



## TWO BUILDERS SPEAK ABOUT "THE WEST SYSTEM"

Dear All,

Like everyone else have been meaning to write ever since you began to publish -- but, - - -

Most of my experiences in building the Osprey 2 are pretty normal, I guess - had to buy new house with four car garage as wife disallowed my building O2 in living room. Now, three years later, have begun the gear with wings and engine to follow.

Meanwhile, would like to pass along the following:

Started with Hughes glue - (PFL-16A epoxy) - which has two disadvantages: viz., room temperature while drying (I kept 72° for 48 hours - probably too long - but made me feel better) and white stain which is difficult to remove. The glue is, however, great stuff as an adhesive - as well as getting a high on! Changed to Aerolite - with some improvement. Colorless, and a bit less setting time - but a bit of a pain to mix up and powder cakes while sitting around in the shop.

Have recently been using Gougeon Brothers West System Epoxy - which seems (currently) to be ideal. Is colorless (a bit amber color when you leave some in the bottom of the pot) and sets up in two hours! But it's main feature is that it is a Marine product -- water proof. I've been using it instead of varnish (which is permeable to dampness) as a finish coating even as a bedding for metal to wood adhesion. Best of all, it comes in cans which have little metering pumps giving with one push of the handle the correct proportions (5 to 1) with no mess, fuss or bother. Stir for about 60 seconds and away you go. Seems not to be toxic, either. Haven't lain awake any nights since starting to use it. Available:

GOUGEON BROTHERS WEST SYSTEM  
706 Martin Street  
Bay City, MI 48707

P.S. Haven't tried it yet, but they say it rolls on real easily and smoothly on the larger surfaces. And, oh yes, it is affected by sunlight - so OK in the raw for internal use, but needs to be painted when used on the exterior. Also is base for fibreglassing. What more could you ask for?

Love and Kisses to all - and keep at it.

Gordon Gibson  
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Brockport, NY 14420

AND FROM GARY LARSON, more about the West System

"It's called the West System and has been used in wood epoxy composite boat construction since 1971. It is basically an adhesive to bond components into a unitized structure and as a coating to stabilize wood moisture content and provide a durable surface that will accept most finishing systems. There are both fast and slow hardeners to mix with the resin. There are also various fillers (microfibers, colodial silica, micro-balloons, etc) designed to modify resin/hardner mixture for bonding, filleting and fairing applications. Now they have developed their own glass fabric to be used with the West System resin. Graphite Fibers are also available for reinforcement with minimal weight increase. Basically it is a complete system that can be used for bonding, sealing, coating and fibreglassing an Osprey 2 using one epoxy throughout. The epoxy with fillers is structural and gap filling. It is also quite odorless but must be used in a well ventilated area, as with all epoxies. I've had no skin reaction to it at all.

I find it excellent and easy to work with. Other EAA chapter members introduced the West System to me and have used it in the building of a Vari-Viggen and a VP-2. The Derricks have also used the West System in the construction of their Osprey 2's with favorable results. I've also submitted material on the West System to George for his opinion. So far, no reply.

A technical manual #001, on the West System is available for \$2.00 plus postage from: Gougeon Brothers Inc., 706 Martin St., Bay City, MI 48706 (517 684-7286. I'm sure you'll find the literature extremely interesting and the product very applicable to amphibian construction, as it was developed for sailboat construction. So why not a flying boat?

I am also interested in getting the builders together in the following areas: Connecticut, Massachusetts, N. Y., Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island. How about it fellas? Give me a call or drop me a line."

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(203) 673-1651

## AN OPEN LETTER TO DR. PETER CROOKE

A recent article in Home-Built Aircraft Magazine covered a story about a prototype propeller installed in Peter Crooke's Osprey 2. Reportedly, according to the article, the new propeller design provides some significant advantages.

Myself and other Osprey 2 builders would sincerely appreciate a report on your new propeller. I would like to invite Dr. Crooke to submit a report on the propeller, it's performance and availability to the Osprey 2 newsletter in the interest of all subscribers.

Sincerely,

Dan Ernst  
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