

Maintenance Tips

Ken Miller (NY) - Nose wheel - Inspect the bolt, aluminum inserts (axle), and the inside of the fork around the bolt hole for rotational wear. You will find that the bolt is acting as a bearing as often as the bearings themselves. To fix this problem get a piece of 7/8" diam. x .058" wall 2024T3 tubing or equivalent.

Take your nose wheel assembly, including fork, to your buddy who has the lathe. Unfortunately the fix needs to be close tolerance and would be difficult to do by hand. Cut and face a short piece of tubing (about .72" long) and slide it over the inserts between the two inner races. Keep trimming the tubing in the lathe until the assembly slides into the fork and you can torque the bolt without any slop in the bearing. This makes the fork, inserts, sleeve, and inner bearings lock into one unit, thus keeping the whole thing from spinning on the bolt.

Editor note: I did a similar thing on my Long-EZ when I built it 1,300 hrs ago and it has worked perfectly. If you don't have a lathe make a flox spacer.

Grease everything with Vaseline that the flox can touch. Lay the wheel on a table with the table side bearing and greased aluminum spacer in place. Insert the greased axle bolt up from the table side. Pack flox around the bolt, above the greased aluminum spacer, to about a 1" height and the same diameter as the aluminum spacer. Wrap Saran Wrap, duct tape, BID, an old sock, anything around the flox to contain it. Put the top bearing in place and then the other greased aluminum spacer on the axle bolt and let it drop down on the

uncured flox spacer.

Tighten the axle nut until the bearings have no play but are able to rotate freely. Since the fork is not in the assembly you will need to pile a bunch of washers on the end of the axle bolt to get the nut to take up the slack. This will squeeze out the excess flox and leave a perfect length spacer after cure.

Presto, a perfect fit spacer without any special tools.

Isaac Solomon, of Baraboo, WI, sent me this solution to the problem of starting the nut on the outboard wing attach bolt.

