

**David Harding**

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**From:** Tandy C. Walker [tandyw@flash.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2010 8:55 PM  
**To:** Undisclosed-Recipient: ;@smtp106.sbc.mail.mud.yahoo.com  
**Subject:** 55 Speed 400 Cloudster - Making the Turtle Deck Behind the Firewall

*Speed 400 Cloudster Project*

The work today focused on constructing the turtle deck right behind the firewall. The first step was to cut out and sand the two bulkheads from 1/16" medium hard balsa as shown below. No, those are not lightening holes in the top bulkhead!



As you can see in the picture below, the two hole are openings for the two top blind nut on the firewall that permit the balsa bulkhead to be glued to the back of the firewall.



Soft balsa  $3/32$ " X  $3/16$  strips were cut in graduated lengths, tapered, beveled along the sides, and individually glued to the two bulkheads to form the turtle deck surface as shown below.



This is a view of the completed strip planking on the turtle deck looking down from the

top before it was trimmed and sanded.



The aft edge of the strip planking was trimmed off around the cockpit area and the turtle deck's outer surface was then carefully sanded flush with the top of the arched contour of the firewall. With good tight strip joints, the surface of the sanded turtle deck appears to be sheathed a continue piece of 3/32" sheet balsa as shown below. I am most pleased with the appearance of the turtle deck.....Tandy

