

A Bird on Water

Having been given a Japanese float plane completed by Tony Diggle, the model which was mounted on a trolley for work on shore seemed out of its element. It seemed more natural for the plane to be found sitting in a lagoon or water close to shore so the process of relocating it began.



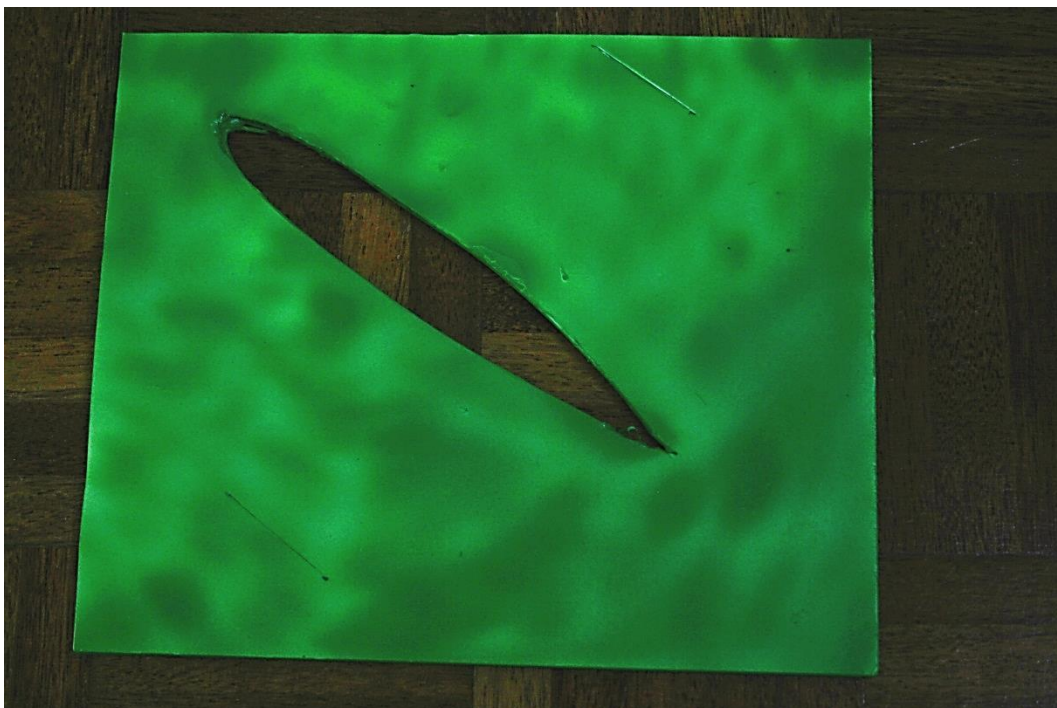
The start of making the base was to mark around the main float sequentially on 3 sheets of foam board having cut out the shape prior to proceeding to the next sheet. The sheets were cut slightly smaller than the outline to ensure a tight fit in order to minimise the need for any filler.



When placed together this gave enough depth for the float to sit comfortably in the foam board stack (expert advice has since told me the plane should be sitting higher in the water and the stabilising floats should be clear of the water).



The top sheet was then sprayed with a strong light green dappled pattern using acrylic paint to start the process of representing vegetation under the water. The appearance appears garish but this will be toned down in the latter stages. The next stage was to secure the plane into the base and edge it with wood strips to cover the layered edges of the foam board then apply a coat of acrylic varnish.



The final stage was to add 10% olive green Humbrol enamel paint by volume to a tin of gloss enamel varnish. Some olive green acrylic paint were then added. As the two forms of paint do not mix, the acrylic paint forms “strings” in the mix and when painted on to the surface gives a reasonable representation of fronds just under the surface of the water. To emphasise the location a short section of jetty was added. Somehow the plane now seemed more at home.



Model by Tony Diggle

Base by Steve Noble

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