



Fresh Air Suit

Pat Bradley (IA) - After a few skin tingles, following some long layups, I decided it was time for a fresh air breather system using outside air. This low cost system uses a small ShopVac (model 600 @ \$32) as the blower and 1-1/2" PVC pipe as the conduit to the work area.

The key to making the ShopVac work is to put a 1-1/2" nylon ball valve in the air loop, as shown in the adjacent photo. Fresh air is drawn in from outside the shop (my ShopVac is in the basement). If the ball valve is wide open, the air just circulates and nothing goes into the shop area (path of least resistance). Close the valve until a comfortable amount of air enters the hood. The ShopVac just toys with 2 hoods in my set up and I'm sure it could handle 5 or more if you needed them.

3/4" PVC risers get the air down from the 1-1/2" PVC ceiling supply conduit to just above head height. I recommend inserting a short length of radiator flex hose about 3" - 4" down from the 1-1/2" PVC tee fittings at the ceiling to prevent breaking off the 3/4" PVC risers when you walk

beyond the end of your hose. Cap the bottom end of the 3/4" risers with a PVC to female thread fitting and then install 3/4" agricultural quick couplers to complete the riser assembly. The agricultural quick couplers work well and are low cost.

Using plastic couplers and adapters I attached a 22' length of 3/4" soft clear hose to my waist belt and then to the hood.

I have used two brands of hoods, a Bulland CC20 and a Wilson R799, and don't see much difference. They look awkward but are much more comfortable than any mask I've worn. There is a low air hiss but you can talk and hear easily without a whiff of any fumes even when using MEK for clean up. I'm not bothered with prickly skin anymore and it is also great while sanding fiberglass.

Noise is a potential disadvantage of a ShopVac if it is installed in the work room. My unit is installed 2 rooms away so that isn't a problem. I would rather put it under a hood outside with a remote on-off switch than have it next to me.

Some auto stores carry throw-away Tyvek coveralls (\$4.70 around here) with elastic wrist and ankle bands, zipper, and hood that last at least a couple months. It provides pretty good protection for the money.

Autopilot Wanted

Wanted: Autopilot system for Long-EZ, Navaid, etc.

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Fuel Cap Corrosion

Baine Whipkey (FL) - I have the Thermos type fuel caps with the usual "O" ring and snap over lock device on my Long-EZ. I have found severe corrosion inside the cap itself on both left and right fuel tanks. This would eventually destroy the cap but if found early it can be repaired.

To check for corrosion the cap must be taken apart by removing the self locking nut so as to be able to see inside both halves of each cap. Remove corrosion completely, treat the aluminum, zinc chromate, then apply a light coating of grease and reassemble to the correct tightness to the fuel tank. Simply looking behind the "O" ring will reveal nothing.

My Long-EZ is kept inside. Water apparently gets in around the center shaft and then is trapped and doesn't dry out.

Warp Drive Props

Frank Nowak (MA) - I recently contacted Warp drive concerning information on use of their props on my Long-EZ. I found they presently had none suitable for a pusher configuration in our power range. They have a couple test props on an O-235 and O-200 Vari-Eze and hope to be testing a stronger hub with twice the collar area within a year.

Alexander Aeroplane Builder's Workshop Schedule

The following is a listing of Alexander Aeroplane workshops. For further information call 800-831-2949. Please remember to check with your aircraft's designer to see if the presented methods and materials are acceptable for your aircraft project.

August 12-13 Jackson, MI
August 26-27 North Hamton, NH
September 9-10 Oshkosh, WI
October 21-22 Tulsa, OK
November 4-5 Lakeland, FL
November 11-12 Griffin, GA