

SHOP FOLLIES -- TISSUE SHRINK

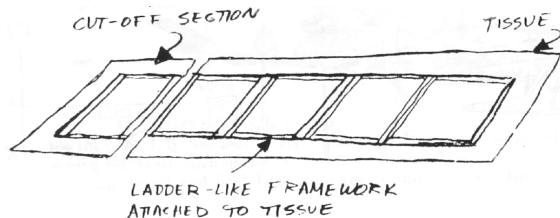
T. Arnold

From an old March 1994 Issue of Scale Staffel, Tom Arnold,
Editor

Hearing talk from all sorts of experts about shrinking (or non-shrinking) dopes, lacquers and various elixirs, the editor decided to do a bit of experimentation to see just what did shrink. While the process chosen to illustrate it was probably closer to voodoo than objective scientific analysis, it was quite interesting. A piece of Peck white Japanese tissue was laid out, and a long ladder-like framework was laid out on it and attached to the tissue with dilute white glue. The individual squares were cut out and the direction of the grain marked. Then various liquids were sprayed on the labeled squares and set aside to dry in a 70 degree garage for a week out of the sun. The liquids were: water, alcohol, non-tautening nitrate dope (diluted 50/50), and clear Krylon from an aerosol can. The results were observed and here's the order of their potato chip appearance with #1 being **least** shrunk and #7 **most**.

The number beside the sample is the number of centimeter that the frame curled up when 2 sides were held flat (see illustration).

1	Plain tissue	.09cm
2	Krylon (2 coats)	2.0cm
3	Krylon (1 coat)	2.2cm
4	Dope (1 coats)	2.5cm
5	Dope (2 coats)	3.0cm
6	Alcohol	4.0cm
7	Water	5.0cm



Notice that Krylon values appear reversed (2 coats shrunk less than one coat!) but I don't attach too much credibility to it as the values are so close.

What can be roughly drawn from this is that water is the most bodacious shrinker of all by a factor of almost 5: alcohol is next, dope next, and Krylon least. A secondary bit of information gleaned is that Genuine, Non-Tautening Nitrate Dope does. Considering, though, that the can of dope came as a gift from the Cactus Squadron to a San Diego contingent at a past contest for " ... contestants who came the farthest. .. ", the smell of sabotage hangs in the air. An independent counsel will be appointed to delve into this sordid affair. (PFFT Ed. Note: *Non-Taughtening dope apparently only stops shrinking after it's dried. Regular dope allegedly doesn't.*)

