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Subject: 55 Sailplane Rudder Construction

Comet Sailplane Project

The bare rudder primary structure required four ribs and leading edge fill wood to give it its final shape. I spent most of the day completing the rudder. When everything was dry, the rudder's leading and trailing edges were carved and sanding to shape. The fin/rudder profile is shown below.

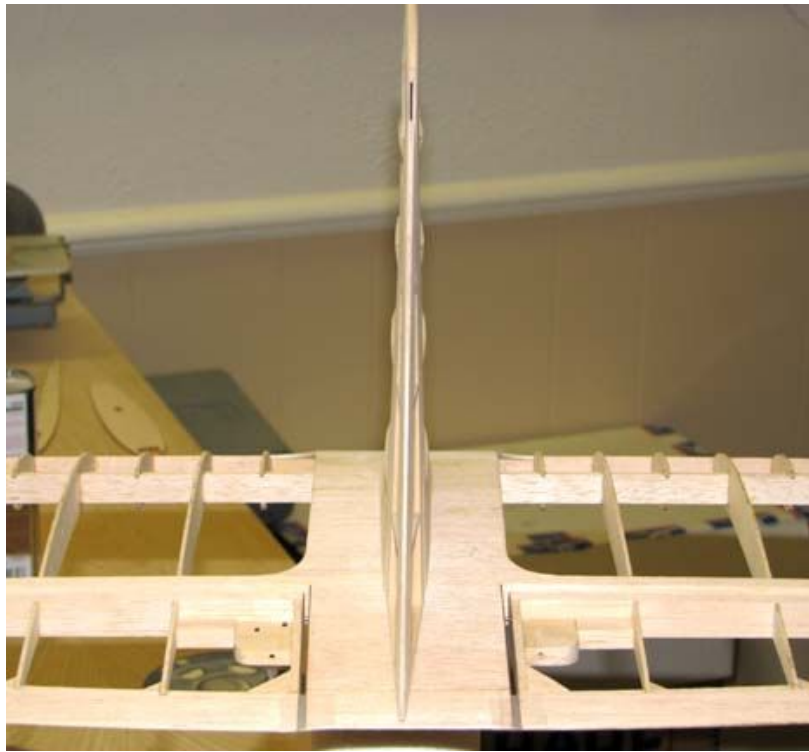


This view shows the fin/rudder's match along the hinge line.



This is nice rear view looking at the rudder's 1/16" trailing edge, which clearly show the vertical taper and the symmetrical airfoil shape of the fin/rudder ribs.

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For the size of the rudder I incorporated into the Sailplane's vertical tail, it has a 28 degree maximum deflection limit set by non-interference with up elevator deflection as shown below.



This finally completes the entire tail of the Sailplane. At this point I must put the project aside for several days and start working on our taxes, which generally always turns out to be a big "Kabuki Dance" for me. :O< So there will be no more Sailplane construction reports for a while.

On a different note, I want to discuss an issue with my new glasses. When I got them and started building again, I noticed that the focal length of the bifocal was set way too far out. Upon measuring, I discovered they focused out about 21" because I was having to try and work almost at arm's length. I had an appointment with my ophthalmologist this morning and explained my problem. He had me show him at what distance I wanted to work. Then he evaluated my glasses and my eyes and revised my prescription to correct the problem. You know, I had never specified focal length of my bifocals before, I didn't even realize you could! Then I took my glasses and my revised prescription over to the optometrist. He is having a new set of lenses made at no cost to me, since he warrants new glasses for 90 days. So for now, I am back to trying to

use my old glasses until the new ones are ready.....Tandy