

# LAMINATED WINGTIPS, YET AGAIN

by Jerry Sullivan

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When making laminated wingtips and stabilizer/fin outlines, most times I find that the layers have a little 'green stick' break. That is where you get a folding of the balsa into a little 'v' but not an actual break. Then when the layers are glued together you get a little void at the apex of the 'v'. I figured that if pressure could be applied, then the void will be much less. Also the bond between the layers would be better.

I wondered if a two part form would work holding the pieces closely together and making a better bond. Well, trying to make an inside and outside form with an accurate gap between them to capture and put pressure on the laminations was beyond my accuracy.

However, when I looked at the inside former over which the laminations were bent, I wondered if plain old rubber bands could supply the pressure. When the blinding light quit hurting me eyes, it dawned on me to put some anchors in the form to which I could fasten those plain old rubber bands. Drilling a whole bunch of holes and inserting small pieces of bamboo sticks, I had my new system.

I soaked the requisite 1/16 x 3/16 balsa sticks for just a few minutes in a basin of hot water. Wiping off the excess water, I bent the sticks around the former keeping tension on each as it was bent. I put a band on each peg over the laminations. After drying, I disassembled, and used white glue between the layers, and reassembled it.

I did find that the pressure of the bands left indentations in the balsa, so next time I will use a layer of thin plastic over the balsa laminations for both the drying and gluing.

