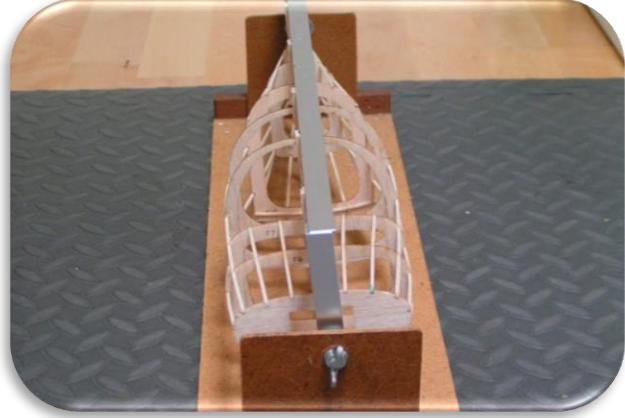
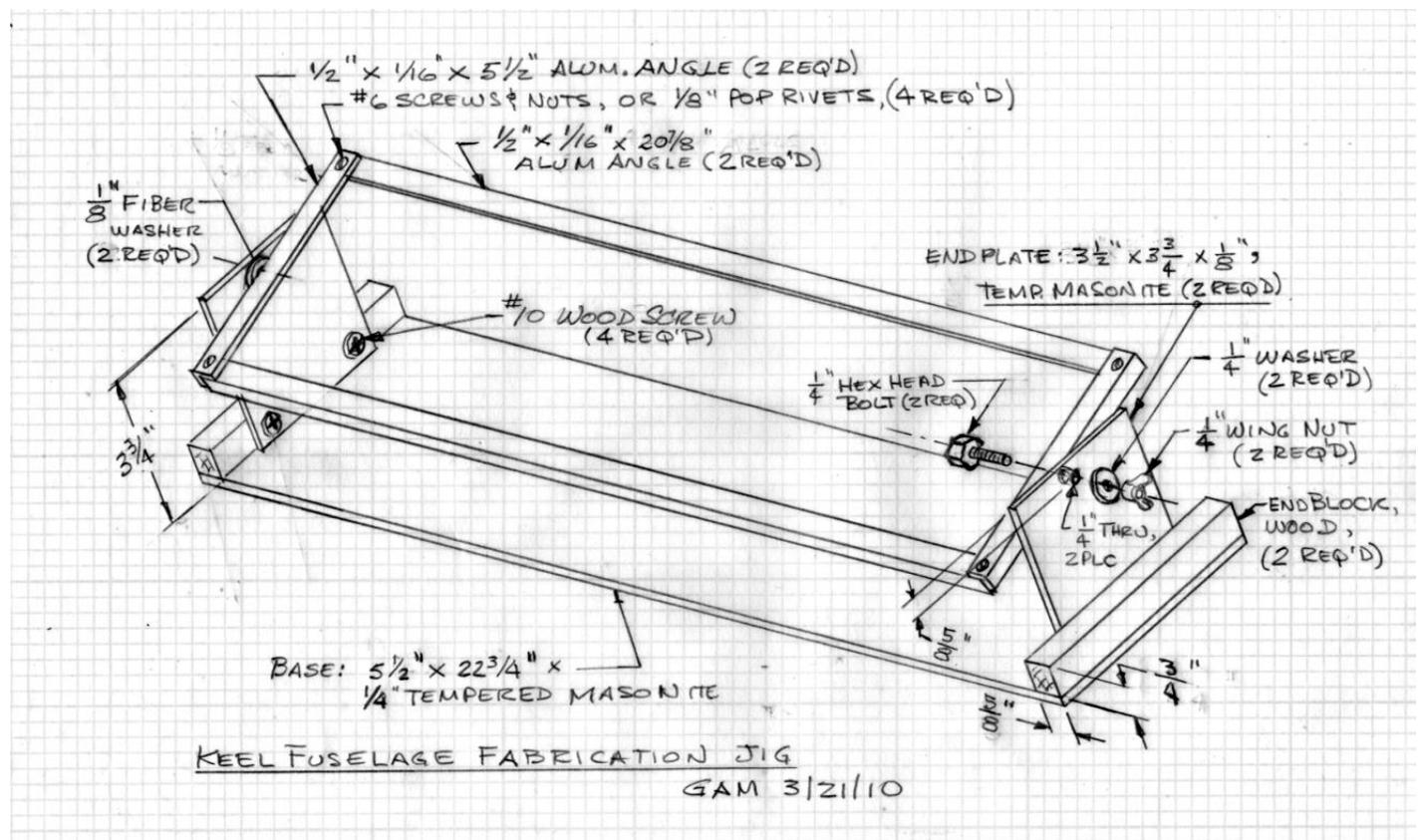


A “Rotisserie” jig for building roundish models

George Mansfield

Back in 2000 I got the bug to build Don Srrull's 1980 FAC Nats-winning Shinden SRU canard fighter-my first round body model in a long, long time. Laying down the keel, formers and stringers for the first fuselage side didn't look difficult, but the prospects for building up the second side "in the air" were pretty daunting. Also, at about this time John Laycock, our club's super light builder, showed me how he simply glued the stringers on surface of cut-down formers, with their slots eliminated.. After looking at a few building jig designs I decided to make one that would provide adjustability, easier access to the all parts of the formed structure, and facilitate laying down the stringers along smooth loft lines. The result is shown below. All jig wood joints are glued and screwed. The pictures at the bottom of the page are of my Bob Holman-Globe Swift buildup on the jig.



For the Globe Swift model, after fabricating only the keel assembly, I tack-glued it to scrap balsa sticks that were in turn glued to the jig's aluminum angles. Then I glued the formers to the keel, followed by the stringers. For the Shinden buildup, with slot-less formers, I laid all the stringers dry on the formers, holding them in place at several stations with elastic thread wrapped all the way around the fuselage. Then it was a piece of cake to slide the individual stringers under the thread until they had even spacing and smooth loft lines. The wing nuts at the jig ends allowed me to rotate and lock the frame to set the model at any position for easier access and fast eyeballing of stringer alignment. Finally, I CA'd all the stringer-former connections. The job was finished by dissolving the tack glue joints on the scrap support sticks to remove the fuselage structure from the jig. Below are old pics of the fuselage structure and my finished Shinden. Note the thin (fragile !) sheet formers.

Note: If any local members want to borrow the jig, it's nearly always available.

