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Date: 3/4/2009 7:59:02 PM
Subject: 54 Sailplane Fin Construction

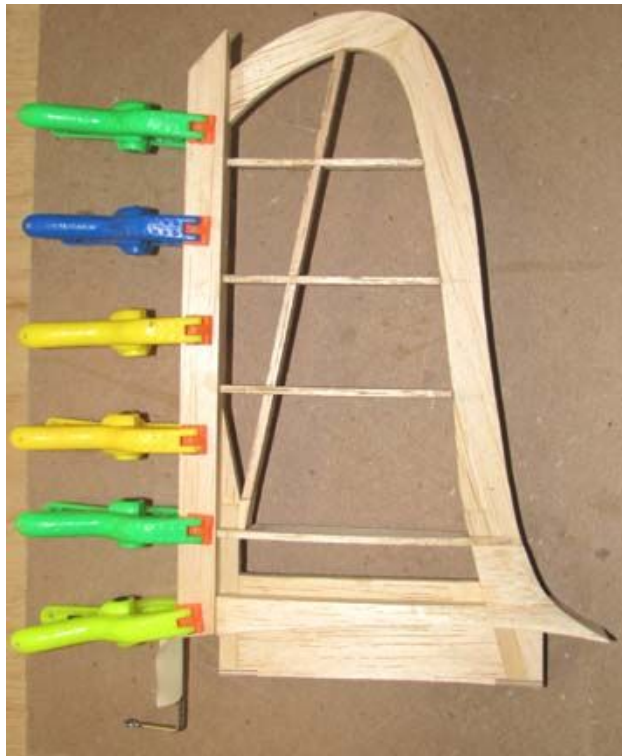
The bare fin primary structure shown below requires ribs, spars, and all sorts of fill wood to give it its final shape.



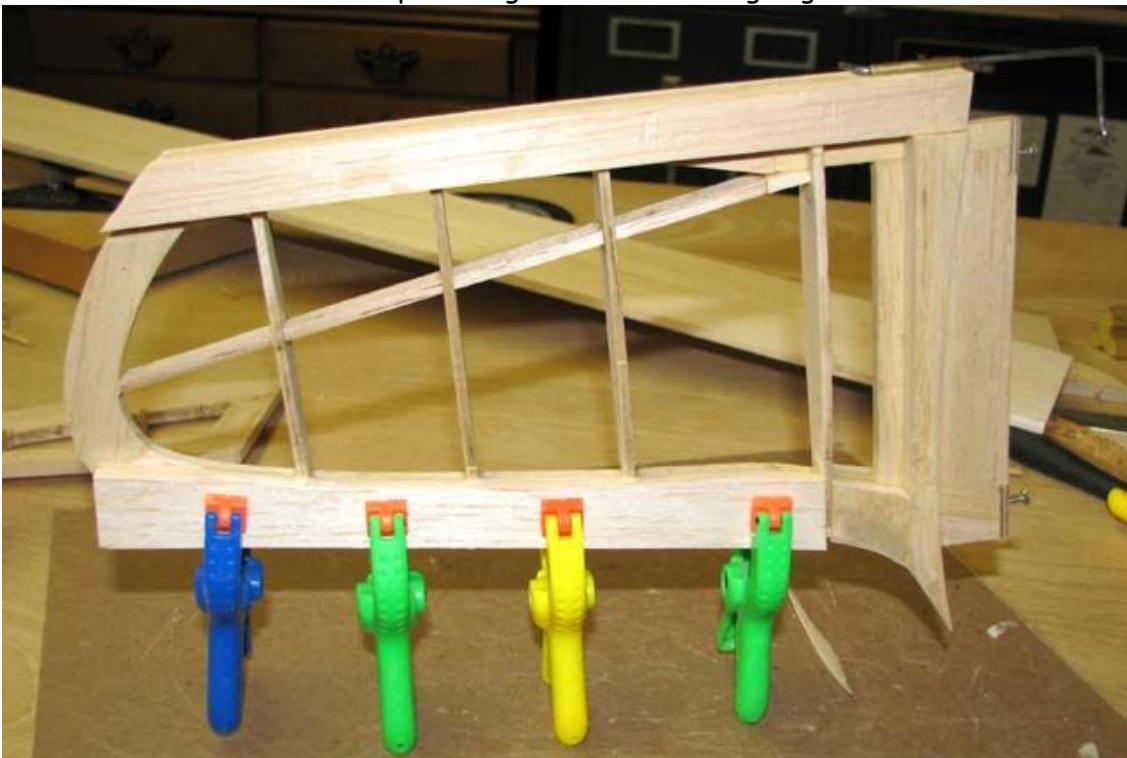
The four symmetrical fin ribs along with the internal spar were glued into the primary structure. A soft balsa block was then carved and sanded to the top contour of the stab to make the fin's root rib. With fin mounted in the stab slot, this contoured block was glued to the base of the fin as shown below.



Next soft balsa fill strips were glued to the trailing edge as shown below.



Then soft balsa fill strips were glued to the leading edge as shown below.



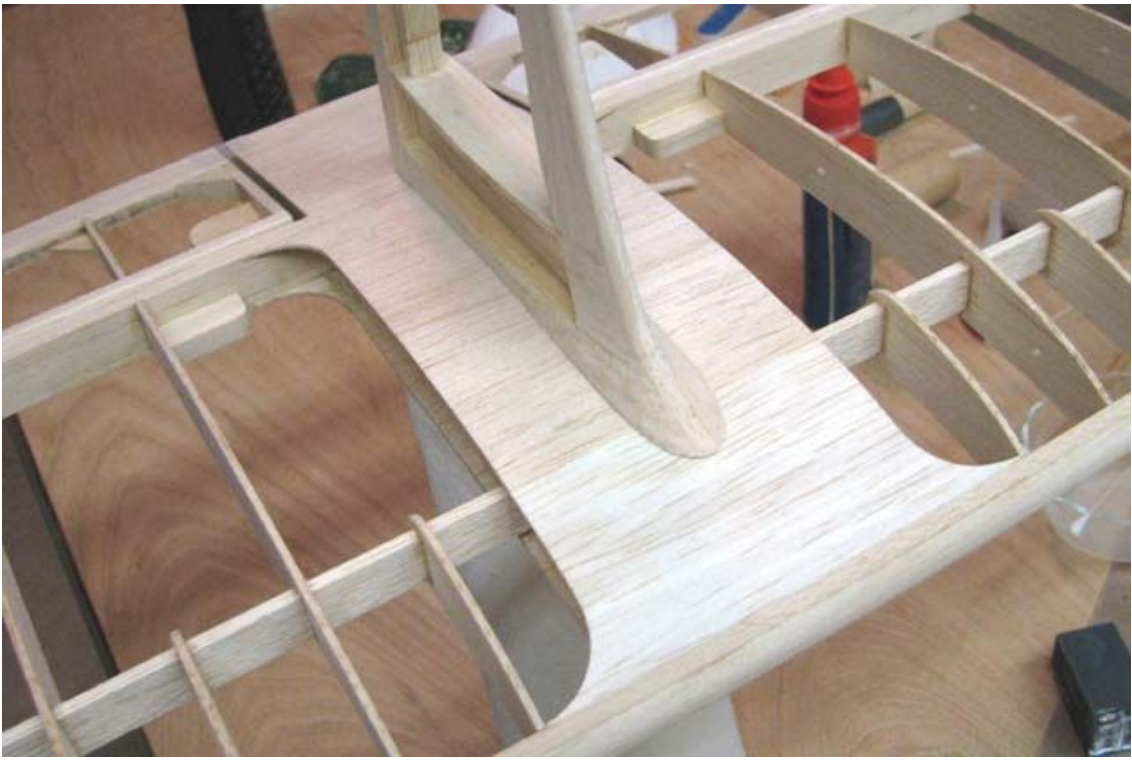
When everything was dry, the fin's leading edge, trailing edge, and root rib block were carved and sanded to shape. The fin's resulting foot print is shown below.



This shows the fin mounted in the stab slot. Notice the shape of the fin's forward fillet now.



This is a nice close up of the fin/stab interface juncture.



This is more of a frontal view of the fin/stab interface juncture.....Tandy

