

Balsa hole punches

By Ed Larsen "Loose Nut on the Stick"

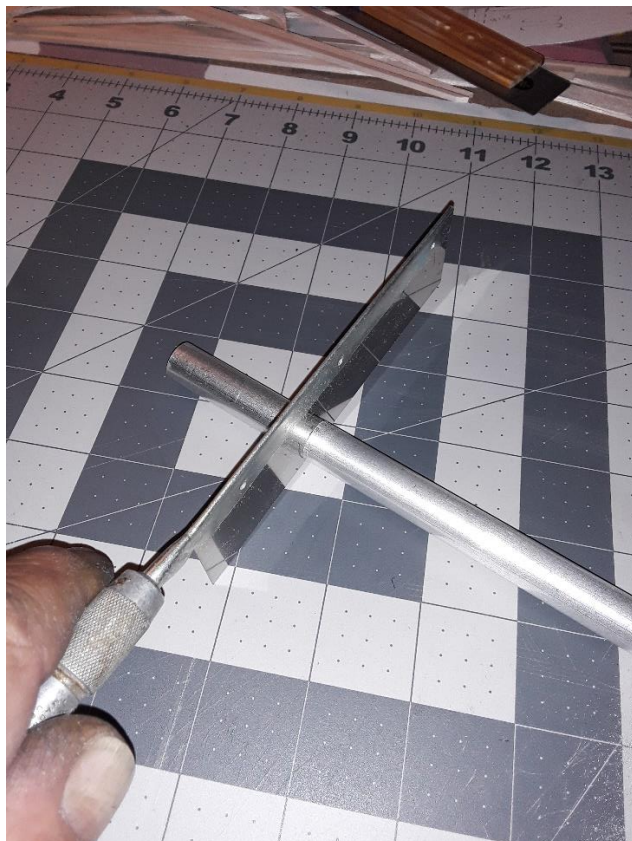
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I have been asked how I make round holes in the balsa while I am building, so I put this together to show how I make a hole punch.

A lot of times if I am only making one or two holes I use a Forstner Bit and my Dremel tool with a drum sander.

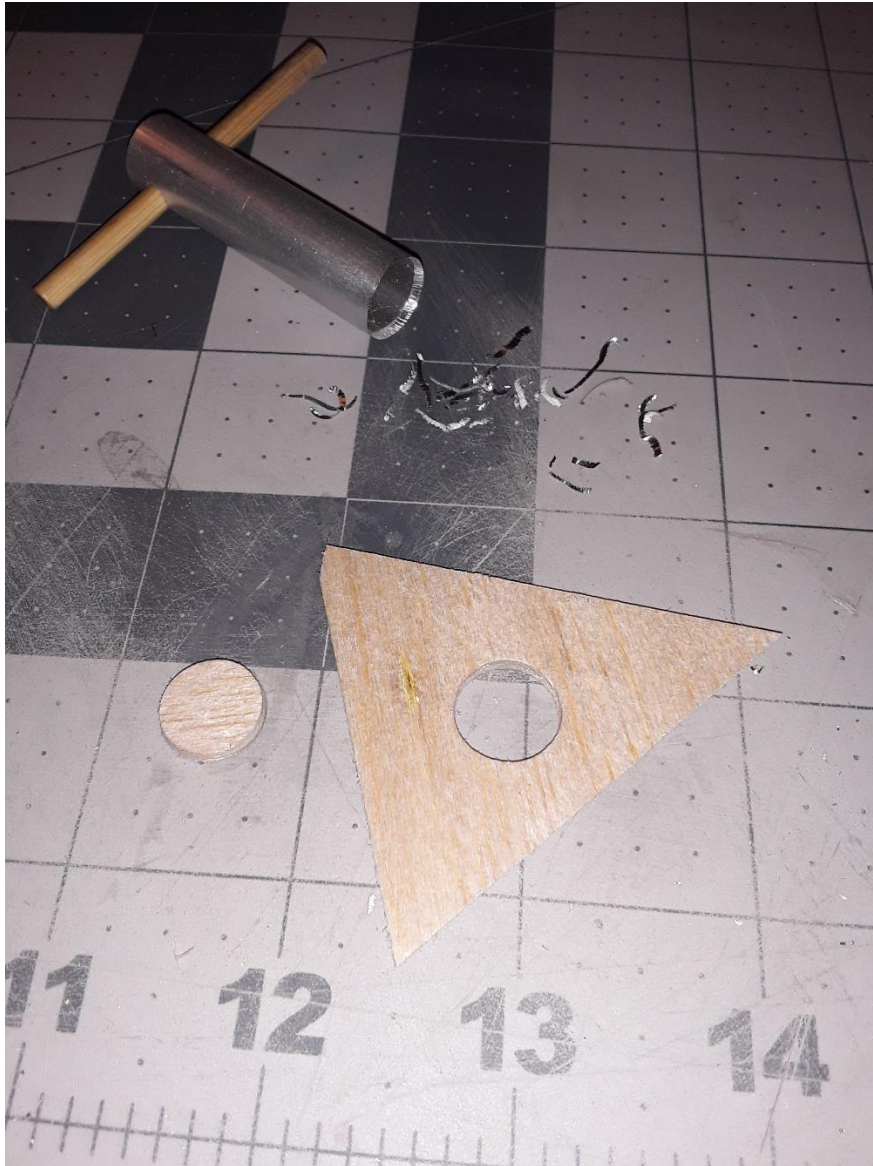
Since the Forstner bits tend to tear as they go through, I draw a circle first with a template and then cut from each side. For large holes I finish the cut with a Hobby knife. The Dremel cleans up the torn balsa to the circle I've drawn.

If I am going to punch many holes, I make up a punch of the right size and sharpen as I go as shown in this series of pictures.









Cutting the Blade section from the inside keeps from the Tool pushing your balsa outward and creating cracks and breakage. Push out the circles as you cut so they don't pack un in the tube.

The serration created by carving the Aluminum aids in the cutting. Depending on the hardness of your Balsa is how often you will need to dress the edge to keep it sharp.