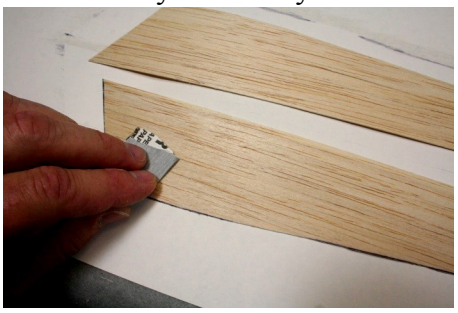
1/32” Balsa & SilkSpan Hull Skin Installation.

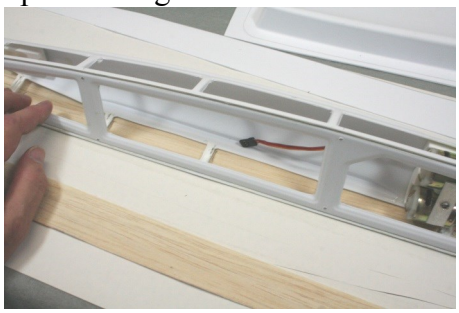


Protect your work surface with a layer of paper. Trace the pattern twice on 1/32-inch balsa. Cut out the two pieces with a hobby knife. Lay out the two sides as shown. Brush one coat of Dope to one side and let dry 30 minutes.

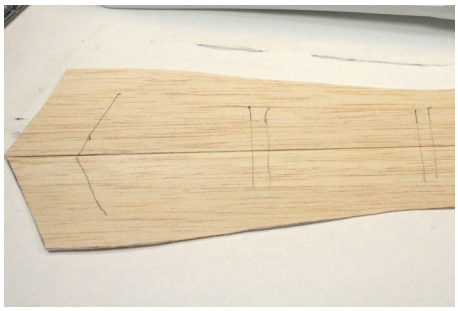
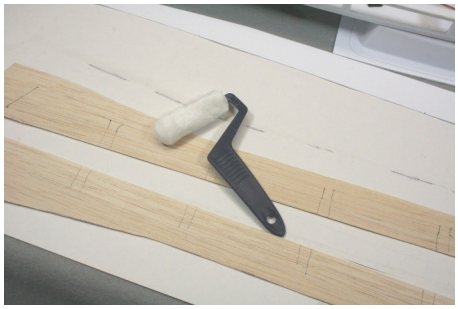
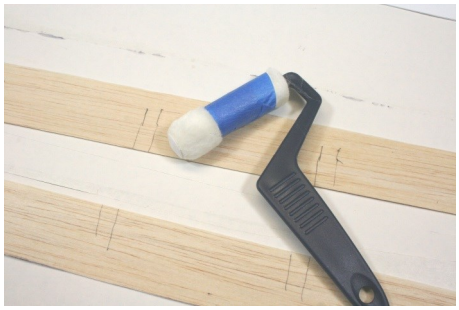


Lightly wipe with fine sandpaper to knock off any bits. Lay a piece of silkspan over the two sides. Securing with tape at each end will stretch out wrinkles and make it easier to brush on one coat of dope over the silkspan. The dope will penetrate the silkspan and bond it to the dried first coat of dope to strengthen the balsa.



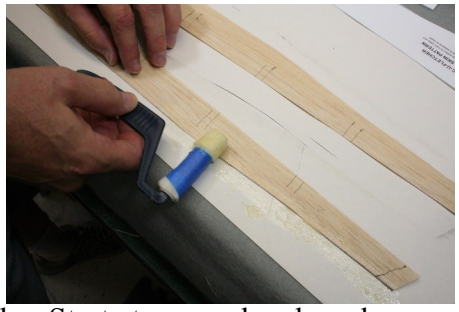
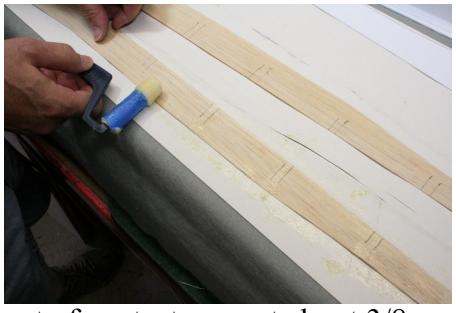


When completely dry, trim away the silkspan. Set the silkspan-covered side against the hull about 3/8-inches back from the edge of the bow. Lay the hull over onto the balsa. Lightly mark the ribs onto the balsa.

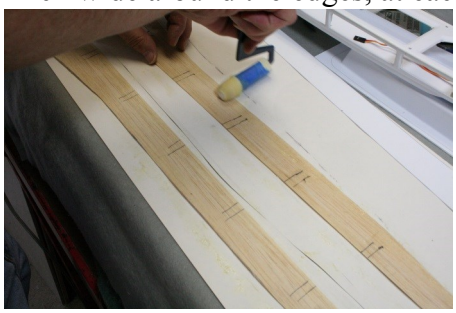
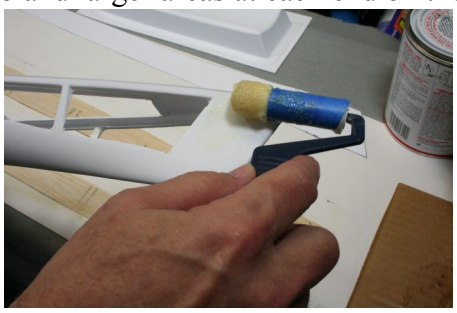
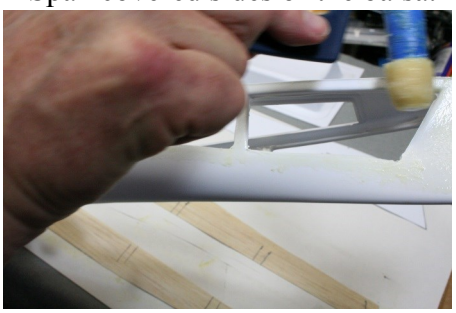




Silkspan side up, lay the two pieces next to each other and transfer the rib marks. A small mini-paint roller works great for contact cement. Tightly wrapping masking tape around it will give you a narrow applicator.


Gel cement is a little less runny and stringy than normal liquid. Put on cardboard and load the roller with glue.

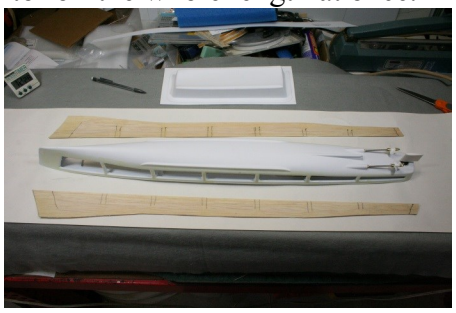




Use the untaped end as a narrow roller. Start at one end and work an even coat of contact cement about 3/8-inch wide around the edges, at each rib and larger areas at each end on the SilkSpan covered sides of the balsa.

The coating does not have to be thick or lumpy. Coat both pieces of balsa then roll adhesive onto both sides of the hull over the same areas. Start at the front and work rearward. Don't try to roll the whole length at once.

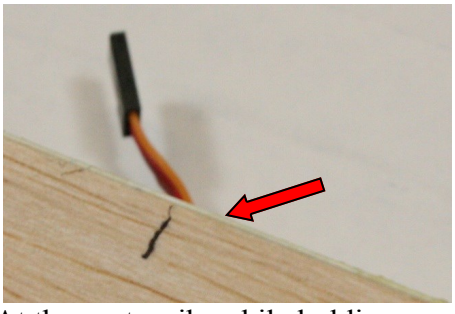




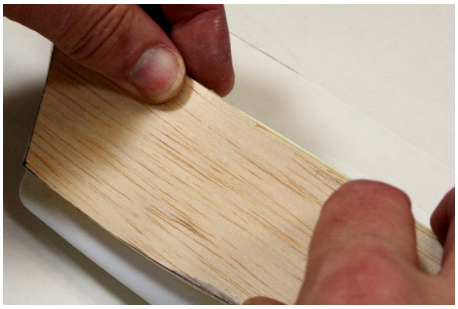
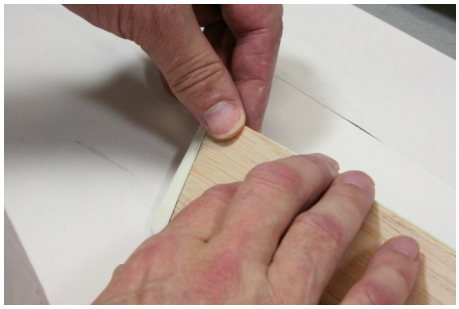
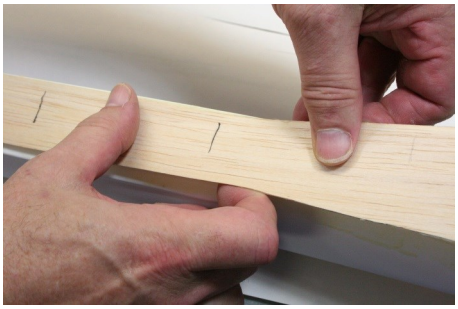
It is OK if you go further on the hull than the edge of the balsa. Beauty is not a priority. Let dry for 10 to 15 minutes. Roll up a plastic bag to keep your roller from drying. Apply a 2nd coat to the balsa sides and to the hull. Let dry at least 15 to 20 minutes according to the can's instructions. It will be dry to the touch.



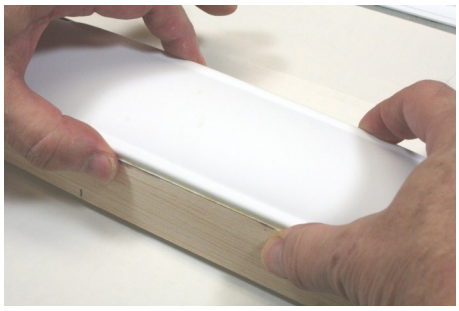
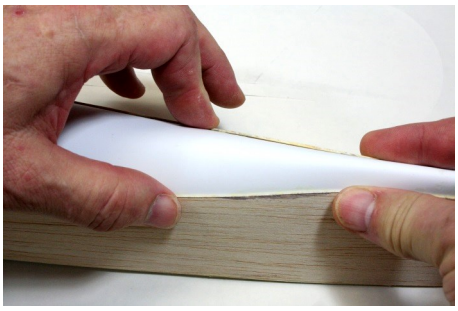
Turn over the paper protecting your work surface so there will be no glue residue to stick to your work. When dry, contact cement will only stick to other dried contact cement, and the bond is permanent so don't let it touch accidentally. Locate a center rib mark to guide your installation.



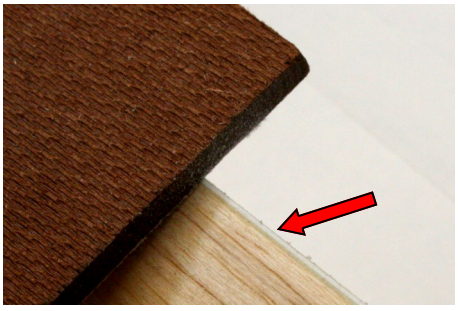
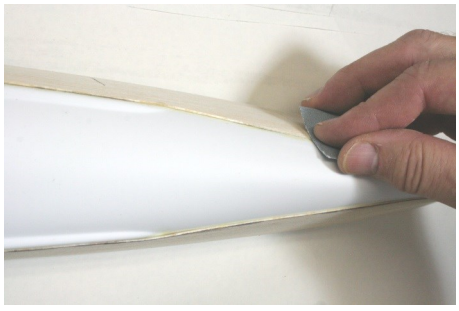
At the center rib, while holding up each end, place the top center edge of the balsa under the top lip (arrow) of the hull. Move to one side, pull and align the top edge of the balsa along the top edge of the hull, pressing as you go.

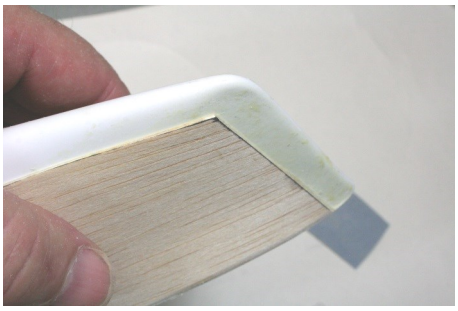
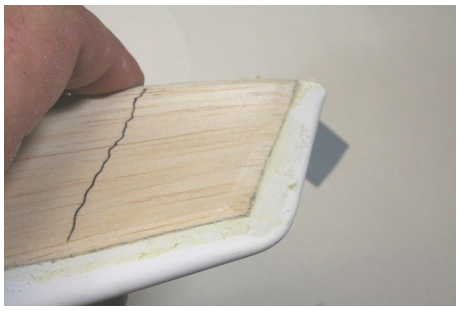
Continue to work and press along the top to each end. Repeat for the other side. Gently pull and align the balsa.

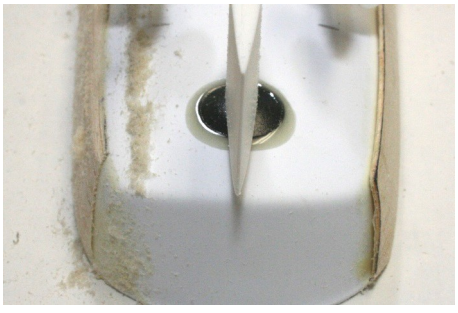
Once the top is bonded, turn the hull over and press along the bottom to bond the balsa to the hull. It is fragile.


Once the balsa is stuck tight, take the sanding board and put a slight taper along the top of the balsa sides just until you see the white edge of the hull styrene (arrow) exposed by the sandpaper. On the bottom edge, hold the small piece of sandpaper in a dish shape to put a taper on the bottom edges of the balsa strips.

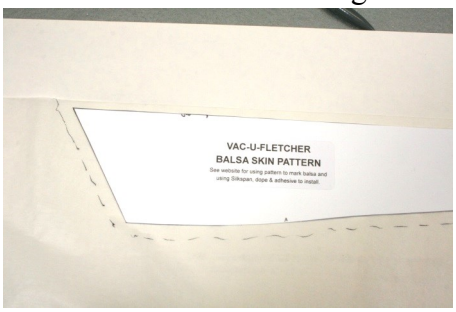

Leading edge before and after. Above the bilge keels, use the edge of the sandpaper to put a small bevel along the bottom edge of the balsa. The taper will help the balsa stay secured to the hull.

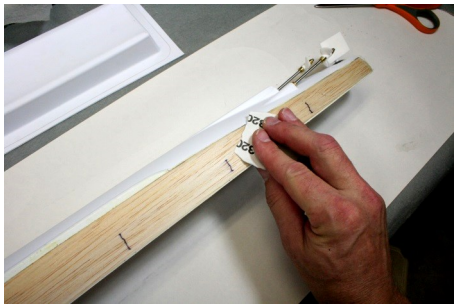


At the stern, the balsa will be sticking up from the hull a little. Sand downward until you reach the point where the balsa is bonded to the hull plastic. Then, put a taper along the side of the balsa in this area.

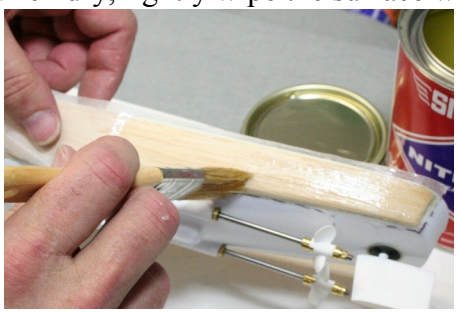
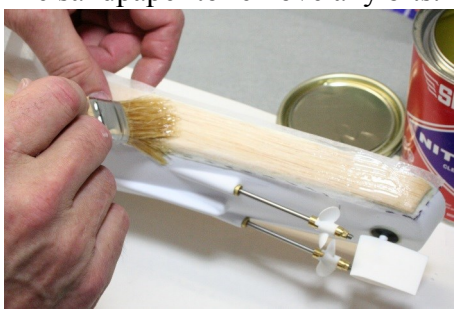


Work a thin layer of dope into the balsa to include the tapered edges. OK to get it on the plastic hull. Start and one end and work along. Don't try to wet the whole length. The dope dries too fast. One coat each side.

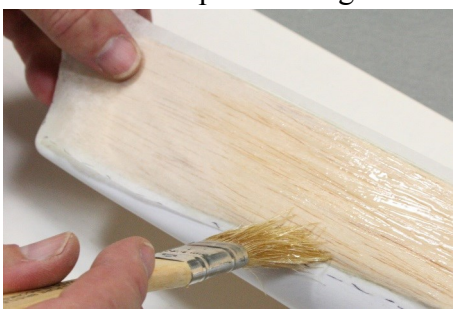
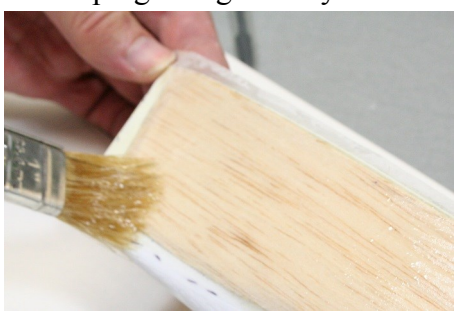


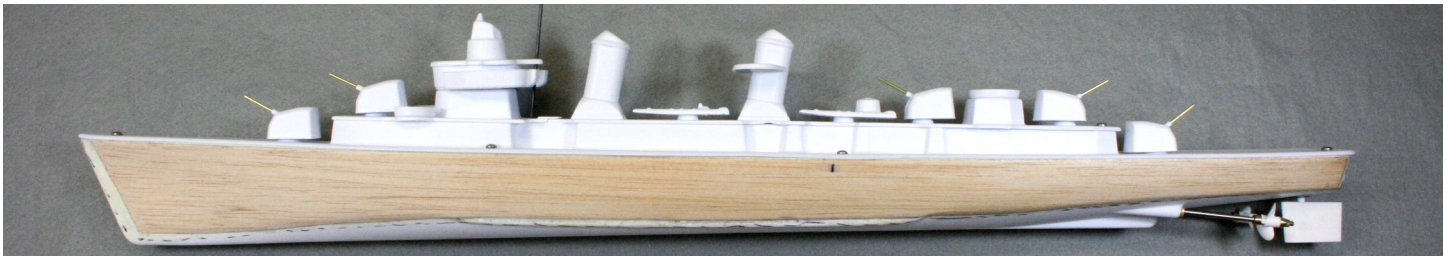
While the hull is drying, use the balsa pattern to mark and cut two pieces of silkspan with the cut marks about 1/4" larger than the pattern on all sides. When dry, lightly wipe the surface with fine sandpaper to remove any bits.

Holding the silkspan at the stern, evenly overlapping the balsa at the top and bottom, brush dope on the silkspan. It will soak through and bond the silkspan to the balsa and hull. Work along the hull, holding the silkspan in a slight tension and keeping it aligned as you brush the dope on to seal all areas.


The dotted lines show the edge of the silkspan. Use the brush or your finger to press out any gaps or bubbles along the edges. Once this side is dry to the touch, cover the other side with the other piece of silkspan. Once dry, use a hobby knife to trim off any excess silkspan sticking up above the top side of the deck.



Once completely dry (overnight) the hull is ready for painting. A very light wipe with fine sandpaper (320 grit) will remove any bits on the balsa that could affect the paint. The silkspan is thin. Just a touch with the paper. Do not sand the white plastic. Most paints made for plastics do not require scuffing the styrene to bond properly.