

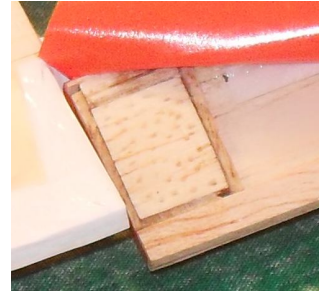
Film Mounting Tips



Tools needed: covering iron, trim tool iron, heat gun, with Blade nozzle, cloth iron boot or a piece of thin cloth such as a handkerchief will work well. Heating the film with either an iron or gun, particularly on larger smooth surfaces followed by a quick wipe with the cloth will give a nice finished surface.



If you are mounting control horns on balsa wood surfaces, you must harden that surface to give proper support to the horns. Take a pin or Exacto knife and punch the area with a lot of holes on both sides, apply thin CA adhesive and sand smooth. Drill holes for bolts going thru the horns, put a drop of CA in the holes, re-drill. This will make the area almost as hard as plywood. This procedure is not necessary if mounting horns to plywood.



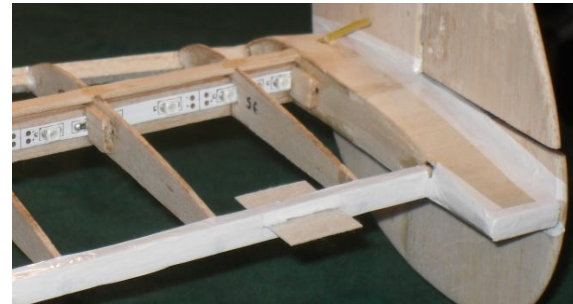
Before starting to cover aircraft, “pin the hinges”. No matter what style of hinges you use, it is a good idea to pin the hinges to the airframe so they can’t pull out. Drill or punch a small hole in both halves of the hinge, insert toothpick, apply a droplet of thin CA adhesive, sand smooth.



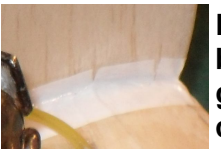
First review the short Monokote (tm) video on class web site.



As shown in the video, do the edges and inside corners with narrow film strips. The Trim Iron works best for this. Start with the iron on low so it won't shrink the film too much. Once it is ironed on and smoothed out, turn the iron on high and



go over it again to enhance adhesion to the surface. Doing this first makes it easier to apply the rest of the covering as flat sheets. It also makes it easier to change colors at the joint if so desired.



Follow video tips for doing wing tips and areas like rudders, but don't be afraid if the wrap gets too complicated to put in tiny slits to aid in getting the film smooth. Make sure the slits will be covered by the film coming around from the other side.



- The best results in covering can be achieved by doing the plane in this order. Start at the tail and work forward, this keeps film edges downwind. Do the bottom first then the sides and finally the top, this makes the seams less visible. Overlap can be 1/8"-1/4". In the case of round or odd shaped structures you have to deal with this in the best way you can.
- Don't try to do too large of surfaces in one piece. Angles or compound curves are nearly impossible to put on smoothly.
- When joining films to extend length or to change colors there must be a surface to attach to. Do not make joints in open spans on the model.
- Apply and shrink film with the iron first, then follow up with the heat gun. CAUTION these guns are hot and can burn a hole thru the cover film fairly easily. Hold gun 2-3" from film and keep the gun going in a circular motion until desired shrink is achieved.

