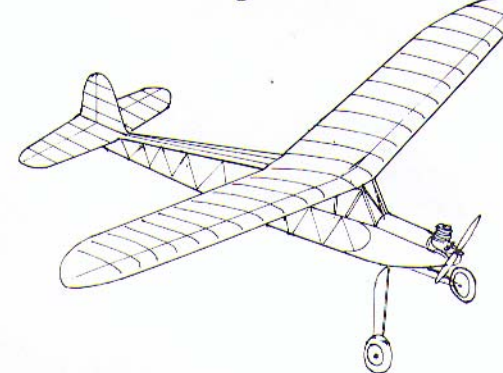




A superlight, fibre-reinforced polyester film.

For models that need a very light but stiff covering i.e. models that rely on the covering to provide torsional stiffness to the airframe such as gliders, sailplanes, vintage models, electric powered models.



ROLL SIZE: 72 in × 29 in (1800 mm × 735 mm)

Made in England by Solarfilm

Fibafilm is used just like other iron-on coverings except it does not have an adhesive back. Instead the adhesive (Balsaloc) is applied to the airframe, allowed to dry and the Fibafilm ironed in place, glossy side outwards. Extra heat is then applied to shrink the Fibafilm tight. There is a worthwhile saving in weight by only applying adhesive to the areas to be attached. Slightly different techniques are used if the model has 'open' framework construction or 'solid surface' (sheet balsa or veneered) construction.

- **PREPARATION.** Fill all hollows, cracks etc and sand to a smooth even surface. Wipe away all sanding residues. Since Fibafilm is not completely opaque any areas of uneven colour (e.g. areas of filler) will show through the covering. These areas should be given a very light coat of paint (Solarlac 'Antique') tinted to match the surrounding wood. If other paints are used they may cause problems with adhesion of the Fibafilm.
- **FUELPROOFING.** Fibafilm is completely fuelproof. The edges of the covering around the engine bay will need protection against fuel or oils seeping under and penetrating the wood. So BEFORE covering, give the engine bay, tank bay and nose back to the wing seat a generous coat of CLEARCOAT and allow to dry for 24 hours. Then apply the Fibafilm. After covering recoat the inside of the engine bay with Clearcoat or Solarlac right up to the edge of the Fibafilm.
- **IRON TEMPERATURES** are very important for best results. For sealing Fibafilm in place use 90°C to 100°C (Solarfilming temperature). At this temperature the Fibafilm will not shrink. For shrinking Fibafilm use 120°C to 130°C. For extra shrinkage to remove stubborn wrinkles, up to 160°C may be used. Temperatures above 160°C may affect the Fibafilm and it will wrinkle later in the models life. For best results use the minimum of heat that will just tighten the covering, extra heat does NOT produce extra tightness.
- **OPEN FRAMEWORKS.** With a scrap of plastic sponge or a small brush, coat the surface of the framework with Balsaloc. Pay particular attention to outside edges (leading and trailing edges, longerons). Use a very thin, even coat. Areas of sheet balsa should be coated all over with Balsaloc. Allow the Balsaloc to dry until clear and colourless (15 to 30 minutes). Cut a panel of Fibafilm at least one inch oversize all round and tack it in place at a few points around the edge, using the toe of the iron. Gently pull the Fibafilm to get a snug fit with no large wrinkles. Do not try to get the covering 'drum tight', just smooth and wrinkle free. Reheating and peeling back while hot will allow the covering to be repositioned to remove large wrinkles. When smooth and wrinkle free then heatseal the covering all round the edges using light pressure from the iron. Trim surplus Fibafilm from the edges with a sharp blade and then re-iron all the edges to make sure they are securely sealed to the wood. Where panels of Fibafilm meet and overlap (e.g. at a wing leading edge), the inside surface of the overlap has to be coated with Balsaloc, allowed to dry and the overlap ironed down. It is best to apply this Balsaloc with a fine brush *before* trimming away the surplus Fibafilm.
- **SHRINKING.** Raise the iron temperature to 120°C–130°C. Shrink the Fibafilm by slowly moving the iron across the surface – very lightly brushing the surface. Check frequently that you are not introducing warps when shrinking wings and tailplanes. If a warp is noticed, twist the panel in the opposite direction to the warp and reheat, hold the twist until the panel has cooled and recheck for the warp. When shrinking work slowly and methodically, making sure that no areas are missed. Try not to reheat edges as this would soften the adhesive and allow the edge to pull back and slacken the covering.
- **SOLID SURFACES** such as sheet balsa, ply, veneer. Apply a thin coat of Balsaloc all over the surface. Cut the Fibafilm panels, tape them onto a smooth surface and give a very thin coat of Balsaloc on the back (fibrous side). Allow to dry. Place the coated side of the Fibafilm on to the surface and iron down with a cool iron (80°C to 90°C). Start at the centre of the panel and work outwards towards the edges. If the Fibafilm starts to wrinkle round the iron, turn the iron down slightly. On Clearcoated surfaces, only the back of the Fibafilm need be coated with Balsaloc (Clearcoat is an efficient heatseal adhesive).
- **DOUBLE CURVATURE.** Fibafilm can be made to 'contour' round double curvature e.g. wing tips, by heating and stretching the hot Fibafilm. This is done in sections working to and fro along the tip.