

## SPITFIRE - COVERING

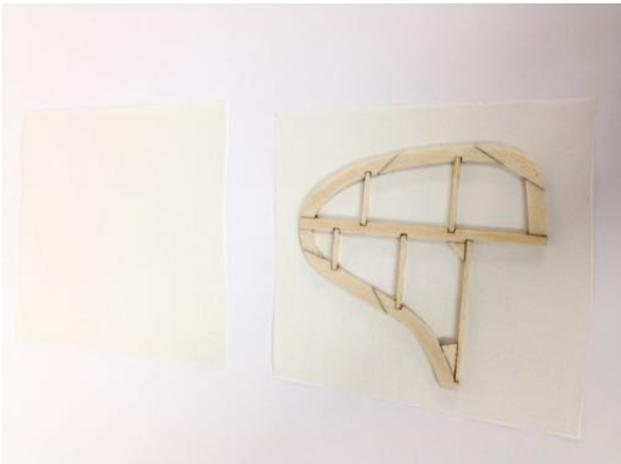
### THE FIN, RUDDER & TAIL PLANE



1) For the covering you will need a glue stick, PVA, fine brush, scissors, an old perfume bottle or fine mist sprayer and a sharp knife. It is also worthwhile to get a sponge and a dry cloth so that you can keep your fingers clean and dry as you work. Thin the PVA by around 50% with water (err on the strong side if unsure) in an old jar lid or similar.



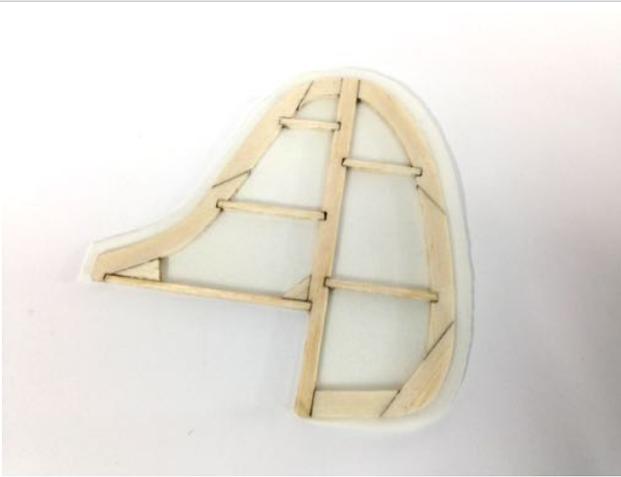
2) Cut out some spacers (about a dozen or so) about 20mm long and 5mm wide from the edges of the left over sheet, and apply one layer of sticky tape to one surface. These spacers are used when shrinking the tissue – the sticky tape simply prevents the spacers sticking to the parts



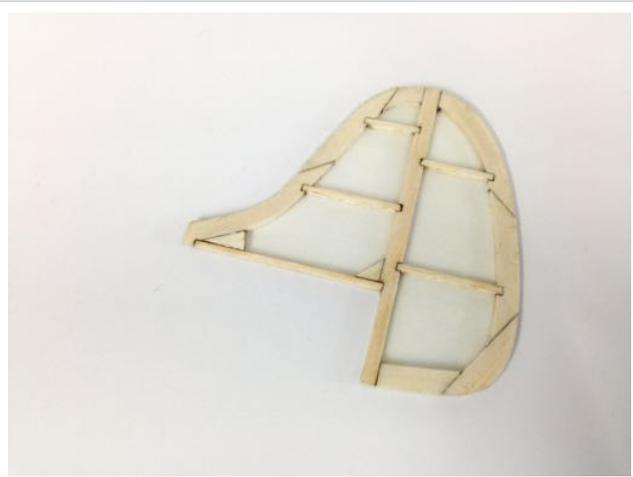
3) Starting with the fin and rudder, cut out two pieces of tissue that are about 10mm bigger than the outline of the part.



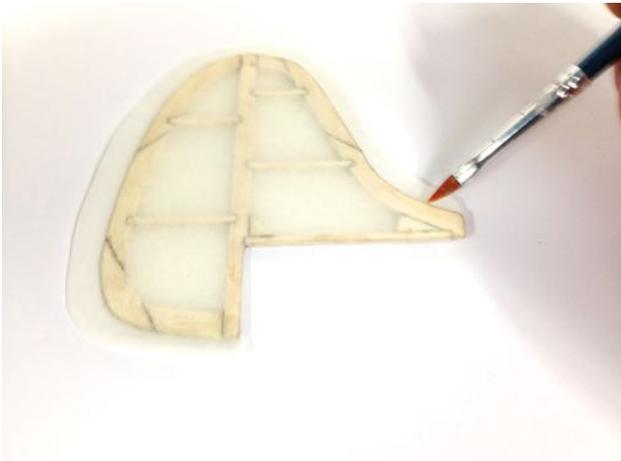
3) Continued: Lightly apply the glue stick only to the outside edges of the part. Keep the covering smooth and avoid it gathering in blobs on the surface and in corners.



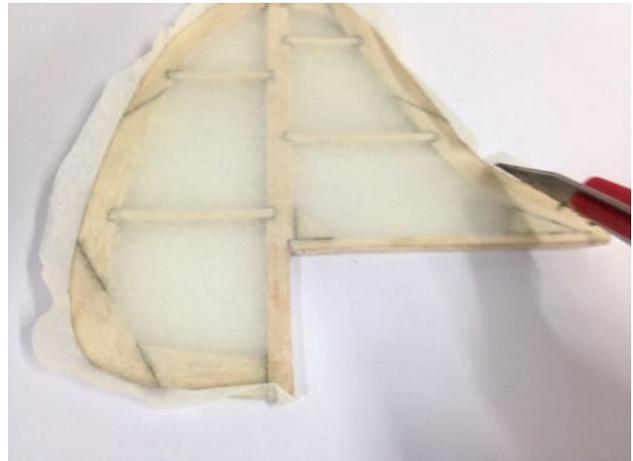
3) Continued: With the tissue flat on the work surface, put the glued side down onto it. Turn the tissue covered side towards you and gently tug and tease the tissue until there are no wrinkles and the tissue is nice and smooth. You do not have to make the tissue tight, the water shrinking will do that later. Give the glue stick a few minutes to do its job.



4) Once the glue has set a little, cut the tissue carefully leaving an edge about 1mm wider than the part all the way around, apart from where it fits to the fuselage and tail plane. Here you should cut it flush to the structure.



5) Working in stretches of a couple of inches at a time, apply the thinned PVA to the tissue edge that is sticking out and carefully roll the tissue up so that it sticks to the edge of the part. Rub all round the edge with a dampened finger to ensure that the edge is fully stuck down and nice and smooth. Do not get the PVA on the tissue any other place other than the edges or the tissue will not shrink properly later.



6) Repeat for the other side, once again overlapping the tissue at the edges. Let the glue dry for a few hours or preferably overnight.



7) Spray the part with a fine mist of water on both sides, then use the spacers that you 'sticky taped' to hold the edge of the part off the board. Use pins set at an angle to hold it at until it dries. Holding the part down in this way helps prevent warps. Note the tissue is very delicate when it is wet, so handle the part at the edges and with care so that you don't damage it.



8) The method for the tail plane is the same.

