

Take that Scratch Out!

Here's a method for removing scratches in your canopy.

Check marine/boating supply stores for "Aurora" plastic windshield cleaner/protector (two bottles). #1 is a polishing compound and #2 appears to be a silicone based wax/polish. Works well except on deep scratches, works wonders on old clouded canopies.

from Transmitter John Clark, Editor San Marcos, CA

Polish That Gear

Have you ever found that the aluminum landing gear that came with your new pride and joy looked so ragged that you either wanted to paint or replace it? Here's a way that will not only make it look better than new, but will take less than 30 minutes! First you'll need the following materials:

400 to 600 grit Wet-or-Dry Sand Paper Emery Cloth

Twinkle Silver Polish

Aluminum "Mag Wheel" Polish

If your landing gear looks really crappy and has a lot of scratches, the first thing you'll need to do is to wet sand the aluminum (sounds a little strange but this goes pretty quickly). Keep your sanding strokes long and lengthwise along the gear. After most of the scratches are gone, the next step is to go over the landing gear with the Emery Cloth (don't wet sand with Emery Cloth, use it dry). Just as you did earlier, keep your sanding strokes long and lengthwise along the gear. Now wipe down the gear to remove all the dust and crud. After that, apply the Twinkle silver polish and buff. Don't try to get the gear to shine at this point, that will come after the next step. Now go over the gear with the Emery cloth lightly. This will bring the aluminum to its optimum sheen. This is the real trick, and I must admit it was discovered by pure dumb luck. As a final step, go over the gear with the mag Wheel Polish to protect the luster of the aluminum.

You'll be quite amazed at the looks of your "new" gear. The only drawback to this process is that your fingers will get a little dirty (okay, really filthy) with the aluminum dust, but the finish looks stupendous!

from Jeff's R/C Aviation Web Page via The Flightline Tom Minger, Editor Fremont, CA

Tempered Landing Gear

Here's a solution for weak wire landing gears. Disassemble them and lay the wire flat on a cookie sheet. Stick it in a preheated oven at 450 degrees. Wait an hour and turn the oven off and leave the gear in the oven until it cools off enough to touch it.

Stranded Pushrod Wire

If you try to cut stranded pushrod wire as used for throttles it will fray. Do this: melt some solder in the area you want to cut. Use very little. Then make the cut using a Dremel and a cutoff wheel. Now you might have to grind down the diameter a little to thread it thru a tube.

Reinforcing Those Plastic Cowls and wheel pants

To reinforce those worthless plastic parts that come with kits try this. Cut pieces of fiberglass clothe and bond it to the inside of the plastic piece using the blue ABS cement used to bond plastic pipe.

Rubber Band Wing Hold Down

It takes two rubber bands per pound of airplane to hold the wings on. A fully loaded 6 pound airplane would require 6 rubber bands on each side of the wing.