**Pepper Morton asked Beagle: I am ready to start looking at finishing the EZ and wondered what the latest method seems to be?**

**Beagle’s Advice:**

Best advice?: Go to a boat repair place looking for a good minority guy who does finish and paint - see if he'll come look at the work you have to do, using West Systems epoxy (Gougeon Brothers) and microballoons - he can do in a week what it will take you months of filing and sanding, etc...explain about the skin being structure and give him something less sensitive first - like cowls and see how he does. Explain twice that the elevators and ailerons have to be very light - weave showing...

If you have to do this terrible work: Get 5 gallons of West Systems Epoxy - check your nearest boat supplier for a 5 gallon kit (which is about 6 gallons) and 3 lbs of microballoons and make it as light as possible.  Build some very long sanding bars - say 4' or 5' long to sand the wings and canard - to avoid changing the vital curves there and other places... I learned, after years of building that the 17" air sanders - 3"x16" or so - are wonderful for most of the areas, not the critical airfoils...but then you need a good compressor.  There are auto paint supply stores for that sand paper - and Harbor Freight likely has the motor unit.  I gave up on the idea of wet sanding, didn't seem to be worth it as the final primer takes care of the minor stuff.

I have a rather poor quality videotape on Dave Ronneberg's advice on fill and finishing...I don't remember if Rutan said anything...

I've seen other advice, like using a floor tile trowel (1/8" teeth) and then sanding as needed to get it smooth - the small percentage of tips are easier to sand - then you fill between the troughs...but I've never done that.

Here's what I have in the library - my librarian can send the two highlighted DVDs quite cheaply:

CHAPTER 25: FINISHING

25CS1: 1988?, page 32: "Part 45 -- Identification & Registration Marking" (the rules for A/C mfg before & after Dec 8, 1987).

25CS2: 1987? page 6: "Finishing Composite Aircraft", Steichen.

25CS3: Jul 1996, CS43/6 "EZ Ideas" scraping paint off, antennas and nose gear doors by Bill Cook.

25CS4: Jul 1996, CS43/27: "Systems 3 Paint Report" Jim Voss

25CS5: Oct 1995, CS40/12-14 "Rough Sanding an EZ, Or: One Man's Private Hell".

25CS6: Jan 1998, CS49/27: "Polyester Doesn't Stick Just Like Epoxy".

25CS7: Jan 2000, CS57/30: “Pinholes, Fisheye and Electric Gates” by Dave Lind (Osh Champ) on Painting.

25CS8: Jul 1999, CS55/16: “Caution on Polyfiber Crosslinker due to supreme itching, Poly Fiber reply, follow instructions

25EM1: 3/00: Mike Bowden: Problems with Top Gloss brand paint

25EM2: Sep 1999: Color Trim Web Sites by Eric Westland

25EM3: Mar 2000: Problems with Poly Fiber Top Gloss Peeling – Doug Hurd

25EM4: Jul 1999: UV SmoothPrime recommended by Wayne Blackler

\*25EM5: May 1999: Info on Zoletone paint by Harley Dixon. **Interior paint...**

25FA1: 1982: Federal Register March 22, 1982 on N number rules.

25KP1: Sep 1991: page 30: "Stripes and Tapes" on paint trim.

25KP2: Nov/Dec 1984, page 74: "Finishing Composite Parts".

25KP3: 1989?, page 54: "Designs on Your Decal or N Number" on N Numbers, data plate available.

25KP4: Oct 1988, page 42: "Color Coordinating".

\*25KP5: Apr 2002, page 86: “Finishing Fiberglass – This is No 19 in our Glasair building series” by Gary Jones – using Q200.

25MS1: Various Paint brochures.

25MS2: Jan 9, 1994; America Online, Featherfill Problems.

\*25MS3: 2009 AksoNobel non-absorbent paint article

25SA1: Jul & Aug 1985, page 16: "Preparing your Airplane for Paint".

25SA2: Feb 1982, page 23: "Finishing Composite Aircraft".

25SA3: Sep 1987, page 35: "Color Them Cool! (Chart on paint surface temperatures).

25SA4: May 1992, page 57: "Painting Your Homebuilt".

25SA5: Dec 1994, page 74: "Painting Your Homebuilt Part 1 - Lessons Learned and Relearned."

25SA6: Jan 1995, page 68: "Painting Your Homebuilt Part 2 - (Lessons Learned and Relearned)."

\*25SA7: Aug 1992, page 82: "Tips For A Better Paint Job."

25SI1: Dec/Jan 1984, page 4/2: "The Worst Part of Building a Long" EZ by Sam Kreidel.

25SIII1 Nov’12, Art Craft Paint painting experience - David Orr

25SIII2 Oct’13, Never Wet review by Dave Dent

25SIII3 Nov’14 Changing Tail Number by David Orr

\*25SIII4 Feb’15 Vinyl Wraping aircraft – Jeff Cloud

**25VID-C: Rutan's Birthday Flyin Lectures on construction and finishing.**

**25VID-BB: Ronneberg on Finishing ‘99**

25VV1: 3rd Quarter'95, page 21: "Finishing Your Velocity" by John Harvey.

25VV2: 4th Quarter '95, page 13-16 "Finishing Your Velocity" by John Harvey.

\*25VV3: 3rd Quarter '98, page 13,14 "Painting and Spot touch up"  by Rick Lavoie.