GORDY'S TRAVELS

Gordy Stahl
Louisville, Kentucky
GordySoar@aol.com

"Goop-hyde Your Foamies to a High Shine!"

On one of my recent trips, I woke one night late in my motel room and screamed out into the darkness, "I'm going to build my EPP Moths!" *...Then went back to sleep.*

So inspired, I went to work at researching the construction information and the web site for North Country Flying Machines on the Moth.

http://www.northcountyflyingmachines.com

In case you didn't read the review in *RCSD*, May 2002 issue, the Moth is a 48" EPP tailless Foamie that has proven to be a rocket Dynamic Soaring (DS) machine that flies in the lightest slope lift, often working the wispiest thermals to the sky. It has such an incredible speed range that it has distinguished itself as a most amazing Foamie. The Moth is not a cranked-plank Zagi-esque combat ship; instead it has more fighter jet lines, with a straight leading edge and tapered trailing edge, a fuselage and prominent vertical stabilizer. If you haven't been to the web site to see photos and DS video of this little ship, you are really missing out.

Enough of that! Mostly what I found in my construction research was some well proven innovations. The number one trick was the use of thinned Marine Goop. (Marine Goop is in a purple tube and claims greater UV resistance than the other Goop products. It is available at all Home Depot stores.)

The Goop is thinned with Toluene, a stinky solvent found also at HD, but in the paint department. Getting the Goop to accept thinning takes some stirring, mashing and more stirring. You will swear that it's not going to happen, but stir on young soldier, as it does work!

Anyway, NCFM suggests coating the EPP fuselage with Goop to create a tough skin or hyde to protect the foam and as part of the finishing process.

I decided to give it a shot and learned a few things in the process not mentioned on the web site tips. First thing was amazement! The Goop cures to an incredibly clear and ultra glossy finish... And it goes right over EPP that has been painted with enamel - paints like Krylon! I then found that you could actually create an EPP Foamie fuselage that looked like molded glass ... Only shinier!

Here's the step by step:

Final shape the foam fuse with screen type sanding paper, usually used for drywall finishing. 80 grit is good for this.

Next wipe on some light spackle to fill all the dents in the foam. Then sand with a light touch so as not to compress the surface while sanding. If you want you can do this a few times to really fill in the foam.

Next mix up some thinned Goop to a consistency of runny pudding. Stir the heck out of it to make sure it's not lumpy. You will stir it to almost a foamy consistency. Then using a 1" brush, paint a good coat onto the fuse. You'll want to let it dry at least 24 hours, then sand it with the screen lightly and then coat it again with the same consistency.

This time when it dries, use some 220 sandpaper to get it fairly smooth. At

this point you can decide if another coat is desired or, if it is fairly smooth, you are ready for paint.

Keep in mind that Goop-hyde is going to be seriously clear, so any painting you do will show through. This is just like the clear protective coat on your car!

You can paint canopy lines, letters, numbers, etc., and it will seem like it's on the outside but won't rub off. Any enamel, like Krylon and paint pens, is fine.

Let it all dry over night and then get ready for some more Goop coats. This time thin the Goop to the consistency of thin paint and coat the whole fuse again. You want to be sure to coat the entire fuse, inside wing holes, RX compartments - everywhere, in order to avoid creating weak spots.

Don't be afraid to sand and recoat, as it will end up clear. Also if you need to add some paint over the Goop coats, not a problem!!!

What is a problem is the smell! The Goop coat STINKS, especially if it's cold outside. You can heat cure the solvents in the curing fuse with a heat gun or just let it sit for a few weeks. When I did mine it was less than 20 degrees in the garage. It was great from the stand point that the Goop didn't harden and ball up when I wanted to re-stroke some spots with the brush.

By the way, if you soak some paper towels with the Toluene, you can wash the Goop out of the brush for reuse. Don't throw the unused Goop mix out!!! If you have a wood top that you would like 'sealed', pour the rest on it and just sort of brush it or wipe it on!

Your fuse will stink for quite awhile if it's cold, as in weeks. So plan on storing it outside for awhile or the wife will get nuts on you!

Most Foamie kits recommend packing tape for strengthening the EPP fuselage. I believe that you could first fill with the spackle, coat with your Goop-hyde mix, sand, 3m spray glue, do the packing tape thing, then Goop-hyde right over the tape before painting and finish-Gooping.

This process has some other interesting possibilities! For instance, for providing a protective 'skin' on the bottom noses of glass fuselages, to keep them from getting scratched up on gritty landings!

This process isn't rocket science... So, there isn't a lot to ask about it. My advice is mix some up in a plastic cup, using something blunt like a popsicle stick, and paint some EPP.

If it is hot out, the solvents will dry quickly and your Goop-hyde mix will start getting sticky and messy quick. I don't know if you can store thinned Goop in a glass, sealed jar, but you could try it!

Don't even bother considering weight! The benefits far outweigh any weight added to the airframe. Functional weight is a good thing!

Did I mention that you will not believe how shiny your Foamie will be!!!! So shiny that you can't look at it in the sun... Not kidding.

Give the Goop thing a try if you are building a PSS sloper or a Moth. You will notice that I refer to it as Goop-hyde, which means that it creates a durable skin that will help the EPP resist tears on impact and compression, too. So coating the leading edges and tips of Foamie wings is a really good idea.

3m spray glue is still needed for Ultra-Coat or taping over the Goop-Hyde and EPP foam, so nothing new there!

I'll be checking your Foamies for Goop-hyde when my travels bring me to your slope, so don't brush me off... Instead, brush some 'Goop-hyde' on!

See you on the road! ■

30TH ANNUAL
TANGERINE
SOARING CHAMPIONSHIPS

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 29 - 30, 2003

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29: UNLIMITED & RES THERMAL DURATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30: UNLIMITED & RES THERMAL DURATION

AMA Sanctioned Event

THREE CLASSES IN UNLIMITED WITH
DAILY AWARDS TO 3RD PLACE IN EACH CLASS

ONE CLASS IN RES WITH DAILY AWARDS TO 3RD PLACE

UNLIMITED OVERALL CHAMPION

RES OVERALL CHAMPION

CONTEST MEMENTOS

RAFFLE PRIZES

***** PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED *****

SPONSORED BY:

ORLANDO BUZZARDS
R/C SOARING SOCIETY
(http://www.orlandobuzzards.org)