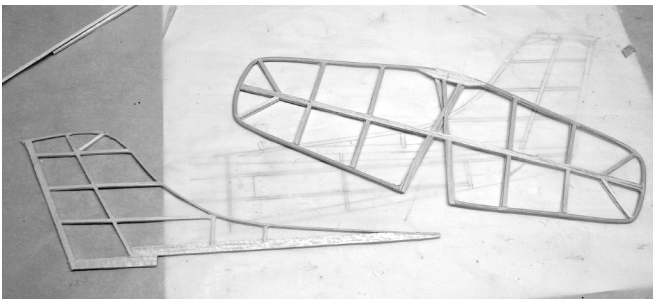


CANE REED FOR MODEL BUILDING

By George White

While attending an FAC meet at Raeford, NC, this past summer, Claude Powell of West Virginia asked if I had ever tried using cane reed for wingtips, stabs and fin outlines. At first I thought he was pulling my leg, but then he showed me an example and told me that Dave Rees used it extensively. Dave Rees, one of the country's best scale model builders showed me an example in which he had built a stab using it not only for the outline, but also as diagonal reinforcement to prevent warping.

Having used Tonkin bamboo for the wingtips of a couple of Wally Simmers' Gollywocks, I had learned that bamboo isn't the easiest stuff to bend, particularly in relatively small diameter curves. To encourage me to try reed, Claude sent me a small supply of reed in two sizes — 1/16" and 3/32", both sizes with round cross sections. Since I'm in the process of building a 27" Cessna 182RG, I decided to give the stuff a try. As instructed by Claude, I built the interior structure of both the stab and the fin and held it down on the building board (I use magnets exclusively for building). I then soaked the reed in hot water for an hour or so, wrapped it around the structure and glued it on. Much to my surprise, the reed was very easy to bend in compound shape of the fin and as you can see from the stab below, also easy to bend around the rather sharp curves at the tips of the stab. When the reed dried, it seemed plenty strong, and was also extremely light. Claude cautioned me that to ensure that tissue shrinking doesn't distort the outline, I should dip a piece of wire in thin CA and run the CA around the periphery of the cane after it dries.



I used 1/16" for the Fin and 3/32" for the stab. In summary, I'm now a believer. This stuff could be used for almost any size model you want to build, from Peanuts to endurance jobs. The only drawback in using reed is that it is sold by the pound, with one pound being the minimum. That, in case you wonder, gives you a lifetime supply, but it is relatively cheap at less than \$8/lb. You may be able to find this stuff in hobby shops, but generally it's larger than we can use, and flat instead of round. The source I used was:

[http://www.caneandreed.com/reed.html#ROUND%20REED.](http://www.caneandreed.com/reed.html#ROUND%20REED)

They were very nice with which to do business. Give it a try — you'll like it — it's strong and very light.