

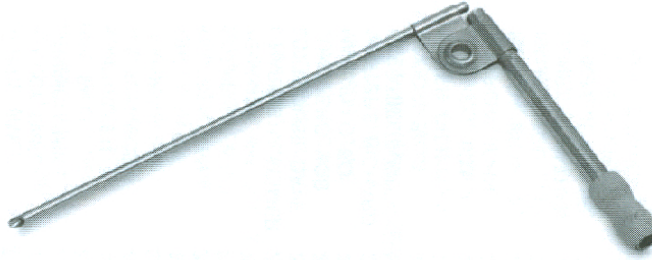
USING THE ARTIST'S MOUTH ATOMIZER (Editorial Comment: A Poor Man's Air Brush!!)

Published in the May/June 2013 issue of Flying Aces Club News, Rich Weber, Editor

Here's a tip that was given to the Gadgeteer by FAC founding fathers, Dave Stott and Bob Thompson. It is a simple, inexpensive alternative to airbrushing or even conventional brushing of dope, the artist's mouth atomizer. Think of it as sort of a human-powered, Venturi-effect paint sprayer. The atomizer consists of two tubes, a down tube and a sprayer tube that is lung powered. The mouth atomizer is available from most art supply stores. A helpful video that shows how it is used is available on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwPSWajV-NI>.

To spray dope or lacquer, thin it quite a bit and place the thinned liquid into a small container that can be comfortably held in one hand (I like to use a 2 oz. glass paint jar). Hold the object to be sprayed, such as a wing or



fuselage, about 2 feet in front of you. Place the down tube into the liquid, take a deep breath and blow forcefully into the mouth tube. A fine mist is produced that evenly coats the part. Incidentally, the video shows the object to be painted on a desk top. Model assemblies are best held vertically in front of you as you spray. Wear disposable gloves on both hands to simplify cleanup. It is strongly recommended that you practice before spray painting the actual model.

Set the part aside to dry, and then give it a second coat. If you're using clear dope or lacquer and want a color coat, substitute that for the second coat. The resulting finish has no unsightly brush marks and is lustrous in appearance. It is even possible to apply multiple colors by carefully masking the different layers.