

BLUE THUNDER VACUUM FORMED FUSELAGE for Blade CX –CX2 and other micro helicopters

Build Notes:

22 vacuum formed pieces plus 9 miniature gatling gun parts

Start the build by doing a rough trim of all of the vacuum formed parts. Make sure you do not trim them too small (read all of the notes before starting).

After the rough trim, wash and scrub all of the parts with a mild detergent. Dishwashing liquid works well for this. Do not skip this step, When you paint you will be sorry if you don't do the wash.



Here are the parts rough trimmed. Note that most of the parts (the white ones) are made out of styrene. The clear ones are made out of rigid vinyl. There are three reasons why a lot of the parts are styrene. 1. assembly is very easy with regular model cement 2. repair is also very simple with small scraps of styrene

and model cement. 3. Styrene keeps the weight of the fuselage down by almost 1/3.

The next step is to start trimming the parts for assembly note that the fuselage halves have a glue lip that overlaps for assembly. Do not cut this too short approximately 1/16 to 1/8" is good.



You can either trim and glue as you go or trim all of the parts for later assembly. I usually trim and assemble the tail section first. After trimming assemble the parts with masking tape before gluing this will show any problem areas that may need additional trimming.



Parts trimmed for assembly.



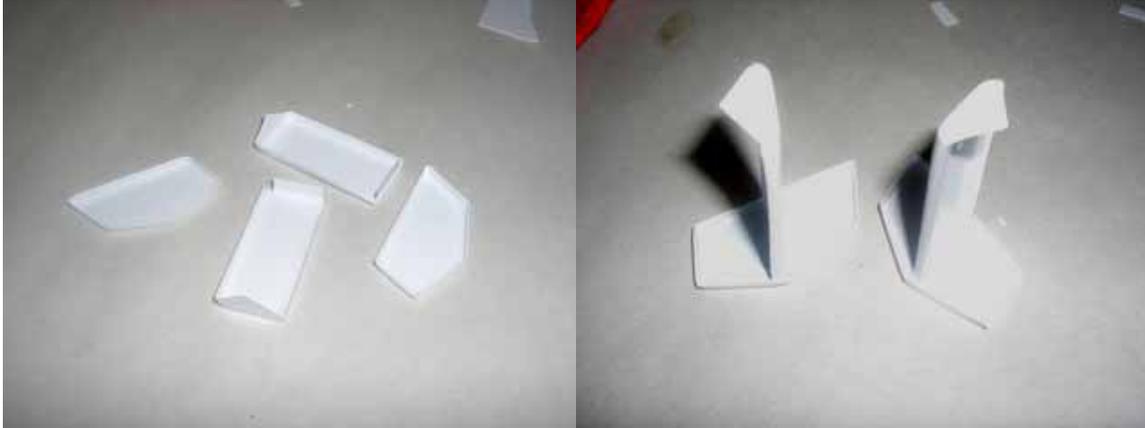
Here the tail has been glued and the main body is trimmed and trial fit. Note that the tail is taped in place. You want to do this to make sure you have a good fit between the tail and the body. Don't forget to do this or the tail may not fit when you go to glue it on. Also in the picture the engine nacelles have been glued and taped to dry.

Before gluing the body together make sure the bottom and top openings are cut out. I've tried to show the openings in this picture the black dots are the top opening where the rotor goes through. The orange dots are the bottom opening for installing the airframe and battery access.



Once you have the body trial fit with tape glue it together with CA glue. Styrene cement will not work on the vinyl. Be careful not to get glue on the window areas. Also glue in the tail if you have it aligned.

The horizontal stabilizer is made by first trimming it. Notice that on each end you can leave a small tab for gluing it to the body. Cut the vacuum formed piece into 2 equal halves and glue on the tail fins. I make up a small 90 degree angle piece for extra strength and glue it into the joint.



To assemble the gun, just insert the 6 rods into the 3 disks. Make sure everything is lined up, and it's done.



Drill the airframe mounting holes in the sides of the fuselage. The carbon fiber rods are .080" diameter so use an appropriate drill bit. Glue the horizontal stabilizer to the tail and let the glue dry before continuing. This is a good time to do a trial fit of the airframe.

This is the point where I will do any gap filling if needed and do the main painting. Mask off the areas of the windows you want to keep clear. Also make sure you cover the holes in the top and bottom so that paint doesn't get on the inside of the windows. I usually just fill it with paper towels to keep out the overspray. You can also paint all of the accessory items at this time. I use fine steel wool to scuff up the body before I paint. Again be careful not to hit the windows.

After the paint has dried assemble the rest of the parts. For the glue to stick best you should scrape paint away from where you are going to glue.

Make sure when you fit the side engine nacelles that they are low enough to miss the rotor blades





In these pictures I have the gun mounted on the wrong side. See the picture below.

