

AIRSPAN

0.91m x 0.5m
36" x 20"

Made in England

AIRSPAN is a lightweight tissue made from polyester fibres. The airframe is coated with a heatseal adhesive, **BALSALOC**, dried and the Airspan ironed in place. **AIRSPAN** has a grain that runs along the sheet. Align the grain correctly e.g. spanwise on the wings. After fixing, the covering is shrunk tight with heat. As it is slightly porous, **AIRSPAN** is usually sealed with a light coat of thin dope. This is not essential as the material itself is not affected by water, moisture or fuels. Although clear dope stiffens the covering, it also makes it more brittle, so use the minimum of dope.

IRON TEMPERATURE. As with all iron coverings, the correct iron temperature must be used for best results. Too much heat will degrade the covering, resulting a tendency to slacken off and wrinkle later on. To find the correct iron setting, iron strips of Airspan on to smooth balsa that has a coating of dried Balsaloc. Turn the iron down to the lowest setting that will attach the Airspan. Test by peeling off when cool. A slightly higher setting may be needed to shrink Airspan. Usually 90°C to 120°C is used.

FRAMEWORKS. Apply a very thin coat of Balsaloc to all parts of the frame using a scrap of plastic sponge. Allow to dry. Adjust the iron temperature as above. Drape a piece of Airspan over the frame and iron round the perimeter. Pull the Airspan gently while ironing, to get a neat wrinkle free fit. Trim away surplus Airspan and iron the edges down securely. Where pieces of Airspan meet they should overlap - follow the sequence shown in the diagram overleaf.

SHRINK the material by resting the iron lightly on the covering and sliding slowly across the surface. Work slowly to give the covering time to reach the iron temperature. Try not to reheat edges as the adhesive could soften, allowing the edge to pull in. Increase the iron temperature slightly when shrinking, but remember that most problems with iron-on covering are due to overheating when they are being applied.

SOLID WOOD AREAS Apply Balsaloc all over the wood. Tape the Airspan on a flat surface and apply Balsaloc all over one side. Allow to dry. Then iron the prepared Litespan on to the wood - coated sides together. On large areas start at the centre and work outwards, pulling the edge of the Airspan to stretch it slightly while ironing in an outward direction. To avoid trapping air bubbles do NOT seal around the perimeter and shrink. Use very thin coats of Balsaloc - a few trials will show how little is actually needed. Balsaloced Airspan in a different colour can be ironed on as trim. On undercambered surfaces, apply a coat of **CLEARCOAT** to the edges of the ribs and allow to dry (clear dope can be used but is not as good as Clearcoat). Then apply Balsaloc. Iron the Airspan on, sealing it to each rib. Shrink very carefully so that it does not release from the ribs. A Mini-Shoe on the toe of your iron allows the heat to be kept to a narrow area between the ribs.

Solarfilm, Ackhurst Road, Chorley, Lancs PR7 1NH

2. Cover upper surface second.

