

G'day Folks,

I thought that I might share a few ideas that I had while building the Electric Beaver.

1. I decided on an RCAF Search and Rescue Colour scheme; albeit the RCAF had very few DHC2's and none of them (as far as I know) were used in the SAR role. The RCAF used the Otter. This decision was based on the simple fact that these 66 year old eyes needed something bright to see! The actual paint-job is a compilation of several photos of SAR aircraft. I covered the plane in Hangar 9 Ultracoat; Dark Yellow. In retrospect, I'm not sure that was a wise choice as it seems to be a rather heavy material. However, by the time that dawned on me I was too far along to change!
2. Adding ailerons was fairly straightforward. I simply cut the trailing edge and ribs, boxed the area with sheet balsa, and used the trailing edge and rib cut-offs (along with a few other bits) to scratch-build the control surfaces.
3. I modified the wing attachment to use nylon bolts rather than rubber bands. I can't say that I did this for any particular reason other than personal preference.
4. I found some "flattened" aluminum tubing (about 3/8") that made perfect wing struts (missing in the photos). They are attached with servo push rod clevises and very small screw eyes.
5. I read a tip that an empty ice cream tub, cut to the appropriate length, made an excellent motor cowl. Correct; but, it was a chore to paint so that the ice cream colours wouldn't show through! I solved it by sanding off all my failed efforts, spraying it with aluminum paint (how appropriate), then finishing it in red and black.
6. I had always intended to use an E-Flight Power 15 motor, so a bit of extra weight was not a concern. Consequently I sheeted the leading edge of the wings, and added a few struts where I thought that the fuselage needed some beefing-up.
7. I didn't like the wing-tips on the plans, so I sat on the front porch and carved a pair out of balsa block, much to the bemusement of my neighbors. As you can see, I painted them rather than try to cover the complex curves.
8. I beefed up the landing gear with a second wire strut, then filled in the gap to give a slightly scale appearance.
9. As you can see, I decided not to use the clear windscreen material, and opted for black peel-n-stick.

I wish I could report on the plane's maiden flight. Unfortunately, it's January, I live in Canada, have no skis, and the rest is obvious! Our club's flying season is still 2-3 months away.

Speaking of our club (Rose City Model Fliers, Welland, Ontario <http://www.rosecitymodelflyers.com/index.html> ), I'll be introducing the Beaver to them at a show-n-tell during the next meeting. Believe me; my comments will all be positive!

Finally, I am newly-returned to this sport after I retired from policing. Prior to that, most of my experience was building *Easy Built* and *Guillows* stick-and tissue free flight models in the 50's and 60's when your company was in Grimsby, "just down the street".

This is my first RC Model, my first construction project of this size and my first efforts at "shrink-wrap" covering. I completely enjoyed the project and will recommend it to anyone wishing to "do it the old way", by building their own model.

Kind Regards

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