

Heat Treatment for Flat Surfaces, etc.

Dick Baxter is well-known as the designer on many small, Sport FF models, including the Pussycat. The Pussycat and its many variations, including the Starved Pussycat, are great fliers. Many thousands have been built.

Dick posted a procedure for treating flat tail surfaces before mounting them on the model. The technique may also work with a glue stick.

The stabilizer, or fin, is sandwiched between two clean 1/8- or 1/16 -inch flat balsa sheets. Preheat your oven to 220° and place the “sandwich” in the oven with a weight on top. Set the timer for 10 minutes.

When the time is up, remove the sandwich from the oven and let cool to room temperature with the weight on top.

Dick cautions that if you use thinned white-glue to attach the covering, be sure to let it dry overnight before giving it the baking treatment. Dick says tail surfaces rarely warp after the heat treatment.