

I have a couple items that you might find worthwhile. First, if you use the plastic banding tape or cardboard, or whatever, under the temporary staples used to hold down the plywood gussets and skin while glueing, you will probably find them easier to remove shortly after the epoxy has set rather than waiting overnight or longer. Each brand of epoxy usually has a different setting time. West Epoxy, which I have used for years, sets in about 4 hours while T-88 takes closer to 6 hours. These times are shortened as ambient temperature goes up but the point is that the staples come out much easier shortly after the epoxy sets and as it continues to cure, they come out increasingly harder with time.

In reference to John Heilman's hint in Vol. 3, No. 3, Issue #21 I think someone could be lead astray. This is in reference to sanding the glue surface of a scarf joint. This has always been "illegal" with FAA. The old CAM 18 forbid this practice and so does EA-AC43-1A & 2A, Chapter 1, page 4, Item 5, "Preparation of Wood Surfaces For Gluing." Quote - "Sandpaper must never be used to smooth softwood surfaces that are to be glued." The same philosophy would apply no matter what type glue is used. Sanding by any means produces dust which imbeds itself in the pores

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of the wood. This prevents proper penetration of the glue into the wood. This can result in a weak glue joint. I sure don't want any weak glue joints in my airplane and I don't think anyone else does. I have been making wood splices for over 40 years without ever touching sandpaper or other sanding tool to a glue surface and I have never had a joint failure. It just takes a little care and sharp planes, chisels, etc.

Congratulations on your new business. At this time I only have my fuselage frame completed but I am optimistically shooting for a 2 year completion date. I have seen George Burgess's beautiful Osprey and it really lit my fire. I'll probably buy Derrick welded assemblies to save time unless you happen to come up with some Osprey parts.

Keep up the good work. I think it is great and good luck with your new business.

Best regards,

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