

COCKPIT COAMING — RICHARD ADAM'S SOLUTIONS

By George White

While stumbling through the construction of the Rocky Top SE5 kit, I was trying to figure out exactly how I was going to make the nice leather coaming surrounding the cockpit edging. An email to Richard Adams, who I've found to be a masterful builder, brought forth two recommendations. He recommended I go to a Michael's craft store and look on the wall where they sell leather accessories and I'd find that they have small packages of round leather in black and natural color, in 1/16" diameter. I found the stuff, adhered it with canopy glue, and voila! a nice leather coaming.

Richard recommended another idea for slightly larger coaming. He says to "take a cotton cord, soak it with ambroid and stick it to the edge of the cockpit and let it dry." "I buy this thin leather from Michaels or salvage leather from Day Planners or old purses (ed. note: my friendly wife read this and is now wary of my lurking around her closet) and strip it and then shave it really thin. Cut it into strip and put ambroid on the rough side, fold it lengthwise to form it into a rough U shape, and just as it starts to dry completely, form it into the canopy shape but don't allow it to touch the model yet. Let it dry some more and then mold it into the fuselage shape while it is still somewhat pliable. It will start to feel a bit stiff. Trim the length and then apply another coat of Ambroid to the leather and apply it to the fuselage, working the perimeter as it softens the glue in the leather and then starts to set. The cotton cord plus the leather determines the thickness of the padding."