Attaching a Decorative Piece of Corrugated Siding on a Body Tube

After one has completed the assembly process of their Rocket, we'll typically sit back and gaze in awe of our magnificent craftsmanship! Buu-ut! Something is missing, "What am I not seeing? Is it because this Rocket is kinda, sorta, blah looking?" *That Earthling, is the right question*!! In this article we'll explore a sample of the lifelong research to make the Rocket look ascetically pleasing like, the *Nostromo* for example. Through this short tale of daring adventure, embarking upon risky creative experimentation, I'll take you beyond just a nice paint job to give ones Rocket maybe a little more distinctive dimension in the texture of its appearance.

Or…., *(cue dramatic pause as the music swells).*

Or, perhaps, allow me to put it into more explicit terms and cut to the chase:

"How to Make Your Rocket Just COOL To Look At!"

The Bill of materials for this adventure requires one each:

- BT-60 body tube from Apogee Rockets,
- NB60-4 Nose Block from Balsa Machining Company,
- Piece of corrugated Siding from JTT Architectural Model Parts.

The tools and consumables list is as follows:

- a 90° Square,
- metal triangle,
- one viciously sharp X-Acto knife,
- wood glue,
- twist ties,
- nitrile gloves,
- craft sticks,
- paper towels in mass quantities. *(See Figures 1 and 2)*.

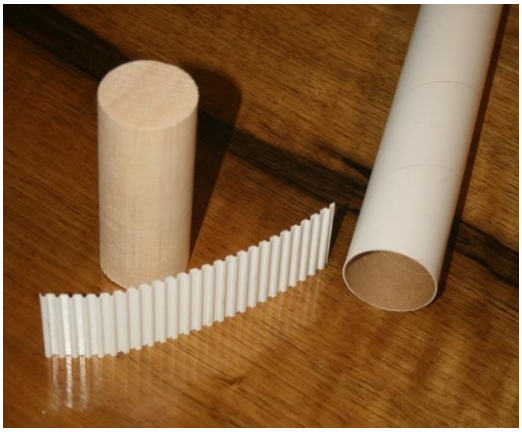

Figure 1

Figure 2

Cutting the Piece of Corrugated Siding

Placing the material on a smooth surface to cut upon, using a Square to align the metal triangle with the left edge. This will ensure an accurate cut when placing the corrugated Siding on the body tube, the ends will line up evenly without any end gaps or excessive overlap. Carefully cut the material to the desired size. *(See Figure 3)*.

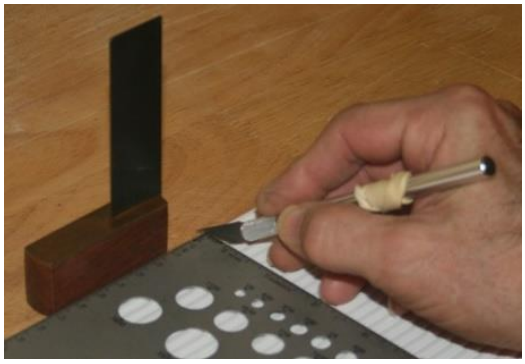

Figure 3

The Dry Assembly Process

The dry assembly process is an important step to accomplish in order to get a better grip of the impending choreography of wet glue and parts assembly. It this step, we'll assemble the parts to be assured that the Siding material, is accurately positioned and each butt end is in alignment with its perpendicular edge. Begin by inserting the NB60-4 Nose Block inside of the body tube approximately where the Siding is to be installed. The Nose Block will prevent any crushing of the body tube while applying pressure to the Siding. Measure and mark exactly where you want to position the Siding then apply a strip of painter tape along the marks for visual alignment of the Siding. Position the Siding on the body tube and verify that the alignment of the Siding is accurate and in the correct location on the body tube.

Position the Siding and using those twist ties that come with every electronic product we purchase, attach them as depicted in *Figure 4*. Place a mark on the body tube where the butt ends of the Siding meet. If there is a little overlap where each edge conforms to the other, then ok. Nevertheless, strive toward creating a butt joint where each end of the Siding meets with a tiny microscopic gap for glue squeeze out. *(See Figure 4)*.

Does everything look satisfactory?

Slightly loosen then twist ties and disassemble everything. Layout all the parts to be within easy reach for the final assembly steps. In most particular, the massed quantity of paper towels to be placed within close proximity of the work.

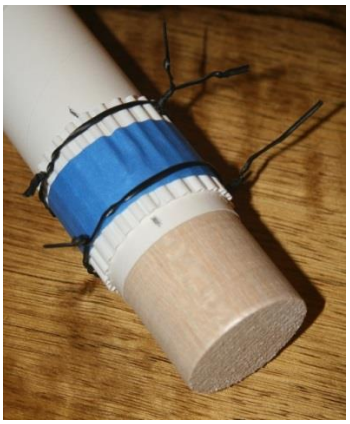

Figure 4

The Wet Assembly Process

To begin the wet assembly process, don a pair of nitrile gloves and prepare thyself to apply a generous quantity of wood glue to the backside of the Siding. Using a craft stick spread the glue evenly across the backside of the Siding. *(Aren't you glad you're wearing anti-fumble gloves? Murphy is poised for a sticky side down upon landing on the carpet maneuver.)* Position the Siding on the body tube while glue is oozing everywhere in great gobs; apply the tape to momentarily hold the Siding into position. Verify accuracy of the installation. Apply even tension to the twist ties to observe glue squeeze out. Carefully wipe away any excess glue squeeze out around the perimeter of the Siding, *(See Figure 4)*.

Stand the assembly on end to evenly distribute the glue while drying. While this is drying, periodically tighten the twist ties then examine the assembly for continued glue squeeze out and wipe away the excess glue as necessary. Set aside to dry for an hour, unless you're in the Desert then ten minutes is good enough.

Once the assembly has dried, remove the twist ties, tape, and inspect the glue job for any defects. Touch up any spot where adhesion failed. Add some touch up glue to seal off the leading edges to prevent the relative wind from ripping off the Siding in flight. Remember Skylab and its vanishing heat shield? *(See Figure 5)*.

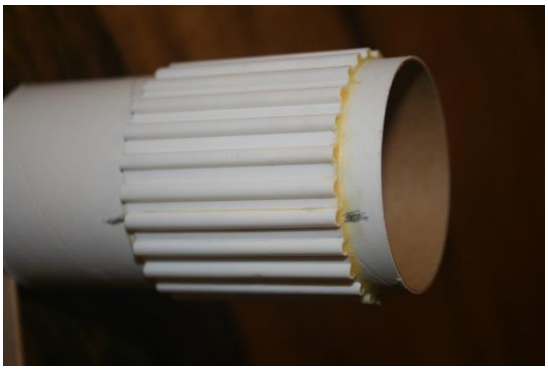

Figure 5

An example of taking this task a wee bit further, is accomplished by adding different kinds of architectural model parts. Observe the payload section of *Shakti* using two different types of corrugated sheets to add more texture to this already slick, "Retro" design. *(See Figure 6)*.

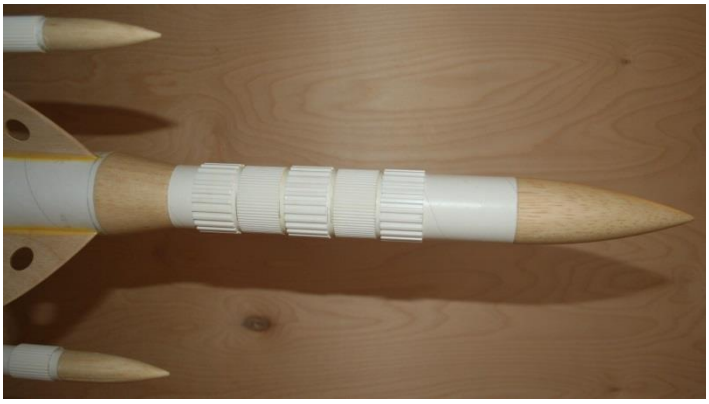

Figure 6

Thank you for reading this exploit of creative daring that is intended to fire your imagination on adding distinctive details to showcase just how far off the Reservation your dazzling vision really is! Now, off to figure out how to add subtle electrical/plumbing line details!

17 July 2023 Paul A. Bass, NAR# 95216, Arizona Rocket Factory