

LIGHT AND EASY EZE TISSUE

Deluxe Materials describe covering with their new Eze Tissue, the first choice covering for the Centurion, the latest model from the Vintage Model Company (VMC)

The Centurion is brand new 31 inch wingspan FF model from the Vintage Model Company. With its sleek lines and single

wheel it is reminiscent of the Keil Kraft Senator. In this article we show how it is covered with Deluxe Materials' new lightweight Eze Tissue paper and Eze

Dope, finished and then flown. Thanks to Andy Sephton for his skill and help putting this together.



The Vintage Model Company Centurion has classic lines and the vibrant colours of the Eze Tissue really make it stand out on the ground and in the air.



PHOTO 1: Here you can see all the main components of the model ready for finishing. Eze Tissue is designed to give excellent results with Deluxe Materials Eze Dope BD42 which has a water-soluble formulation. Eze Tissue is stronger than most other available tissues, particularly when wet. It can be bonded with Deluxe Materials Tissue Paste BD60 followed by shrinking and airproofing with the Eze

Dope.

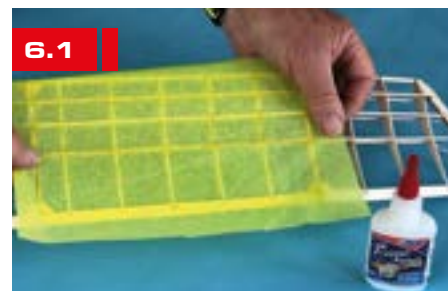
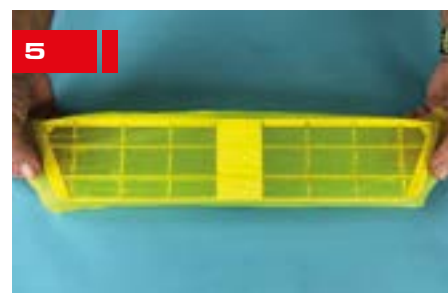
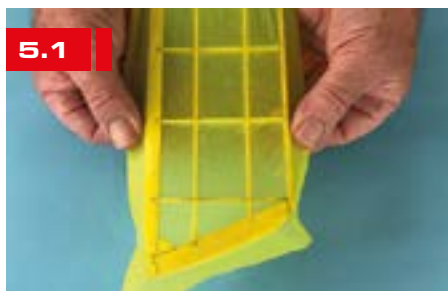
Eze Dope is a good choice because it has little or no odour and is therefore ideal for working indoors. A really nice professional finish is possible when using Eze Tissue. Note that while the natural uncoloured Eze Tissue can also be used with conventional cellulose dopes, the special colour treatment that produces these exceptionally bright colours is NOT

suitable for use with traditional dopes.

A neatly finished framework is half the battle in achieving a smoothly finished model. Make sure all the framework is clear of blobs of glue and lightly sanded smooth.

PHOTO 2: Eze Tissue has a strong grain structure in the sheet's long direction (see red arrow). You can also see this grain if you try tearing a corner. Working with the





strength of the grain direction will help strengthen your model when covered.

PHOTO 2.1: We used three separate colours of Eze Tissue when covering the Centurion (red, yellow, and the red/white check.) Plan ahead how best to cut out your tissue so that you don't try and follow impossible curves. With the polyhedral wing of the Centurion, there are 4 pieces of tissue on the top and 4 on the bottom. The main fuselage has 1 piece on each side, 1 on the bottom, and 2 on the top allowing for the windscreen. The tissue is cut out with the grain running spanwise on the wing and along the length of the fuselage with a 1 - 2 cm overlap all round. Here you see the main Eze Tissue paper parts laid out over the model components.

PHOTO 2.2: Eze Tissue is currently available in primary red, yellow and blue colours, a natural white, and red/white and black/white checks. These pieces were specially ink jet printed with promotional logos to suit the Centurion and are not commercially available.

PHOTO 3: The underside of the wing structure is covered first followed by the top. Deluxe Materials Tissue Paste was applied to the outer edges of the framework. Using a fingertip to smooth

the Tissue Paste evenly onto the balsa structure works well.

PHOTO 4: Eze Tissue has exceptionally high wet strength with maximum strength in the direction of the grain. Eze Tissue may be applied wet or dry but for best results apply wet except for undercambered wings or similar situations where shrinkage may cause tissue to pull away.

Here you see it having been immersed in a 5% solution of Eze Dope, the excess gently squeezed out, and the tissue is ready to apply to the airframe. Soft water works best when preparing this mixture. If you live in a hard water area you might want to use distilled water or boiled water that has cooled.

PHOTO 5: Wet covering technique shown starting with bottom of tailplane, the same method can be used on a normal (non-undercambered) wing. With the tissue placed as accurately as possible, pull it taught along the long dimension and rub down the extreme edges to adhere the tissue to the structure.

PHOTO 5.1: Ease the tissue into place over the short dimension of the structure and rub down. Apply more tissue paste if required. Adhesion may be helped by

moistening the edges of the tissue and rubbing down. Leave to dry.

When dry, trim any excess tissue using a sharp blade or fine sandpaper.

Cover the upper side of the structure in the same way. See Fig 1 Normal Wing.

PHOTO 6, 6.1 & 6.2: For an undercambered surface (see Fig 2) use the dry technique to bond the tissue to the lower surface: Apply Tissue Paste over



the whole structure to be covered. Lay and rub dry tissue down along the middle of the long dimension. Work outwards rubbing down and ensuring that the tissue adheres to each part of the structure. Leave to dry.

Once dry, trim excess tissue on the panel using extra Tissue Paste to adhere any loose edges. Then move on and repeat with the adjoining panels. Once all the lower areas have been covered, then move on to the upper surfaces.

PHOTOS 6.3, 6.4 & 6.5: Once the tissue paste has dried it is ready for tautening and airproofing with a more concentrated solution of 5- 10% Eze Dope and 90- 95% water. An Eze Dope solution can be applied with a soft brush or a spray (option to use either); take great care to avoid drips and puddling. After this first coat is dry (and the tissue is once again taut) we can apply two or three more coats of 30/70 Eze Dope and water to create a durable finished surface that will not sag in damp weather.

Tip for thin structures such as fin or tailplane: to prevent the tissue from sticking to the other surface, wet only one side at a time and keep the wet surface underneath so gravity keeps it away from the upper surface!

PHOTO 7: Almost finished! Here are the fully tissue covered wing and tail components covered in Eze Tissue and

finished with multiple coats of Eze Dope. The model is now ready for the addition of coloured Eze Tissue trim.

After cutting the various trim shapes from coloured tissue, the same 30/70 mix of Eze Dope and water and a wide, soft brush was used to bond the trim to the Eze Tissue base covering. Eze Dope is sticky, so the coloured tissue adheres and holds nicely.

PHOTO 8 & 9: If you have followed this process and the advice given, you will have a first-class, durable model whose tissue will be not sag in the damp thanks to the great new Eze covering and finishing products from Deluxe Materials. Well done Andy for a great job! Now where is our Eze Wind rubber lubricant and rubber winder? (Launch photo by Kevin Wallace)

Eze Tissue is priced at:

- £5.95 for natural (5 sheets/pack) BD73
- £7.50 for colours (5 sheets/pack) yellow BD70, red BD71, blue BD72
- £6.50 for chequer (3 sheets/pack) red/white BD74, black/white BD75

Deluxe Materials products are distributed to all good model shops in UK by Ripmax Ltd and through an international distributor network.

Watch out for additions to the Eze Tissue range. www.deluxematerials.com ■

THE VMC CENTURION

Peter Sanders explains the development of the Centurion for the Vintage Model Company.

Within the free flight community we all know what a fantastic flyer is the Senator, so I suggested to Hadi Kanan at the Vintage Model company that it may be an idea to come up with a modernised design, very much the same size, but with a polyhedral wing and cleaned up tail feathers. I was convinced we could come up with an improved performance and consulted with Howard Metcalfe.

Between us we discussed the possibilities, reducing the drag on the flying surfaces, and improving the "look" of the model. Some of our ideas were madder than others, but after about a week, I drew the plan up and built the prototype. The original took some expert trimming by Howard and flew well beyond our expectations, and we were very afraid of losing the model in a thermal. Once the model was flying consistently, Howard took it away and decorated it with an airbrush design he worked out for the model. The VMC accepted the design and very quickly put together the very first kit, which my clubmate, Kevin McGhee built for us, giving a full report of how he found the kit and instructions. His model flew straight off the building board, as they say, with a wonderful performance.

The Centurion is a terrific kit, with a fantastic performance, using a standard 9.5" to 10" plastic propeller and a little forward weight to balance the model. I truly hope builders will give it a try this winter, ready for the spring; they won't be disappointed.

The VMC Centurion includes everything you need for the model in the box, including copious FAL tan flight rubber, laser cut parts, all stripwood and acetate for the cabin. Centurion kit price is £34.99 with FREE UK Mainland Delivery on orders over £30. www.vintagemodelcompany.com



Peter Sanders and Howard Metcalfe developed the Centurion as a 21st Century answer to the Senator.



Howard Metcalfe designed this trim finish for the sleek looking Centurion. You can see the finished version on the VMC website.

FIG.1. NORMAL WING COVERED WET



FIG.2. UNDERCAMBERED WING



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