

($\frac{3}{4}$ -, $\frac{1}{2}$ - and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch diameter).

Even lighter and less expensive than Epoxolite is a mixture of Hobbypoxy* glue and microballoons. (I've been using Hobbypoxy Formula 2, but Formula III would probably work better. It's "thixotropic," which means that it won't flow out after shaping. Flow-out can be a problem with Formula 2.)

The trick to making fillet putty this way is to use as little glue as possible in the mixture. Epoxy is heavy and difficult to sand, so the higher the percentage of microballoons, the better. Be sure to stir the two ingredients thoroughly so that each microscopic balloon is well-coated with epoxy.

Goldberg's* Model Magic Filler is the third fillet material, and it's the lightest putty compound that I've tried—and the easiest to use! As good as Model Magic is, however, it isn't perfect. Despite its advertising claims, Model Magic does shrink slightly. For fillets with a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch radius or less, the shrinkage is negligible, but heavier applications shrink enough to crack open as they dry. If you need to build up large fillets with Model Magic, do it in layers no thicker than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Model Magic is a water-thinned material, and even after it's thoroughly dry, water will dissolve it. This enables you to use every bit of material in the container; even when it appears to be all dried out, a few drops of water (and a lot of stirring) will restore its plasticity.

Water will also soften Model Magic on a model, however. Worse, the material is badly affected by any

solvent that contains Xylol, Toluene, or the like, and this means that some finishing materials (e.g., airplane dope) will harm it. The damage is insidious; nothing appears on the finished surface, but when you try to sand it, you'll discover what has happened under the paint. Dope thinner makes Model Magic soft and crumbly (i.e., the consistency of Roquefort cheese), and the damage is permanent.

Fortunately, I've discovered a solution to this problem! After you final-shape and finish-sand a Model Magic fillet (or patch), apply thin CA in a wet coat over the entire area. Let it soak in as much as possible, then wipe off the excess. This makes the Model Magic nearly impervious to thinner; dope won't hurt it, and even exposure to water has no harmful effect.