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Date: 2/8/2018 3:46:30 PM

Subject: 55 Lancer 850 - Top Right Leading Edge Planking (Part 2)

Report No. 55

New Cyclone Lancer 850

February 8, 2018

Enough time has been spent procrastinating about this planking procedure and so this morning I decided to take the final step in attempting to finish the planking of the leading edge of the top right wing panel. The picture below shows the forward edge of the 1/16" balsa planking sheet bonded to the wings leading edge. Aliphatic glue will have to be applied to the top edges of the 12 rib and along the top of spruce spar before the planking is taped down to the wing's structure.



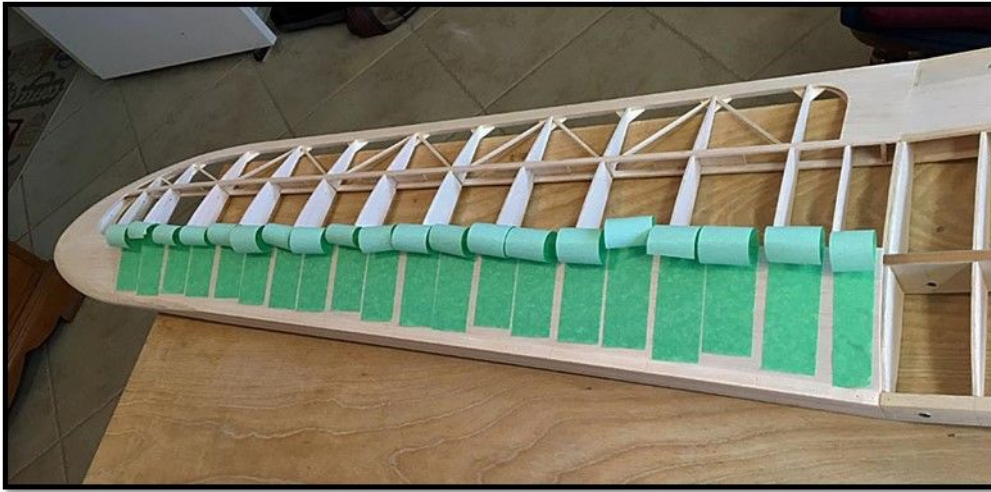
The "low tack" blue masking tape that I had did not stick to balsa very well. However, a couple of days ago I received the following message from modeler Rudy Hewert:

The green tape I use is branded "Duramax. My brother, who is a long-time auto body man (he owned his own body shop, and also was head painter), discovered this tape, and used it for years both in his business, and for personal use. Much less expensive than 3-M, for instance, and just as good. The green has a longer shelf life, and is better than the white variety for resistance to effects from ultraviolet radiation, etc.Rudy

Our local ACE hardware store stocks a large number of different brands of masking tape. They did not have the Duramax brand, but they did have "Painter's Mate" green masking tape shown below so I bought a 60 yard roll that was 1.41" wide to use in taping down the 1/16" planking.



Twenty strips of the green masking tape was cut and stuck to the top of the planking as shown below.



Titebond Extend wood glue was put into one of the squeeze bottles that Van Wilson sent me. As you can see below, it has a relatively long glue spout, but not long enough to reach 4" to the front of the ribs under the planking.



One of the new CA spouts shown below was pushed on to increase the length of the glue spout.

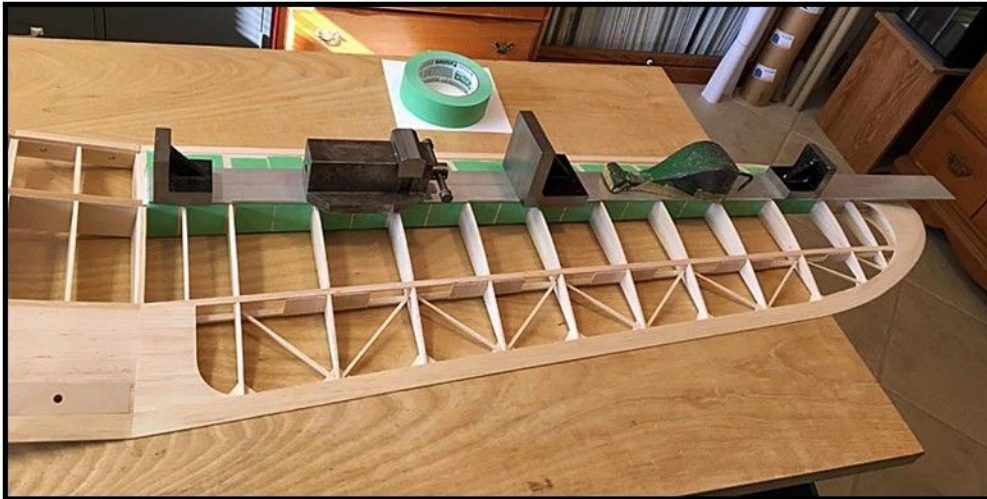


This squeeze bottle with its extended glue spout was used to place a steam or bead of glue on the top edges of the 12 rib and along the top of spruce spar. A small brush was then quickly used to spread out the beads of glue. As per Alfredo's procedure, the planking was pushed down curving it over the ribs. At the same time, the green masking tape was pulled tightly around and stuck down onto the vertical shear webs as shown below. This was done starting from the center of the wing panel and working out in either direction.



Upon inspection underneath the planking, I observed small "blobs" of glue at the joints and that there was no glue on the first ~ 1/2" of the rib edges. I had failed to get the glue spout down far enough under the planking. Glue was quickly applied on either side of the rib's first 1/2" and spread out with a wet Q-Tip as was the various blobs of glue.

I also observed that the curved planking made good contact with the edges of the ribs. However, Alfredo had suggested using several small metallic weights to assure better planking contact. Since I had no small metallic weights, an aluminum straight edge was placed on top of the planking where it made contact down the top of the spruce spar. Five heavy metal items were placed on and along the straight edge for a weight press as shown below. Notice that the panels leading and trailing edges are in good contact with the work table, which will keep it straight. This was left to dry for several hours.



This is a picture of the leading edge planking after the green masking tape was removed and it looks good to me.



The inspection underneath showed that the planking bonded well to the curved edges of every rib and all along the top of the spruce spar. However, I am worried about the bottom planking because I will not be able to add glue and spread it out with a wet Q-Tip as there will be no available access openings.



This two-part series on the wing's leading edge planking has explained the procedure I am using. I do not plan to post any more reports until I finish planking the other three leading edge areas.....Tandy