

Dave's building tips for kit PD18 Dayton-Wright Racer

1. Everyone has their own style of building that is honed through experience. I only learned through conversation with my friends just how opposite our application of wood choices differed amongst us. These are my suggestions but not cast in stone. I find that when I build another copy of the same plane that it will rarely be built the same way as I address weaknesses I found with my first one. Everything is relative.
 - a. The keel – I'd use red or orange
 - b. Leading edges – wings – orange; rudder & stab – red
 - c. Wing spars I like to use red or orange
 - d. Rudder and stab – center line will be red and trailing edges yellow. I want to keep the rear of the plane lighter as it means less nose weight.
 - e. Pink I'll use any place I need filler or a place to glue tissue to but not looking for strength.
 - f. Fuselage stringers – I look where I will be holding the plane for winding, launching, etc and will use stronger wood like the red or orange. Remember that each structure like the fuselage are reflecting the strength of the full assembly and not just the individual components. So I can actually look at using some yellow or even pink at times as stringers where I need to give the fuselage shape but not needing as much strength.
2. You can use 3/8"-1/2" at each wing tip for dihedral. The more you use the more stable the flight. Too much will affect duration and its ability to turn.
3. I always flub up at some point on those lines. I frequently bounce back and forth depending on how I'm feeling
 - a. After you seal the tissue, draw the lines on with a permanent thin line marker using a clear plastic ruler. I'll use a 4B pencil to make little marks for alignment. If you flub up you can sometimes clean it off with lacquer or paint thinner without affecting the tissue. Do a test first.
 - b. Draw the lines on the tissue before you put it on. Way more complicated to position the tissue and align the lines but you get nice straight lines. Doesn't work so well for lines going around the fuselage or bigger curves. Screw up? Start over with fresh tissue.
 - c. The easiest, but also tedious, cut thin strips of black tissue. Apply glue stick to the backs of oversized strips and lay down as needed using a fresh blade to trim to size once in place. Use rubbing alcohol to reactivate the glue if it dries too soon.
4. Yes.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Gets boring if you don't challenge yourself.