



Core cut but not yet trimmed to final shape



The core has the correct washout in it as well

I then position the plan view template and cut the panel to the correct size, and only now will you see how good the core is. If done correctly you should have a very nice core that requires very little sanding. If the panel is thinner in the middle of the leading edge then the packer used to bend the foam block was too thin. And if the leading edge is thicker then it was too thick.

Consider This

Some points to consider when building a Spitfire:

First and foremost, watch the weight, especially behind the C of G, or you will need nose weight to get the C of G in the correct position. These wings take 16 sheets of 1.5 mm x 100 mm x 1000 mm and I always weigh my balsa so I can select the best sheets for the task. The heaviest sheet I ever had for 1.5 mm was 65 grams and the lightest was 12 grams, so you can see if 16 sheets are used how quickly weight could be added if heavy wood is used. I used sheets of around 20 grams for this task.

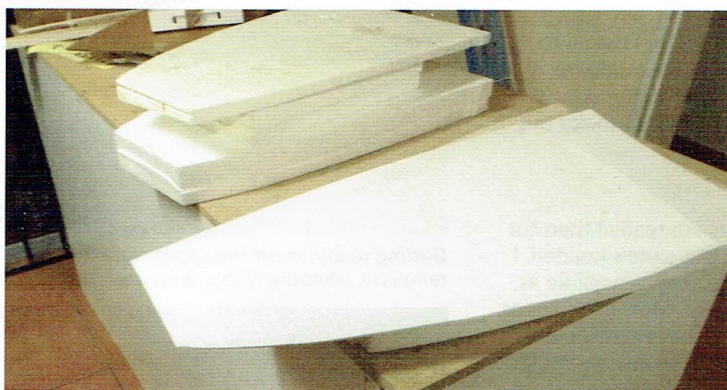
A Spitfire has tendency to nose over so a foam wing will allow you to position the retracts a little forward of the scale position if desired as it doesn't have the spars that would prevent this in a built up wing. I use latex glue to adhere the sheeting as I find it light and easy to work with. Epoxy can be heavy.

Lastly, why did RJ Mitchell use an elliptical wing on a Spitfire? A constant taper wing would mean that the wing would not have enough depth to house the machine guns with the thin wing sections that he used. The Elliptical wing allowed him to have enough space as it retained its depth further out in the wing panel. The Hurricane was limited by its thick wing and could not be upgraded like the Spitfire was.

RCMW



Ready for the last cuts to be made and to ensure that the core is the correct size and shape



A little sanding is needed but not much



Trailing edge is nice and thin and is the correct shape



Core cut to size. You can see that the packer was the correct size as the leading edge is fairly straight without getting thicker or thinner in the middle.