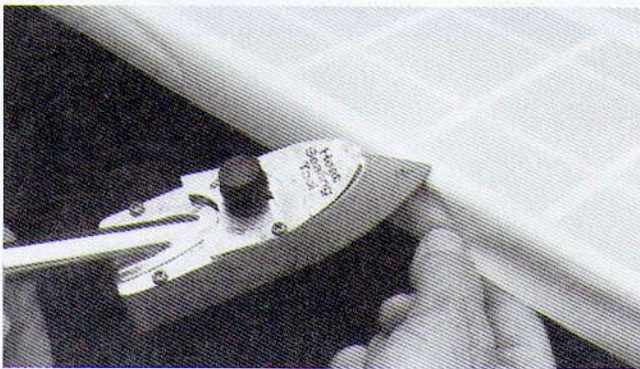
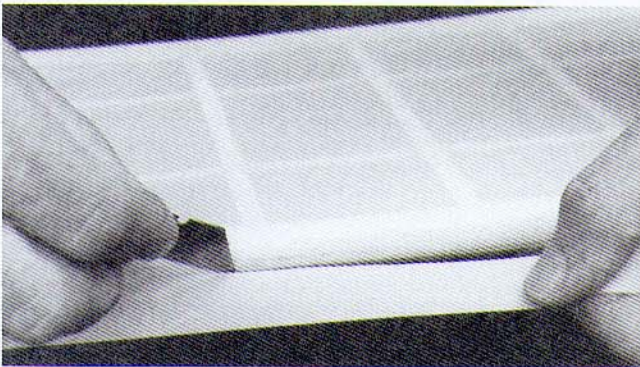


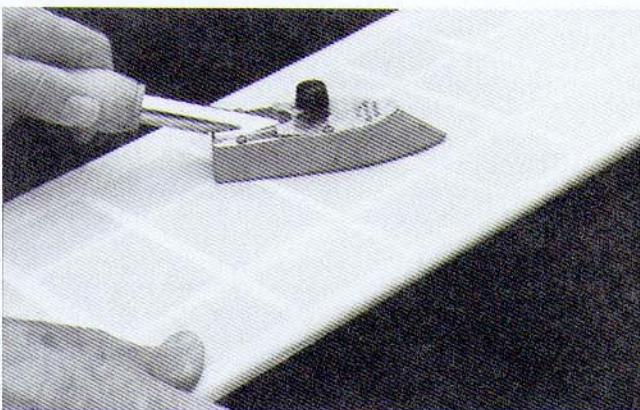
4 Tack covering in numbered order. Seal round perimeter. Trim surplus. Shrink tight.



5 Tacking at edge with toe of iron



6 Trimming surplus covering – then seal edges



7 Shrink – iron just touching surface is moved slowly to shrink every part



8 Wing tip – heat wrinkles (circled) and stretch Solartex in arrow direction

Plan your covering so that the small difficult areas (complex shapes, inside corners etc.) are covered first, then follow with the larger easier areas. There are three different basic covering techniques that are used to cover different kinds of model construction.

1. **open frames** such as wings built from ribs and spars, and girder type fuselages
2. **solid surfaces** such as sheet balsa fuselages, veneered foam parts e.g. wings
3. **complex 3-dimensional shapes** such as wing tips, cowls.

For successful covering you have to be able to do all three types. Small 3-dimensional areas occur on all parts of a model e.g. wing tips, corners of tailplanes and fins, cowls, rim around engine bays etc.

1. To cover **OPEN FRAMEWORKS** such as built-up wings or fuselages cut the Solartex at least 50mm oversize. Apply the pieces of Solartex to the frames in the sequence shown in Diag. 2 for wings and Diag. 3 for fuselages. Use LOW iron temperature. Peel off the clear liner and lay the Solartex in place. Tack down one corner with the toe of the iron, gently pull the Solartex tight at the opposite corner and iron it down. Repeat for the other corners. Follow the number sequence in Diag. 4 and tack the mid point of each edge. See Diag. 5. Rest the sole of the iron on the edge and with a rolling action seal the Solartex round the edge of the frame – repeating all the way round the outside edge of the frame. Trim away the surplus Solartex with a sharp blade – see Diag. 6 – and re-seal the cut edges securely. Apply the other pieces of Solartex to cover the other sides of the frame – where pieces meet leave an overlap of at least 5mm. Iron all edges and overlaps down securely.

Increase iron temperature to HIGH and with the iron resting gently on the fabric glide it slowly across to shrink the Solartex tight – being sure to shrink all parts – see Diag. 7. When shrinking wings and tailplanes check frequently for warps. If a warp occurs, twist the panel to over-correct the warp, hold in that position while it is reshunk and has cooled.

2. To cover **SOLID SURFACES** such as sheet balsa. Use a LOW iron temperature. Iron down the Solartex at one end. Then gently pull the other end and iron down, working along from the end already attached and outwards towards the edges. Trim off surplus and iron down edges. Apply the other pieces of covering in the same way, using overlaps of at least 5mm.

Increase the iron temperature to HIGH and reheat each area of the covering in turn, using a soft cloth to rub the covering down firmly into contact with the wood while it is cooling. Ensure that the covering is stuck down at every point. (Do not use the open frame method to cover a solid surface – on a solid surface, sealing round the edge would trap a large air bubble under the covering and prevent it sticking to the wood. Sooner or later the trapped air would cause wrinkles or slackness.)

3. To cover **COMPLEX SHAPES** e.g. wingtips. Cut the Solartex with a 75mm surplus all round the part to be covered. Set the iron to HIGH and seal the Solartex along the high part of the shape, by sealing at one end and pulling the Solartex hard to stretch it as you seal along the shape to the other end. Grasp the surplus material on one side, mid way along the shape, and pull it gently round the shape until wrinkles form – see Diag. 8. Maintain the tension and rest the iron on the wrinkles – as soon as they are hot remove the iron and pull the material further round the shape and hold there while it cools. Continue heating in sections and pulling round the shape – working to and fro along the side of the shape until it is covered. Repeat on the other side of the shape.

**DIFFICULT AREAS** such as wing fillets, corners between fin and tailplane or between tailplane and fuselage. Iron a narrow (25mm) strip of covering into the corner first. Then apply the main covering up to the corner so it overlaps on the strip. Iron down the overlaps securely. See Diag. 3.

**FINISHING.** Solartex is completely fuelproof as ironed on. It is essential that before covering Clearcoat is used to seal wood areas that may be in contact with fuel or oil, to prevent seepage into the wood and then under the edges of the covering. If a glossier finish is required, spray the Solartex with Clearcoat. A high quality two pack proofer may be used but check first that it is compatible with Solartex. For a high gloss fabric finish use GLOSSSTEX which is more economic, quicker and a superior result, than applying a high gloss finish to Solartex. For a painted finish use SOLARLAC – available in a range of gloss colours and mixable to all camouflage colours gloss or matt. See the SOLARLAC PAINT LEAFLET for mixing recipes. SOLARLAC gives a fuelproof, flexible finish and does not need a coat of fuelproofer.

Before using any paint or coating (other than Clearcoat or Solarlac) always satisfy yourself by tests on scrap pieces that it is compatible with Solartex.

Other Solarfilm finishing products are:

**CLEARCOAT** – clear resin solution for use on wood before applying iron on coverings. Toughens and fuelproofs. Also as a glossy coating on Solartex. Not for use as a fuelproofer on paints.

**SOLARLAC** – fuelproof paint matched to Solarfilm colours. Paint leaflet gives recipes for mixing other colours including all military and matt colours.

**SOLARFILM** – most popular iron-on plastic film. Easiest to apply. The lightest and most economical high gloss finish there is. 30 colours including transparents, fluorescents and metallics.

**SOLARTRIM** – self adhesive, press-on colour trim sheets for cutting out trim designs, insignia, lettering, stripes, checkers etc. Matched to Solarfilm colours.

**LITESPAN** – iron-on material to replace doped tissue. Based on polyester tissue that is 3 times stronger than regular tissue. Totally fuelproof and waterproof. Airtight and does not need doping. Super light weight at one ounce per square yard.

**GLOSSSTEX** – iron-on fabric with a factory applied coat of super high gloss paint. Apply just like Solartex for a superb super-gloss fuelproof fabric covering.

**SOLARFILM POLYESTER** – for those who prefer the hardness and rigidity of a polyester film – but this is high shrink and is as easy to apply as Solarfilm.

**AIRSPAN** – superlight, polyester tissue – much stronger than normal tissue. Needs a light coat of dope to seal. Nine colours including high visibility fluorescent yellow and pink.

**FIBAFILM** – a lightweight polyester film reinforced by a layer of polyester fibres bonded on the back. Only 1 1/4 ounce per square yard. Six colours including aluminium.