMP BUILDING TIP

From the April 2002 Issue of "Flightplug" the Newsletter of the Southern California Ignition Flyers, Mike Myers, Editor

Since we have a Cloud Tramp Launch coming up in August, this is a timely, if old article— Ed. Some plans for the Grant Cloud Tramp call out 3/64 wood for the wings. Now that's within 2 or 3 thousandths of an inch of 1/20 sheet-but there are inquiring minds who want to know how to get 3/64-and there are some Brits out there who are such sticklers for accuracy that only 3/64 will do. Here's a solution. Cyano two parallel pieces of .047 wire to a flat surface at a distance equal to the width of your sheet of balsa. Slip a piece of 1/16 balsa (which is about .063) between the pieces of wire, and sand gently along the grain away from yourself until your sanding block contacts the wire. I would suggest sanding in just one direction--and trying to take the same amount off each side to avoid any tendency for the sanded wood to curl.

Another way offered to achieve a similar result is to wrap layers of masking tape around each end of your sanding block. Sand the wood gently, on a flat surface, between the two taped ends. By adding or removing layers of tape, you can control the thickness quite accurately. I am told that this was an indoor modeler's trick.