

Subject: [c-a] Re: Sanding wing cores to template

Date: Sat, 10 Jul 1999 17:00:14 -0400

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[The Canard Aviators's Mailing list]

> -----> So then, is it really worth it to hotwire to 1/8" oversize,
> then sand down to contour? I debated on doing this for the canard. I
> wish I had done it too. Did you find the wing foam easy to sand with
> straight consistency?

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> Wayne Hicks

Absolutely! I had a chance to compare cores done both ways and I like mine better. No grooves here and there, No lag dips etc. The most you will appreciate this method is at the winglets. The guy at the top of the core must move the hot wire about 3 times slower and the wire burns in nasty grooves. My cores looked like came from a mold. First I made all per plans templates from aluminum sheet. Then traced them loosely 1/8 or 1/4" oversize on top of (any cheep material will do) the thin particle board. Transfer the WL, hot wire guide numbers and match drill all the holes for the sheet metal screws - the more the better.

Cut your cores with the oversize templates. You will wary much less about mistakes. Screw in to the same holes the real al. templates and use at least 6' sanding board. I made mine from 2"X3" aluminum extrusion and self-adhesive 36 grit sand paper. Make sure it sticks good, or loose paper will make grooves in the foam. Start sanding trying to do your best to keep the board between the matching numbers on each template similar to the hot wire. When you get close and start touching the template you will hear it. Then do your final tune up until you are satisfied. While there, hot wire your spar cap channels. Do not try to sand them. It is not worth it.

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