

GUMMY — A NEW ADHESIVE FOR CONDENSER PAPER

By John Pakiz

*As published in the July/August 2009 Issue of The Winding
Stooge, Hank Sperzel, Editor*

Here is the recipe for making gummy, the new condenser paper adhesive I'm developing. Here goes.

Buy and clean the smallest baby food jar you can find. The heart of this adhesive is hair spray; in this case I used Pantene Pro V Curl Lock. Pour 3/16" of hair spray in the jar and leave the lid off. Leave overnight and when the alcohol evaporates off there will be a hard, clear residue on the bottom. Repeat the process.

The next step is to pour another 3/16" of hair spray over the residue and stir with a hard stick. The mixture will be sludgy. Cut this with 60 cc's of 91% isopropyl alcohol. If you don't have a syringe handy, 60 cc's of volume is a tube 5/8" in diameter by 1 1/4" tall. Start with 60 cc's of alcohol but you'll probably need to cut it some more.

Gummy can be thinned and still be an effective adhesive. Get it to the consistency of milk, then take a small sample and cut it even more. Test the mixture on small test pieces of condenser paper and 1/16" square stringers just to test the adhesion.

Once gummy is thinned to your satisfaction you're ready to use it on the model. Apply it with a very small brush so you are applying the adhesive just to the surface that comes in contact with the paper. That saves weight.

Gummy has several advantages. If properly thinned it's very light and the paper sticks very well to the wood. I've had problems with condenser paper not sticking very well to the wood. Gummy will not distort the wood or cause warps. Isopropyl alcohol will also lift the condenser paper off the wood in case any repositioning is necessary. Gummy will get progressively lighter as it thoroughly dries but it's best to have a thin mixture to begin with.