

Interesting Info on Polyspan

From the Society of Antique Modelers, SAM 26, Santa Maria, CA, Bob Angel, Editor

A NEW LOOK AT POLYSPAN: For some reason (habit, I suppose), polyspan covering material has been scarce on ships built here in the local area. But Jim Elliott has used it, and more recently Dick Fischer has been re-covering his Bomber with it. Dick's enthusiasm for a project, plus his continuing efforts to keep us informed of progress with both commentary and "show and tell" just might get some more converts.

Most of SAM 27 uses polyspan, adopting the name "SamSpan" and even ordering it in bulk. The results always look good, and it seems to stay intact with age, unlike the plastic films which are always coming loose at the seams. But the main advantage is the structural rigidity it adds to a model's frame.

The only drawback for those of us who've been using iron-ons, is the extra time required, and the fact that it puts us heavily back into the doping and painting business. Dick has a copy of Larry Davidson's video on polyspan usage, which he might loan if you approached him with an appropriate bribe. And Larry Davidson sells polyspan material along with needed dyes to color it, keeping minimum weight.

"ANOTHER OPTION FOR COLORING POLYSPAN" comes from the Thermal Thumbers, Via SAM 56 in Wichita:

Krylon stained glass spray paint was found at Michael's craft store (Santa Maria has one). Spray this on like regular spray paint and even with several coats it will maintain its transparent nature. It's vivid and the sun shines through like an intense Japanese tissue. On a 231 sq. in. polyspan covered wing, the weight went from 62.5 grams to just 63.25 grams after 3 coats of the color plus one clear coat. Five bucks for a small spray can.