

The froward top Turtle Deck as shown below has been saved to last.

This is an area that takes a little skill and patience but can be accomplished easily by a first-time builder. Experienced builders will have their favorite way to accomplish this, but the steps we show here are simple and forgiving. It's best to read through these steps to get familiar before you start.



The 1/16" thick Balsa sheet supplied is oversized in both length and width. Start by cutting two strips from the edge 3/16" wide and set aside for later.



Run warm water on the to wet the balsa for forming.



Blot the excess water with a paper towel, you want the Balsa damp, not dripping.



Wrap the sheet around a Can or form similar in size to a Furniture polish can. In this case we are using a model spray paint. Use 2 of the #32 rubber bands to hold in place.



After the Balsa sheet has dried, usually overnight, it can be removed and test fit over the formers.



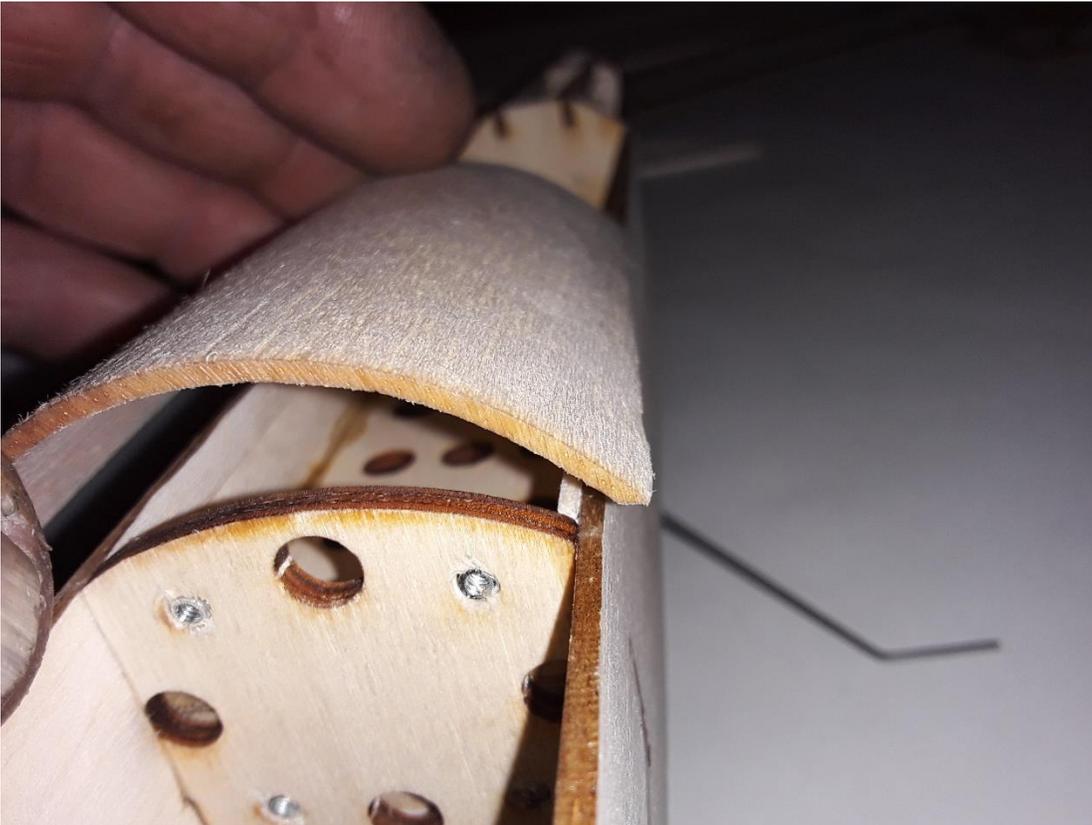
Get the strips you cut from the sheet earlier and cut the strips to 2-3/4" long and mark a line 1/16" in on one edge.



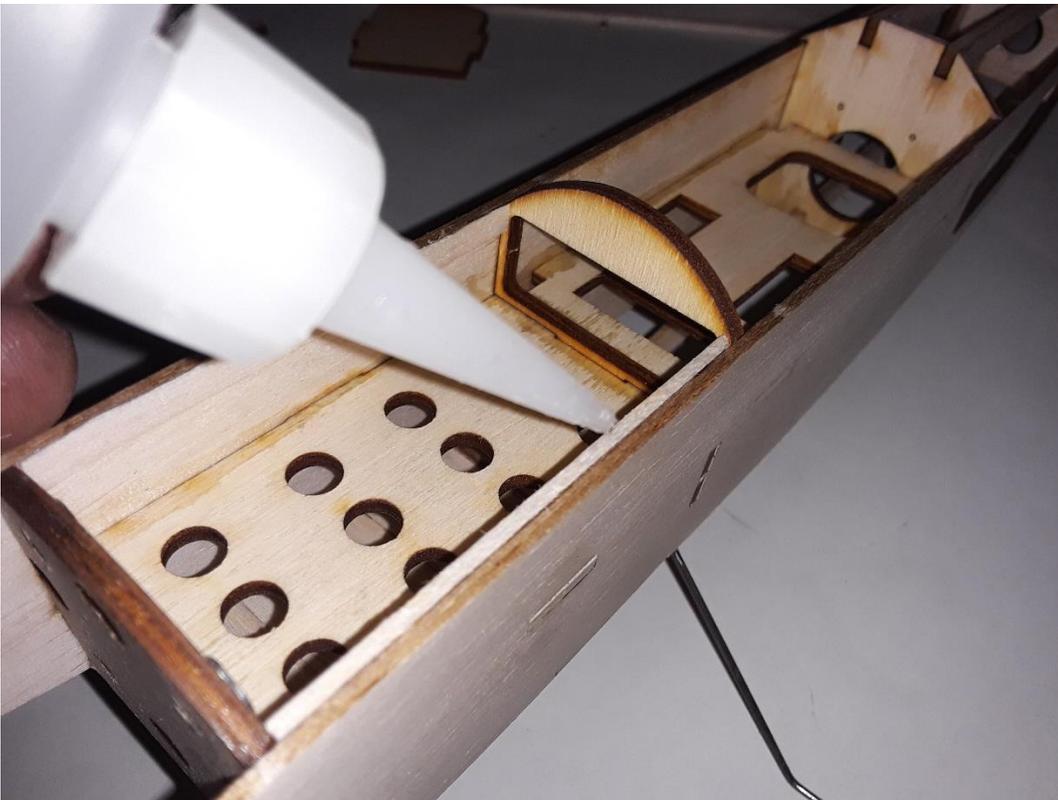
Test fit the strips along the top edge of the Fuselage side with the 1/16" edge up. Once satisfied with the fit, bond the two strips using medium CA glue. Once the glue has set, carefully trim the 1/16" edge at an angle to intersect the formers. The strip is partially cut as you can see in the picture above. Take your time and use a sharp knife.



Sand an angle on one edge of the formed sheet to match the angle where the former tops meet the Fuselage side.



You can see the angle in this picture. Test fit the sheet and check the edge fit. Don't worry about making it fit both sides. At this point we are only going to attach it to one side.



Once you are satisfied with the fit, run a small amount of Medium CA along the support strip that you made and place the sheet in place allowing some overhang of the formers.



This is how it should look with the edge glued in place.



Marking the sheet for trimming.

Press the sheet down on the formers and run a little Thin CA from the top of the former to the glued edge side ONLY. This will help hold the sheet down while you trim the overlapping side.

Mark the sheet as shown above at the top corner of the fuselage side and using a straight edge, trim the sheet.

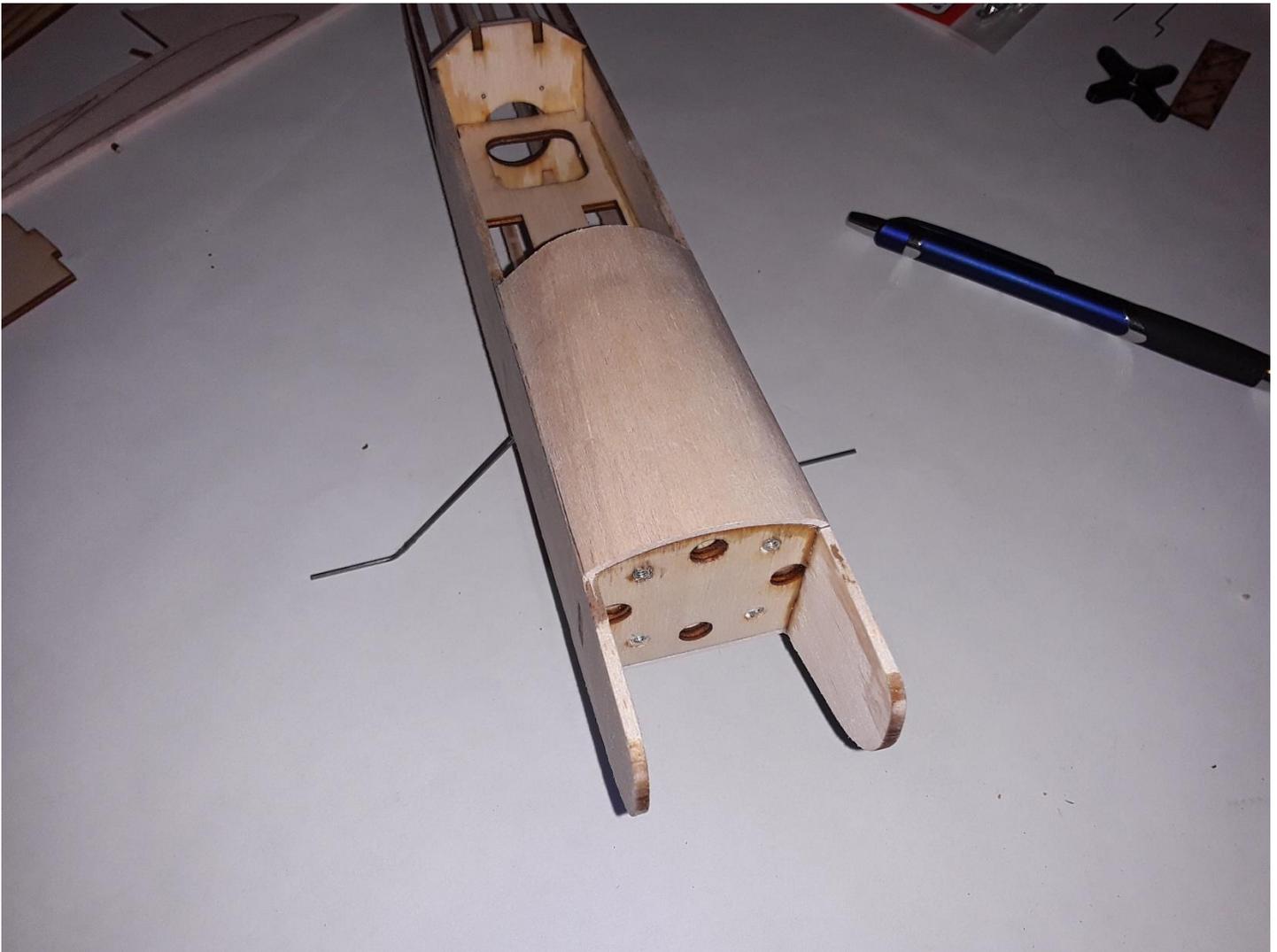
Trim a bevel on the edge of the sheet like you did on the first side. Trim a small amount at a time and test the fit.

Once you are satisfied with the fit, again use the Medium CA along the support to glue in place. Using the Thin CA, finish gluing the formers from the top to the edge.

If you trimmed too much, it's ok, the support strip will hold the sheet. Cut a small bevel along the edge and using the Medium CA lay a strip from the trimmed sheet edge in the bevel cut. Once set, you can trim the filler and sand to shape. I did this on purpose for the picture below, note the double seam. It's been sanded to fair it in.

Trim the Balsa sheet to the formers using a sharp blade and finish with a small sanding board or fingernail file.

A nice small flat sanding board can be made using a Tongue depressor and bonding the sandpaper to it with double side tape or contact adhesive.



Congratulations!

At this point the main Fuselage is completed. Take this time to sand the frame before installing the Cabanes.

Start with 220 grit and work to a 600 grit to round the edges and smooth all the surfaces. Remember any imperfections will show up when you cover the aircraft and make it more difficult to achieve a smooth covering job.