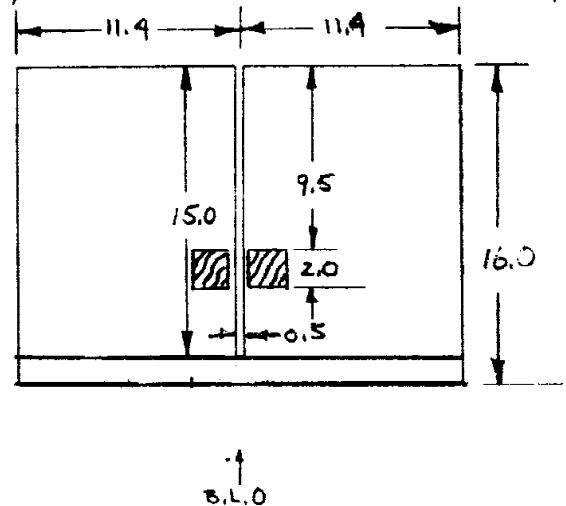


Forward Bottom Panel

Cut a piece of 1/2 inch thick blue styrofoam 22.8 x 16.0 inches. Cut a 1/2 inch wide slot down the center as shown in the sketch. This foam block forms the core of the bottom panel extending from the firewall aft to the wing attach area. Mark one side to be the inside (upper) surface and insert two 2 x 2 x 1/2 inch wood blocks in the core as shown.

Fit check the foam core to the fuselage assembly. Next go cut two pieces of 450 BID 18 x 24, and one piece 6 x 24. Cut 2 inch peel ply for all four edges and both sides of the center slot (3.4 yards total). Lay masking tape on your work table top in a strip 24 inches long and 3 inches wide. Put some small 5 min/micro dabs on the outside surface of the foam core and glue it to the table with the aft edge overlapping the tape one inch. Next sand a ramp into the aft edge of the foam to allow a smooth transition to the table and tape from the top of the foam surface.



Carefully wipe automobile paste wax on the tape (not the foam!) and let dry. Mark a one inch addition to the aft edge on the tape.

Lay up a strip of peel ply over the edge tape then two 45° BID plies over the foam and tape, then add the 6 inch wide strip of BID across the panel from the inserts forward. Peel ply the front and side edges and both sides of the slot. Knife trim and cure.

Remove from the table, pull off any tape, and fit to the fuselage. Prepare the fuselage side panel edges for a small floc corner. Remove any peel ply from the firewall's bottom edge, from the intercostal and from the bottom panel. Fill the floc corners on the fuselage sides, position the panel on the fuselage, mix 5 min/micro and put a dab here and there outside to hold the panel in place. Wait until the 5 min hardens then carefully turn the fuselage right side up. Stand in the center hole and lay up three 45° BID plies (4 inches wide) from the fuselage bottom panel to the firewall bulkhead. Lay up 2 ply 0-90° BID tape (2 inches wide) from the sides and intercostal to the bottom panel. Cure.