

Repairs for Transport Damage

By Gerry Yarrish

It happens all the time, I can't think of someone I fly with who hasn't reported that at one time or another a model has come loose during a trip and got a serious case of trailer rash! Anyway, this happened to my Fokker Dr.1 Triplane and it really chewed up the front of the sub-wing of the landing gear. Here's how I fixed it.



So here's the damage. I was using some aluminum wheel chocks that hooked onto the ends of the axles. The model bounced up and rattled against the shape aluminum edge.



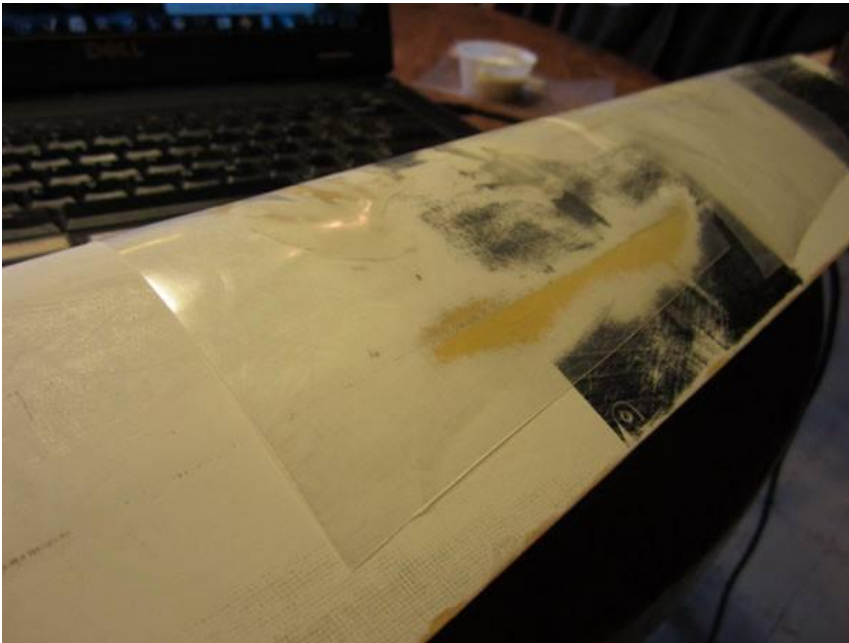
My sub-wing is covered with fiberglass cloth and resin so it had lots of divots and exposed balsa.



I used ZAP products including CA and epoxy, plus alcohol to thin the resin.



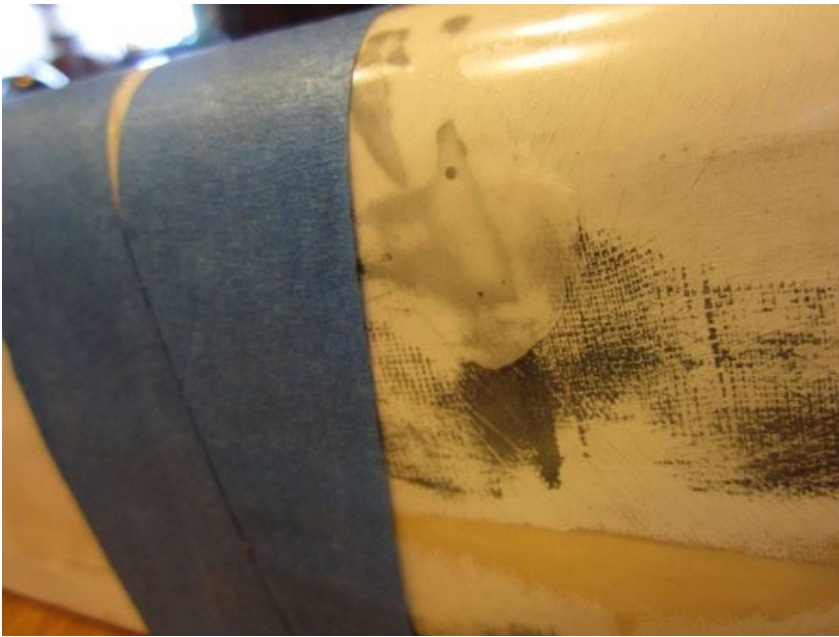
To thicken the resin and make a filler material, I used milled micro-balloons from Anchor Bond. I use a mixture of 2 parts mixed resin and 1 part by micro balloons, by volume.



First thing to do is to apply thin CA to the balsa to harden the surfaces. Then start with 150 sandpaper and start sanding the repair area to get to the bare resin and fiberglass cloth.



I mix up the resin and micro balloon mixture to a creamy paste and apply it to the indents. Glob it on and then cover with a poly bag material to smooth it out. Use tape to hold the clear plastic in shape.



You can see the resin spreads out and fills the repair areas. Don't worry about covering everything with one application of resin filler.



Here's the first application of cured filler repair.



Here, the second application of filler cured with plastic removed.



Nothing fancy here, now just sand and fill and prime and repeat. When all the pin holes are filled, finish sanding with 320 grit and repaint your sub-wing. Allow to dry then go out and do some more flying!