Scale Floats

In this section we show the basics on how to fabricate those inflateable floats you see on some helis serviceing over water.

They are nothing more than shuttle boom pieces which are very light covered with raincoat matierial and then stitched with fishing line to look like they can burst apart at the pilots discretion. They are non-functioning but may add that look you need to give the machine the extra something special.

This is a Twin-Star equipped with the Graupner Uni-2000 system and O.S. Max .91 motor, We are using the 10:1 ratio and large 800mm blades.The flight perfomance is fantastic to say the very least, rock solid and powerful.

This helicopter will added to the photo gallery soon....Maui Air , a hawwain operator for sightseeing tours in Maui.

We start with pieces of Hirobo shuttle boom which is very thin wall aluminum.

Once cut to the proper length, we then measure out the matierial needed to cover them, in this case black nylon raincoat fabric which is rubberized on one side.

We will use this side for the outer skin.

The raincoat fabric must be cut enough to cover the boom tube and meet and also have a 3/4” overlap folded under on both ends as they meet so the seam will be doubled up and able to take the stitching without tearing.

So the fabric is as wide as the boom is round plus 1.5 inches for total overlap(which is tucked under).

The basic things are tapestry needles, 30lb monofiliment fishing line and super 77 spray contact adhesive or equivilent.

The fabric once cut is layed out on a piece of cardboard and sprayed with adhesive and left to set for few minutes. The boom tube is then covered with the seam brought together and set to dry for the better part of the day (24hours best).

Then its time to stitch the laces cross style spacing your holes about 10 mm apart. You’ll need about 4 times the legnth of the boom piece in fishing line in order to do it in one piece without interuptions in the stitch. (Practice on something else).

The air-feed hoses are made from 1/16” alu tubing covered with shrink sleeve and then banded with chartpak tape which available in most art supply stores. Thin Ca is used to secure then from unwraping.

The final installation is done with two small holes near each skid tube which accomodates two small clear zip ties. Followed with a dab of PFM glue and they are secure and firm without the need for bolts or screws which can vibrate loose anyway.

And thats about it, with a little time and effort these can be made quite easily, feel free to e-mail us with questions...