



Chris Freeman has developed a well proven method for fabricating those famous elliptical wing panels

# SPITFIRE FOAM WINGS

Using Chris' technique you can make a wing for any mark of Spitfire, including later types like the Mk 24 shown here.  
Stuart Mott picture

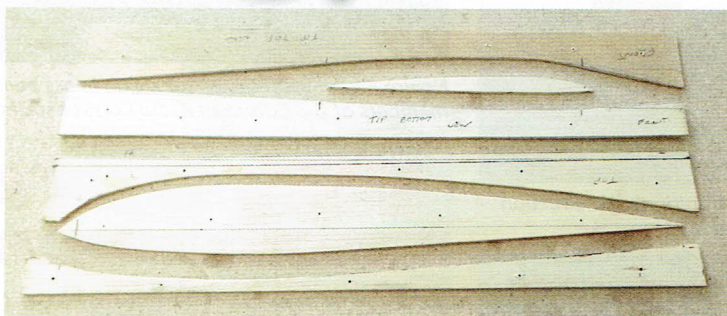
Over 20 years ago I was approached by a mate who asked if I could cut foam cores for a Spitfire. I knew of kits that had foam cores, so I knew it could be done and I agreed to have a go. I was given a fibreglass fuselage for a 1/5 scale Spitfire as an incentive for me to get it right. I studied a kit foam wing and came up with an idea on how it could be done. I soon had the templates made and had my Spitfire flying within a few weeks - I was very happy with the way the wing turned out. I have since made a number of different size Spitfire wings and all have worked very well.

I recently had to make new templates for my latest 1/6 scale Spitfire, as the previous ones had been destroyed. I posted a few pictures on a local model aircraft website and received quite a few requests for more detail on how to cut the wings, so here it is!

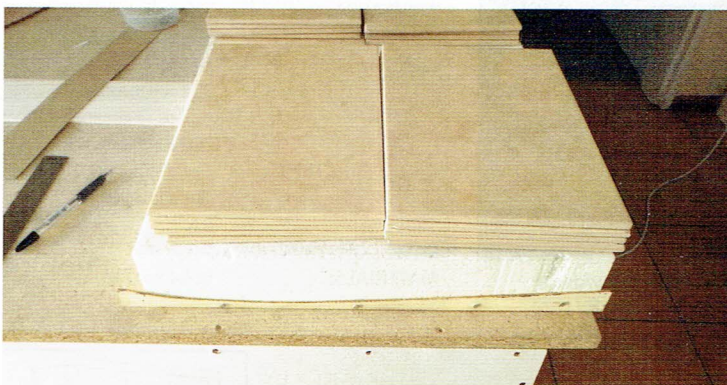
## Rib Profiles

I start by cutting out the root and tip rib profiles as shown on the plan. These profiles are then used to make the outer templates that I use when cutting the wings. I make these templates slightly larger than the foam block that will be used. This makes it easier to hot wire. The lower templates are made with the required washout in them when positioned on the foam block. The tip rib will be positioned as it is in the plan view to ensure that the wing will be the correct shape when completed.

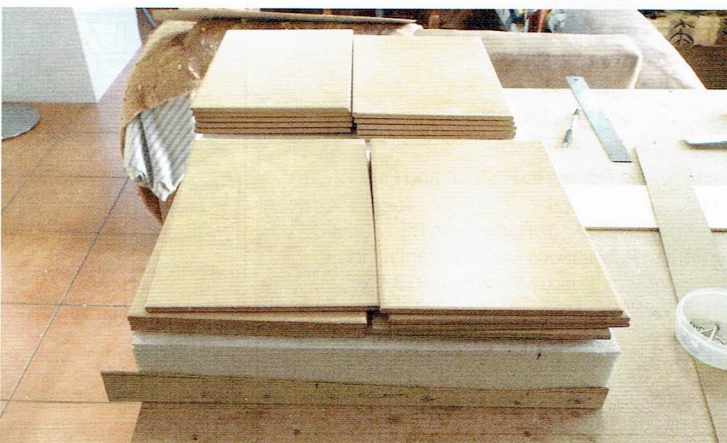
Do not panic yet. The pictures should clear up what I am explaining. The upper templates are then made and the tip is made with a natural continuation of the wing profile, to make it the same size as the root template. I then make a template to the shape of the plan view of the wing



Templates for the Spitfire cores, with the tip template made the same size as the root



Foam on the workbench ready to be cut. The balsa sheet is in the middle of the block and the tiles help bend the foam



Another shot of the foam and packer ready to be cut