

MY FAVORITE PROPELLER

by Bill Henn

As published in the March/April 2007 issue of Tailspin, the New England Flying Aces News, Mike Nassise, Editor

After many years of experimentation, I have settled on the prop that is described below. It has too low a pitch for indoor scale, but it has worked fine for me outdoors. I use it on all my models, scaled up or down, from Peanuts to Giants. This prop works great with 15% rubber as well as with unlimited motors. Convert dimensions to metric for easier up or down scaling.

Block Dimensions

Length: 10"

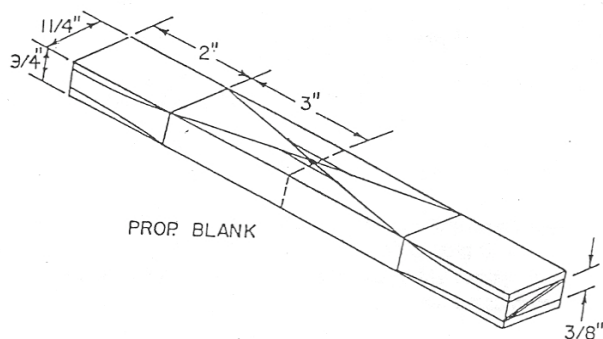
Width: 1.25"

Max thickness: 3/4"

Thickness at tip: 3/8"

Break at: .3R (3" from hub). Thickness tapers from that point to tip with slight concavity. Blades have no UC.

P/D to 3R: 1.1 (slightly less from that point to tip)



Through the years I have tried many other P/D ratios, undercamber, turbulators, gurney flaps, etc., but none worked as well. Do not cut out the area at the hub until the prop is fully shaped. The outer section of the blades should be about 3/32" thick. The inner portion gradually thickens. Finish prop with one coat of 50/50 nitrate dope, sand smooth, and then coat with CYA and sand to smooth finish. I use heavier wood for models that are likely to require ballast. Of course, it is very important to match this prop to the right motor to obtain the best performance, but that is a story for another time. Closest thing to this carved prop in a plastic prop is the yellow Czech.