

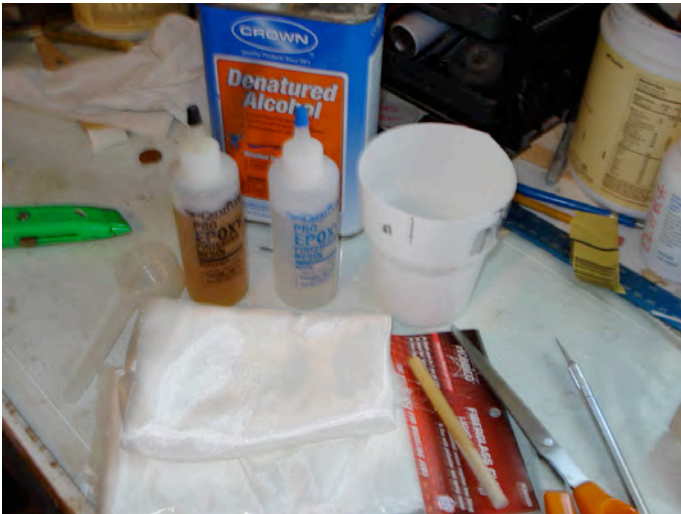
## Cessna U3-B “Blue Canoe” Part 4 By Jerry Testa



In this installment, I will be finishing the model with  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce fiberglass cloth and epoxy resin. You have to be carefull on how much resin you use when doing your lay-up or the model will gain a lot of unwanted weight. I'm using the Great Planes brand of finishing resin and cutting it with denatured alcahol. By cutting I mean thinning it down after the two part epoxy is mixed. A 2 to 1 ratio is used to get the right consistancy. I have included a few photos of the suplies I am using. Fiberglass cloth is expensive so I try not to waist too much of it when covering the model. As you can see in the photo of the fuselage, most of it is covered by one piece of cloth.

I lay the cloth on the airframe and simply brush the epoxy solution onto the cloth. Since the resin is thinned, it wicks very nicely into the cloth and into the wood. Remember that the strenght of fiberglass comes from the cloth not the resin so if you use too much resin, you're just adding weight.

The entire airframe is done this way and allowed to thoroughly cure for a few days before I move to the next step. The parts will take on a varnished look.





After the resin has cured I use an automotive primer/filler to fill any weave that is still present. It usually takes three coats of this with wet sanding between each coat. This produces a very nice smooth finish that is ready for painting; here are a few photos of some primed parts. The brand I prefer to use is Rustolium Automove Grey Primer. It fills very fast and sands very easily. Remember to use a good respirator if you do decide to tackle a project like this, some of these chemicals are toxic.



The paint I have chosen is a water-based polyurethane that has a cross-link catalyst added which makes it fuel proof up to 15% unburned nitro. I ordered the paint from Warbird Colors located in Portland Oregon. This paint is not cheap either, about fifteen dollars a quart, but it does go a long way since it's thinned with water for spraying. It's tricky to work with, so you really need to evaluate weather or not you want to paint a model or simply Monokote it. I think Monokote would have been less expensive and less trouble, but once in a while it's good to challenge yourself and keep up you're model building skills. Below is a shot of the paints and respirator I'm using. ALWAYS use a respirator when spraying an epoxy-based paint! Water based epoxy paints have very little odor, so you wont realize your breathing it in until it's too late and you start feeling sick. As with any paint or chemical that you may use; if there is any question of it's safety, check it's MSDS (Manufactures Safety Data Sheet) the paint supplier should have that available for you.

