

Ron Gray, Xtra Wot build, 4

Not a lot of progress since last time as work has got in the way this week (yes I am supposed to be semi retired but it doesn't feel like it at the moment!)

Little bits have been done but some of these have taken a bit of time for one reason or another!

Turtle deck faced with 3mm balsa and fitted to fuse. I hadn't noticed, until too late, that it is a little oversized and sanding down to fit may sand through the veneer. I'll take it easy and see how it goes. If I had noticed it before I fitted it then I would have made some saw cuts in the foam which would have allowed me to draw the sides in, hey ho!



Tail blocks nearly sanded to shape, another 5 minutes will see them finished.



The instructions say to glue triangular hardwood pieces to the 3 sides between the wing LE and engine bulkhead, I decided to edge all 4 sides. The UC plate had the T nuts fitted and then was glued to the fuse using Gorilla Glue.

The instructions say use epoxy and normally I would do that but I like GG and have been impressed with how strong a joint it forms so this is a bit of a test for it as the UC plate is a highly stressed part of the construction. I may live to regret my choice!



The supplied tail skid plate was undersized so I cut a new one from the ply sheet that the supplied one was in, not a real problem. I had thought about changing the tail skid for a wheel as I don't like the scraping sound on a tarmac / concrete runway but then thought of a novel idea for this, more later.



Wing location dowels were fitted. I positioned the wing on the fuse and clamped it at the TE. Then I marked the position of the dowels using the pre formed holes in the former, removed the wing, drilled the holes slightly undersized then clamped the wing back in position and did the final hole forming by hand using a drill bit through the former (hope that makes sense!). I then stuck the dowels in place using GG and let it set with the wing in position on the fuse, with masking tape on the former to prevent the whole lot getting permanently joined together. Not a 5 minute job this one and has to be correct for obvious reasons.



Next on the list is the under fuse sheeting then making and assembling the fin / rudder.