Using "Jap" Tissue

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The application of "Jap" tissue to your glider wings provides them with color and added strength, while increasing their weight only slightly. It can be applied to solid as well as "cut-out" wings where reducing the total weight of the glider is desirable. The tissue can be found in most hobby shops in a variety of colors and sometimes in checkerboard patterns. It can also be purchased for about 10¢ a sheet from the Sig Mfg. Co., Inc., Montezuma, Iowa 50171.

When you have sanded the wing of your glider to the airfoil shape suggested in whatever plans you may be following, brush one coat of Aero-Gloss clear dope onto both sides of the wing. When it is dry, lightly sand the wing smooth with fine or "almost worn-out" sandpaper.

While the tissue is still wet, quickly apply a heavy coat of clear dope to the top of the wing. Before either the tissue or the doped wing dries, pick up the wet tissue with both hands and place it, shiny side facing you, on top of the wing. Using your index finger, lightly smooth out any wrinkles and let the wing dry. To prevent the wing from warping as it dries, place a piece of wax paper on top of it and weight down the edges and middle with paint bottles.

After the wing has dried for 10 or 15 minutes, trim off all but 1/4" of the overhanging tissue from the edges. Using scissors, cut slits in the overhanging tissue that are spaced about 1" apart. Make the slits closer together around the sharp outer curves if your wing is rounded. Turn the wing over in your hand so that the bottom is facing you. Apply clear dope to the bottom edges of the wing in sections of one or two inches at a time and, while the dope is wet, fold the overhanging tissue sections onto those wet edges. Do this until all of the overhanging tissue has been folded over and smoothly secured to the bottom of the wing. Give the bottom edges one final coat of clear dope and allow the wing to dry.

Using the piece of tissue that you have already cut out, cover the bottom of the wing the same way you covered the top. This time, to prevent the wing from warping while drying, place the almost dry wing bottom ON TOP of a sheet of wax paper and weight down the top edges and middle with paint bottles.

When the wing has dried, carefully use scissors to trim all excess tissue from the bottom of the wing. Give the entire wing one last coat of clear dope to further moisture-proof it and to seal the edges. This completes the tissueing process. You are now ready to go on to the next step in building your glider as suggested in whatever plans you are following.