

GETTING THOSE STRINGERS ON STRAIGHT

By George White

For those of us who build things from scratch, as well as the builders of some brands of kits where things aren't all that accurate, getting the stringers on straight is a bit of a hassle. My friend Rich Adams put me onto using rubber cement, and I've since become a big fan of it. He told me he always puts his rudders on with rubber cement so that when he trims the model, he can remove the rudder and move it around. I thought he was nuts, but quickly found that rubber cement does a good job of holding a rudder. When you get it trimmed, then you can use a more permanent glue

Enough digression. While building a little peanut racer, the task of getting the stringers on so they didn't look like miniature serpents on a hot street, I simply put a dab of rubber cement on the extreme tail of the fuselage, attach a piece of thread and let it dry for about 15 minutes. Then all I had to do was pull the thread to the nose of the model, take a #4 pencil and lightly mark the places for the stringer notches. I pulled the thread off and I was good to go. Yes, you could do that using the stringers themselves, which is no sweat on a slab side, but when things are on curved formers, the thread is much simpler.

