24/10/2024 - epoxy cover to vertical stabilisor - 2h15

Category: 4.5. Fairings
Published: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 16:51
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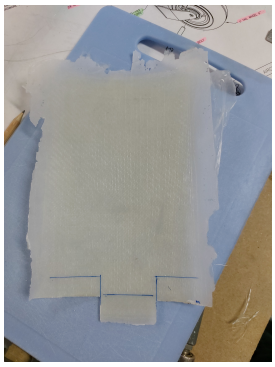
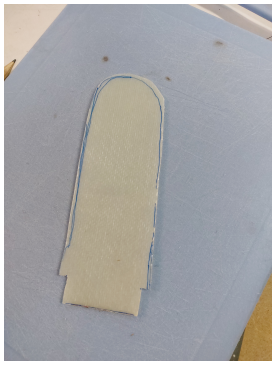
Today a short additional work session on the vertical stabilisor tip. The epoxy of my fibre has cured and I removed the part from the bucket. (for those who didn't read my previous entries: I use a plastic bucket to get the curve required for the rear side of the tip. On the inside I have placed peelply so that I have a nice rough surface for the reinforcement that will be made inside.

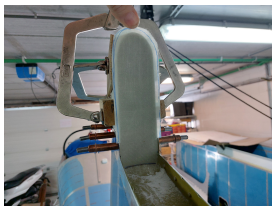
First I made a rough drawing of the bottom of the fairing at the point where it will slide between the skins of the VS.



Then I made a very rough cut around the approximate perimeter.



Here is a picture of the cover layed against the elevator tip.



The cover will be glued in place with some epoxy slurry made of epoxy and microballoons with a consistency that is not liquid but also not too stiff.

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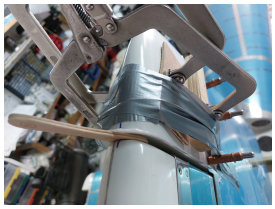
I started experimenting a bit with how I can keep the cover firmly in place as it's glued. I could not do this on the workbench as with the HS tips because in this case, you want the tip to keep it's perfect shape in relation to the rudder top fairing. Some popsickle sticks allow to fixate the rear cover.

The clearence with the cover on is still sufficient.



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In order to fixate the position of the tip, I used vise grips and duct tape.

I left the cover like this for a night and the next day removed the tip again to make the reinforcement strips on the inside. I layed up 2 additional layers of fibre crossing the corners between the rear cover and the tip with some overlap that will be cut away again once cured. Dyring time again... In the next session I'll probably pop rivet the tip to the VS.

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