

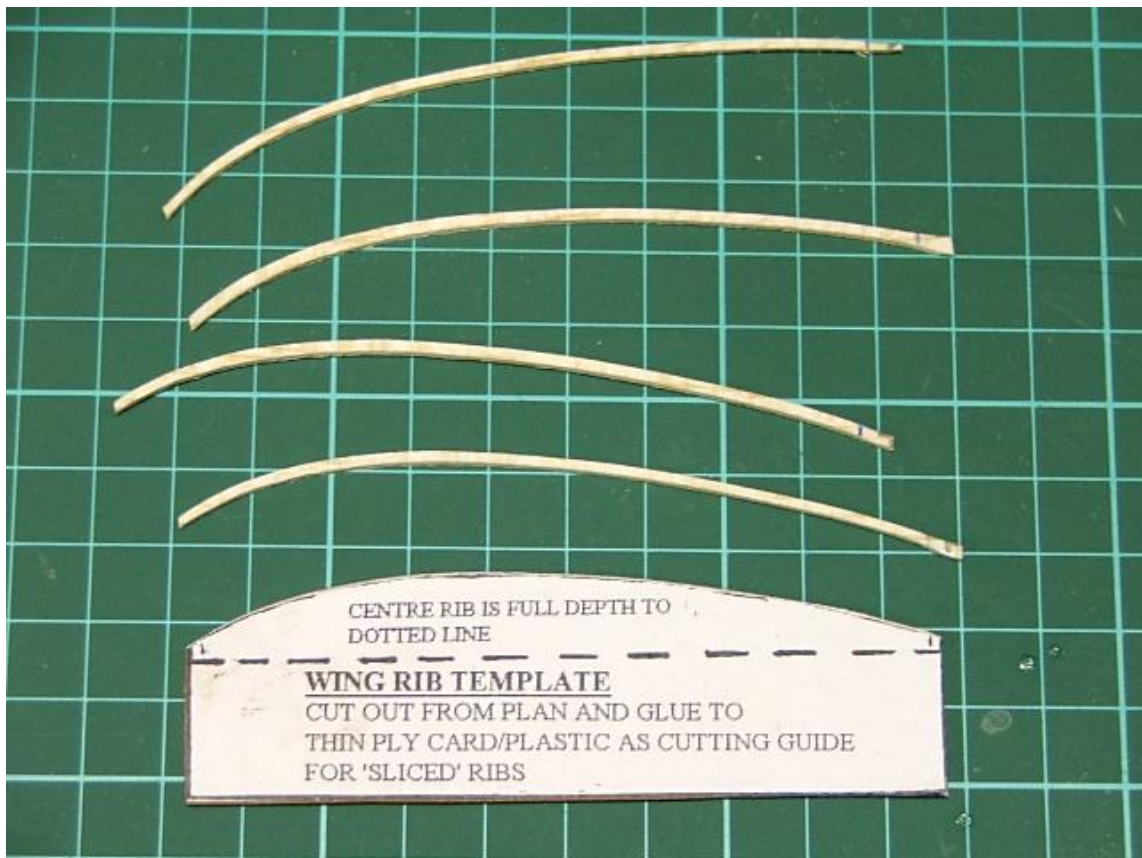
Andy's notes on building the Hangar Rat.

I have sent a copy of the Hangar Rat plan in my mailout to past Oily Hand participants. If you would like a copy of the plan just contact the webmaster.

It has been a while since I did a Rat and when I built this one I realised there were a few tricks and kinks which I would like to pass on here.

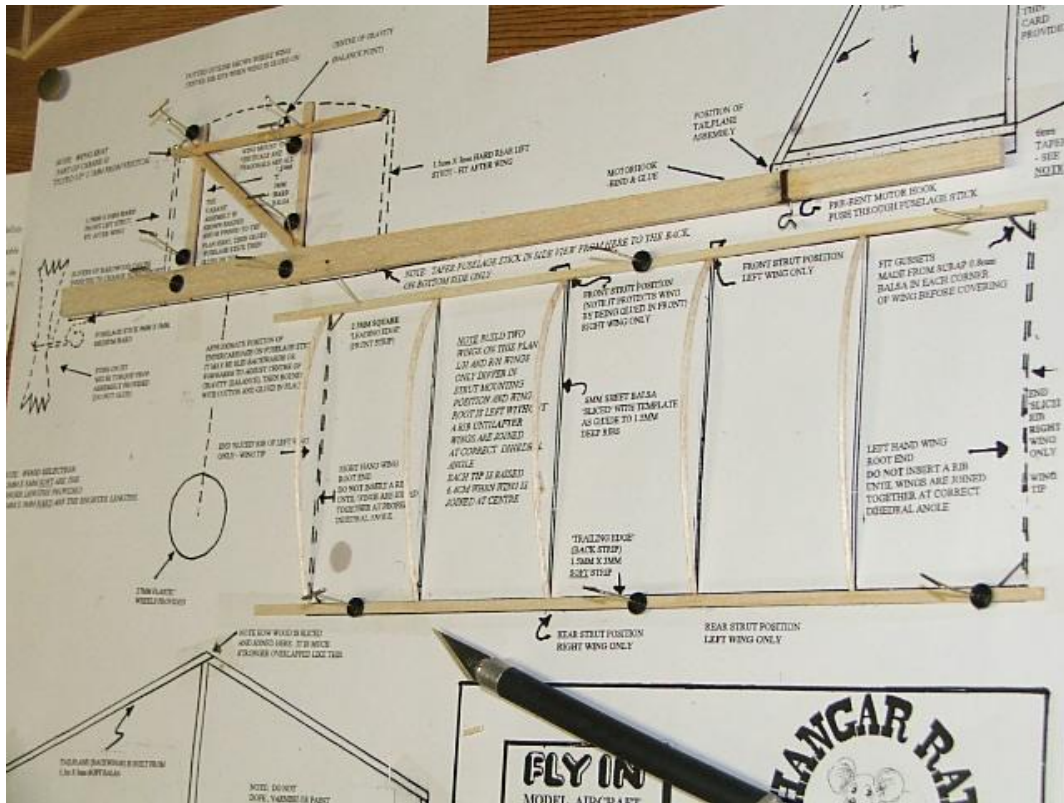
Cutting the ribs. Be sure to choose quarter grain (also known as C grain) 1.5mm. This avoids splitting along the grain.

I glued the paper template to a piece of laminex and cut it out with scissors and sanded smooth. From there cutting the ribs is straight forward.

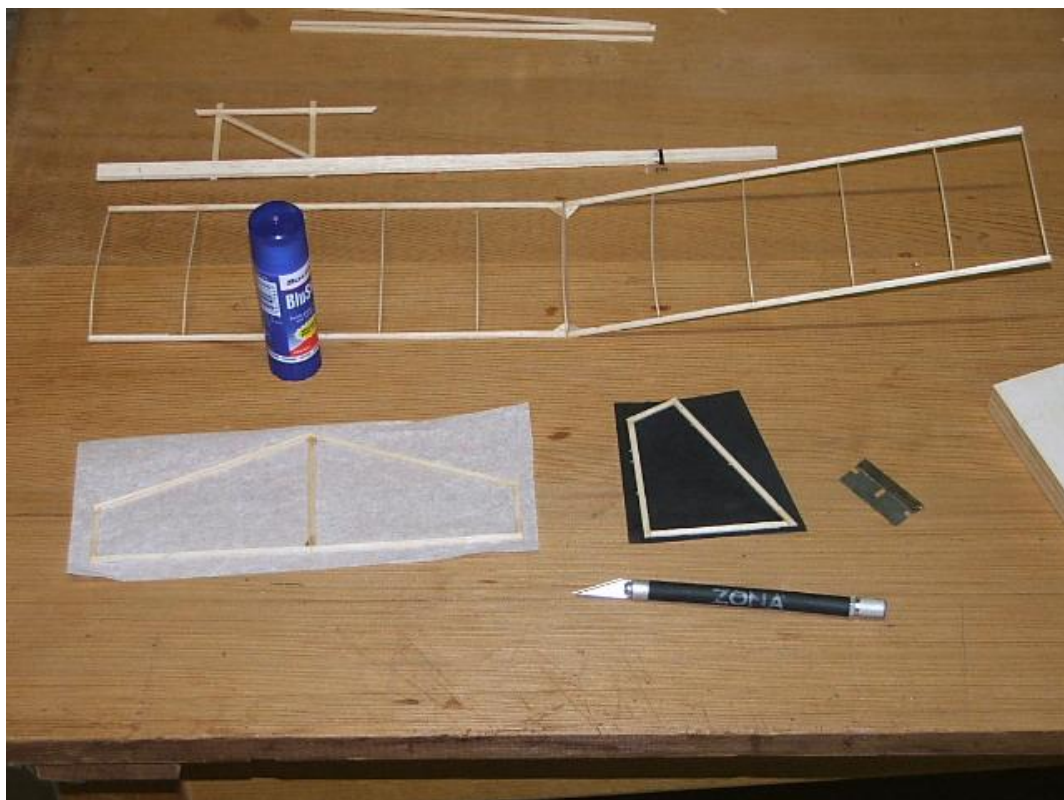


Gluing the ribs to the LE and TE is a tricky business, make sure the fit is accurate or they tend to break away as you handle and cover the wing. You can use super glue, it is fast but it can get out of control. Next one I am using aliphatic as it is easier to sand.

The picture shows the fuse/cabane framed up and the ribs glued to the spars. Just keep following the instructions and make both wing halves and join them.



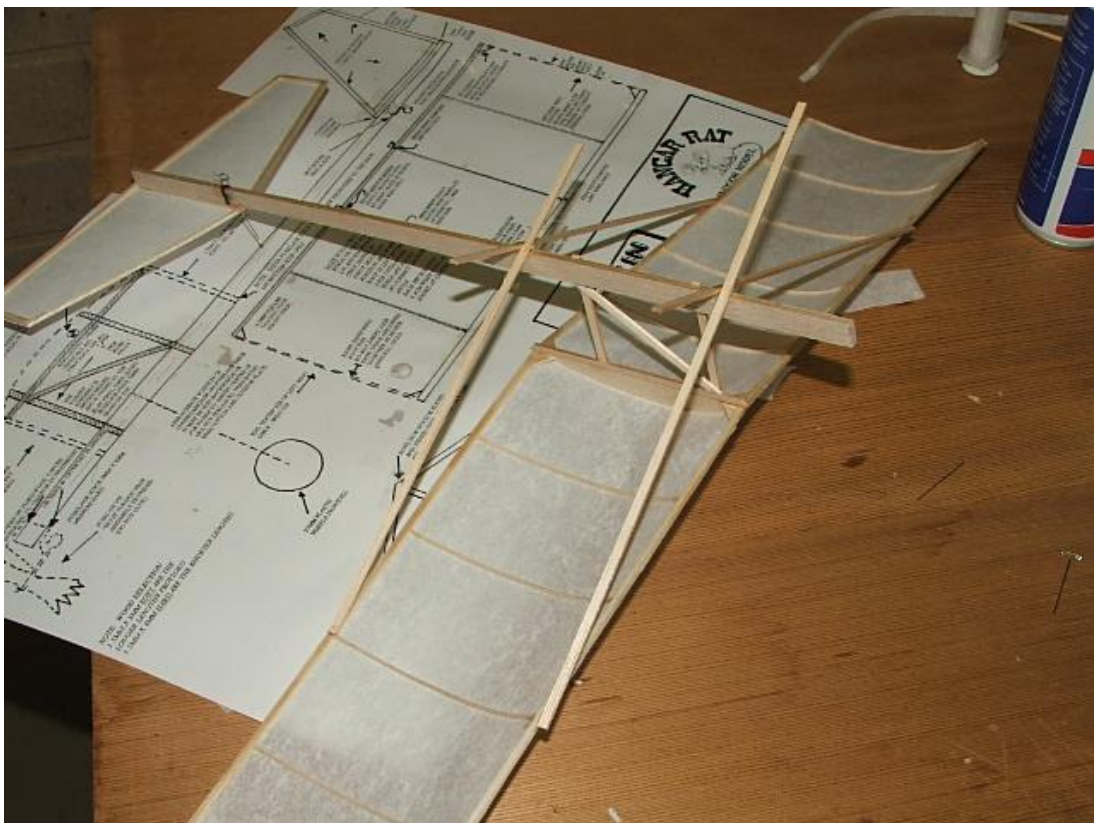
Covering the surfaces with tissue is straight forward if you use that paper glue in a stick. Put the glue on the framework then work the tissue on with your fingers. The tissue used here was with the kit, is light and a bit crinkly. I don't know enough about tissue to know the correct name but it's like shoe box or wrapping tissue from the newsagents.



Covering the wing looks a bit daunting, but it isn't. Just put the glue on the outside of the framework and off you go. Don't worry if you can't pull it taught. Rats don't need tight skin!



When the wing is glued to the cabane it won't become rigid until the four struts are glued in place. I found that I could use the rear struts to induce some washout which stopped my model climbing up and hitting the roof at the local PCYC. Let the struts cross each other beneath the fuse as you glue them on and then trim off the excess.



The rubber motor is made from a 900mm length of 1/8" flat. The resulting loop is 450mm and before winding it droops under the model like a pigs entrails. It needs to be stretch wound. I use a 5:1 winder.

Transporting the model needs care. A foam fruit box is a good answer. I am working on another box that can be folded away. I will put it up here if it is successful.

