

At this point all my sanding blocks were different sizes and my sand paper folder was filling up with odd sized bits and pieces. Mostly useless.

The solution turned out to be simple - Start with the sand paper not the block. Now I cut four 2 1/4" x 11" strips from a 9" x 11" sheet.

I'm making blocks as I need them, one is short and double sided with one end rounded. The other is long single sided with both ends rounded.

SHORT BLOCK

From a piece of 1" hardwood, (3/4" thick) cut a length of wood 2 1/4" wide. Cut from this as many 4 5/8" pieces as you want. Round one end. Start the rounded end at the center of the sand paper strip and bring it around to the square end fold each end of the strip down and thumb tack in place.

LONG BLOCK

From that same 2 1/4" wide piece, cut a length at 8 1/2" and round both ends. Overlap about an inch on each end and thumb tack in place. In case anyone is wondering why the rounded ends, well, when going across the top of a wing at 90 degrees it doesn't catch and split a rib.

You'll find that 40 grit and 180 grit will be about all you need to build with balsa. For surfaces that will be painted you will need the higher numbered grits. I'll leave painting till another day, better yet someone else should do an article for beginner painters.

One last thing, always sand with the grain of the wood. You'll save yourself a lot of work.

Now go get yourself and your shop all dusty, but above all else, Have fun.

Got fuel-soaked balsa?

Fuel leak from the fuel tank all over the tank compartment? If so I have the solution! First, remove the fuel tank if able. Next, try to dry as much as possible. When finished, get some regular corn starch and dump it in the compartment and leave for 24-48 hours. After that, dump out the excess (if able) or use the vacuum cleaner. You will probably have corn starch stuck on the balsa where the fuel was. Just push the tank in and take it back out and use the vacuum to get the rest out. If it is still damp reapply the corn starch for another 24 hours. Repeat as you feel necessary. Yes, there are other methods to use but I have found this one to be best.

A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, "Dam!"

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies "Yes, I'm positive."

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

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