

Tinting canopies

Things to know before tinting a canopy is that...

1. A canopy will always appear to be darker once mounted on the aircraft.
2. It is best to tint two canopies at the same time for 2 reasons,
 - a) So you can test for desired darkness and
 - b) You will always have an exact duplicate in the unhelpful event of an accident
3. Better to test a lighter tinted canopy on the model before just making it too dark because you can never lighten one if you have made it too dark but you can always darken a canopy if you made it too light.

What you will need

1. Large pot, preferably a pot that will be large enough to allow the untrimmed canopy to move around in it.
2. Candy thermometer
3. Rite Dye (powder type & color of choice)
4. White/clear Vinegar

Steps to tinting a canopy

1. Fill up a large pot of water and bring water to a temperature of 125° F.H. and stabilize water temp. @ 125° for approximately 30 minutes
2. ONCE water is stabilized @ 125° add in dye (1 whole box) and stir thoroughly
3. Add 1 - 2 cap fills Vinegar (just like doing Easter eggs)
4. Add in a pinch of salt (don't ask.... it just works better with it)
5. Mix well....
6. ** One thing to note is "DO NOT" trim any excess material off the canopy before tinting because providing you do not over heat the water this will help your canopy hold it's shape ** ADD canopy

Next is probably the most important part.

Every 15 minutes move the canopy around in the water with a none abrasive object (wooden or plastic spoon works great)

Cook canopy for approximately 1 hour constantly checking the Temp. Does NOT exceed 125° F.H.

After an hour you may remove canopy and check the darkness of the tint. If you are satisfied remove and rinse with warm water and let dry on an old rag, if you wish to have a darker canopy then "DO NOT" rinse just continue the cooking process watching every 15 minutes until desired darkness is achieved.

Once satisfied remove and rinse with warm water and let dry on an old rag.

Walter Umland

