

# ELEVEN TIPS FROM ED LIDGARD

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These ideas and practices come from Ed Lidgard, as printed in the Thumb Print, the newsletter of the Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta:

"1. Find that a hole is too tight for the wire you want to use? Roll a coarse file over the wire to roughen the surface, then use this disposable wire to ream out the hole.

"2. To avoid dope running under masking tape or frisket paper, coat the edge with clear dope, let it dry, and then color dope.

"3. Silk or tissue tend to bubble on the trailing edge? Soften the area with acetone, then rub full-strength dope over the bubble until it flattens out.

"4. Field too small for full turns? Make a stick one-half the weight of the rubber motor and one-half the distance between the hook and the rear peg. Wind one-half maximum turns.

"5. Optimum thinning for applying dope to silk by the tissue flowing method is 65 to 70%.

"6. You have .055 inch wire and need a bushing? Place the wire in a piece of 3/32-inch O.D. brass tubing and crimp the tubing with cutters every 1/8-inch in three rows down its length.

"7. You need to solder a washer on a wire and there are no washers with the right size hole? Place a washer with a too-small hole on the end grain of a wood block. With an awl hammered into the washer hole, make the washer fit your wire.

"8. Silk or tissue sticking to your formers? Rub beeswax or candle wax on the formers after all gluing and sanding is done.

"9. Edges of your props getting nicked? Hold a piece of wax paper against the underside along the edge. Doing one inch at a time, run a bead of medium viscosity CA along the edge. Immediately sprinkle or blow baking soda onto the CA. Repeat to add volume, then turn over and repeat if needed.

"10. On new props, run the outside edges of the prop through a puddle of CA to harden the edges, then sand as required.

"11. When silk or tissue does not tighten properly and the first coat of dope does not help much, re-spray with water. Let dry well and re-dope."