

# Covering and Mounting the Tail

## Gather:

- Fuselage
- Tail components
- Covering material (Colored tape or self adhesive Monokote)
- X-Acto Knife and scissors
- Goop glue

## Procedure:

- Wash and dry the tail group components to remove any release agent left over from the material's manufacture.
- Sand the edges of the tail pieces to straighten the edges and remove the band saw goobers if present.
- We are in the process of changing over to die cut tail components. If your kit uses the old band saw cut tail, you will need to cut out a rectangular hole in the horizontal stab for the rear post of the fin to pass through. The rectangle is marked for you already. Simply use a sharp X-acto knife and make light cuts along the lines until you can remove the rectangle of coroplast.
- Coroplast is kind of weird in that it can sometimes be dead straight and sometimes it can bow. The good news is that it doesn't take much to get a piece acceptably straight. The first thing you want to do then is determine if your tail group has any bows in it.
- When you cover the tail, you want to use either colored packing tape or self-adhesive Monokote. You never use heat on the tail. It is also a good idea not to leave the plane in a hot car in the summer, either. As you cover the tail components, you need to leave the fin tangs, the mating surface between the fin and the stab, and the mating surface between the stab and the fuselage clear of covering material.
- If you are using self-adhesive Monokote, cut your material to size now. Use four pieces for the stab, not two continuous pieces.
- If you observed a bow in any tail group component, block up both ends of the component slightly. Then apply the covering material while forcing the center of the component down against the bow. This should more or less straighten the component.
- Cover all surfaces leaving the gaps noted above.
- Run a thin bead of Goop on the bare spot on top of the stab. Also apply Goop to the top of the tail boom and the notches for the fin tangs.
- Assemble the fin to the stab and the tail assembly to the boom. Make sure the fin is at a right angle to the stab. Weight, tape or otherwise secure the tail group in place until the glue has cured.
- Connect the control cables to the control horns and center all surfaces.

You are now ready to move on to making preparations for your first flight.