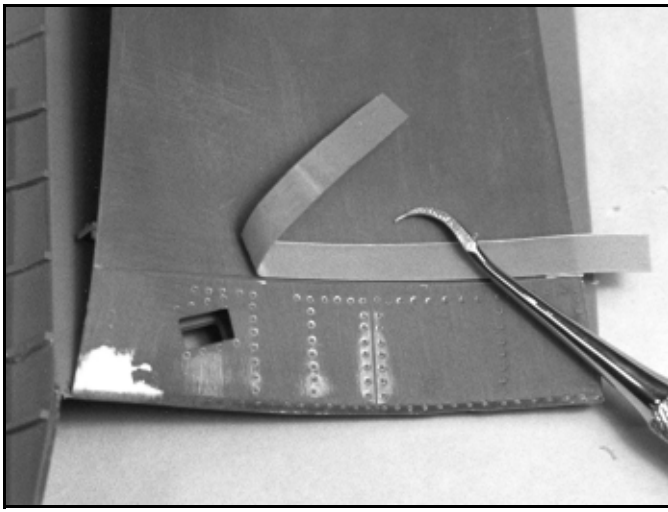




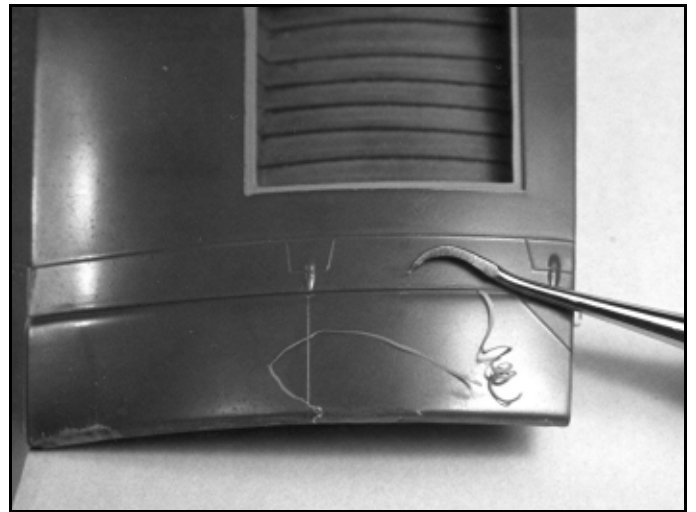
**REMOVING AND REATTACHING THE FLAPS
AND THE CONTROL SURFACES ON REVELL'S
1/32 SCALE F4U CORSAIR
BY
MIKE ASHEY**

For this project I used three Revell kits which I found in a five and dime store and which cost me less than 5 bucks for each kit. One was used for experimentation and the second was used for the built up model. The third kit became the donor kit for the control Surfaces and the flaps and determining the cross sections of the wings for scratchbuilding. Aside from removing and repositioning the rudder, the elevators and the flaps I scratchbuilt the landing gear bays, super detailed the cockpit, the engine, the landing gear and the landing gear doors. I also rescribed the panel lines and modified the air intakes.

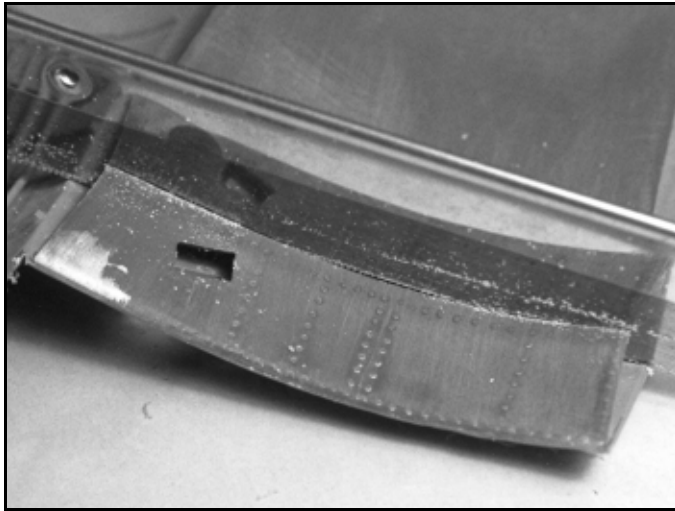
While there are several different methods to removing, restoring and then reattaching flaps and control surfaces what I have presented in this article are techniques that are easy to implement and they work.



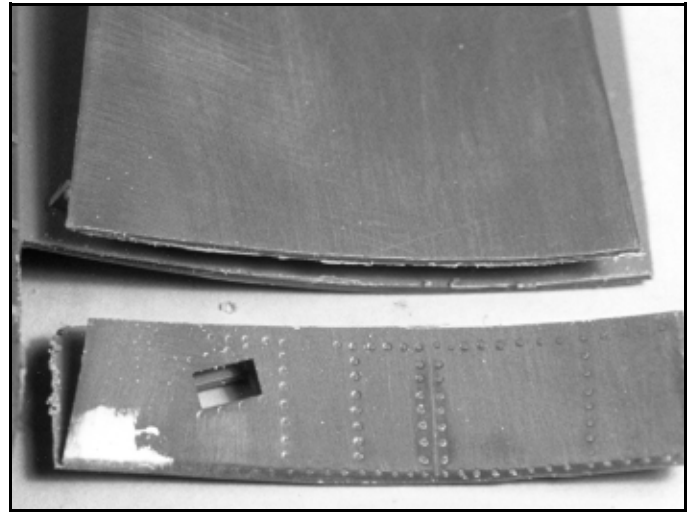
To cut out the flaps from the donor kit, I used a length of labeling tape and a plastic scriber to cut a groove into the plastic to help guide my razor saw on the upper surface.



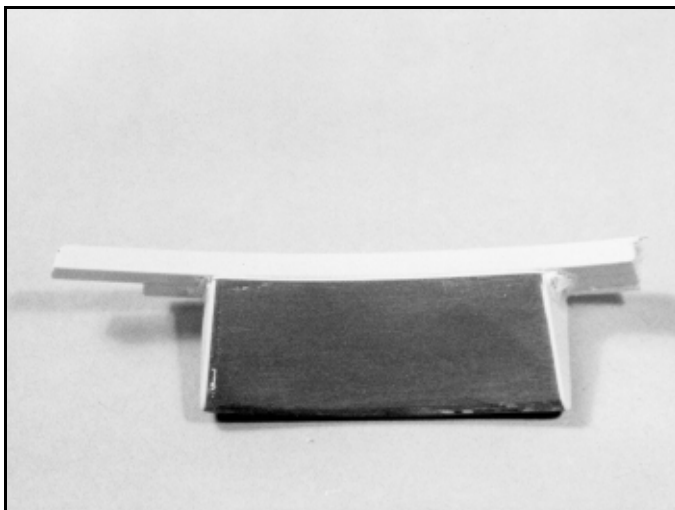
I was not sure if the lines on the top and bottom of the wings matched so I cut through the lower flap area with a panel scriber because there was already a deep groove in the plastic.



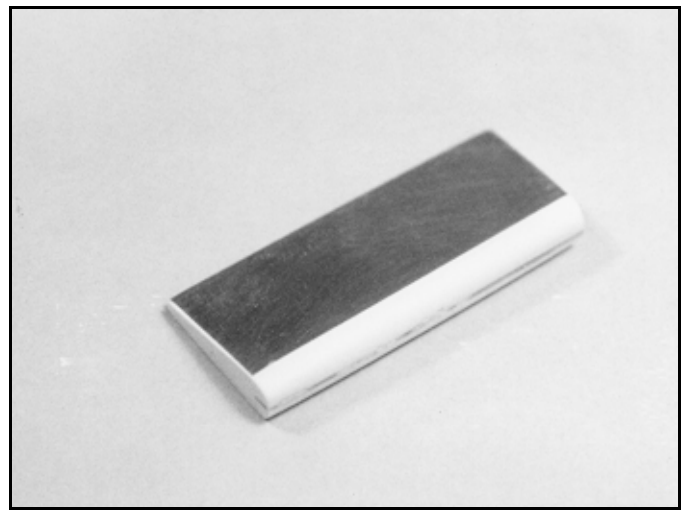
I cut through the top half of the plastic with my razor saw.



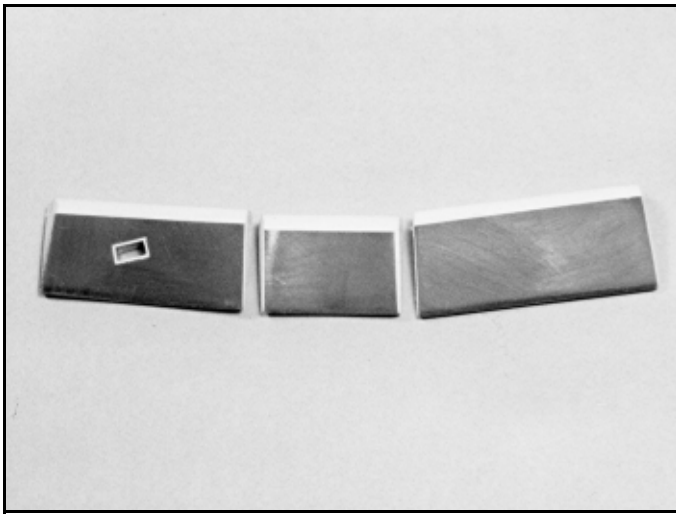
As it turns out the width of both sides of the flaps were the same which made it much easier to work with. I then cut the individual flaps lengths of which there are three.



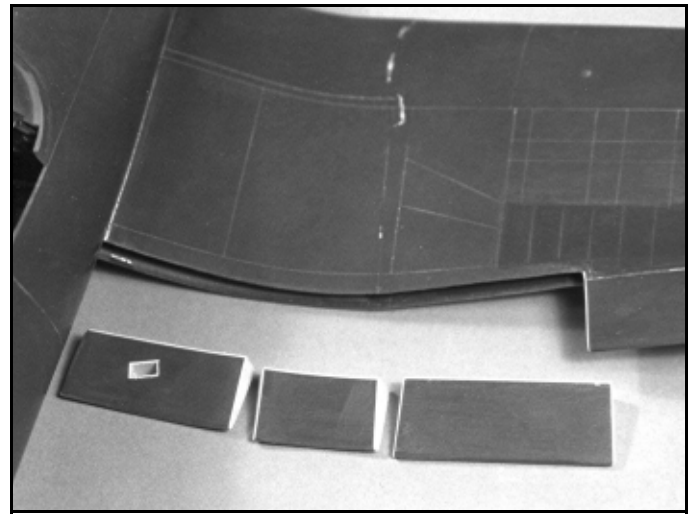
I sealed the ends with .020 inch plastic sheet and built up the leading edge of the flaps with larger stock. Everything was super glued together.



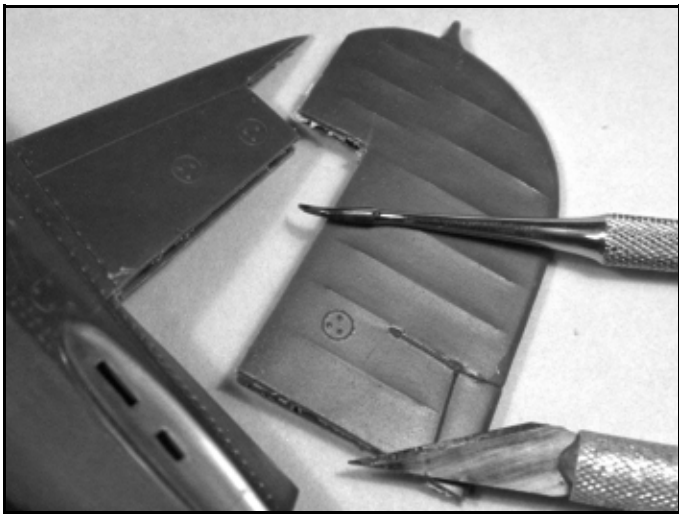
I trimmed the ends, sanded the edges smooth and then shaped the leading edges of the flaps by first using a sanding stick to get a rough shape and then I smoothed out the shape by running it across stationary sandpaper.



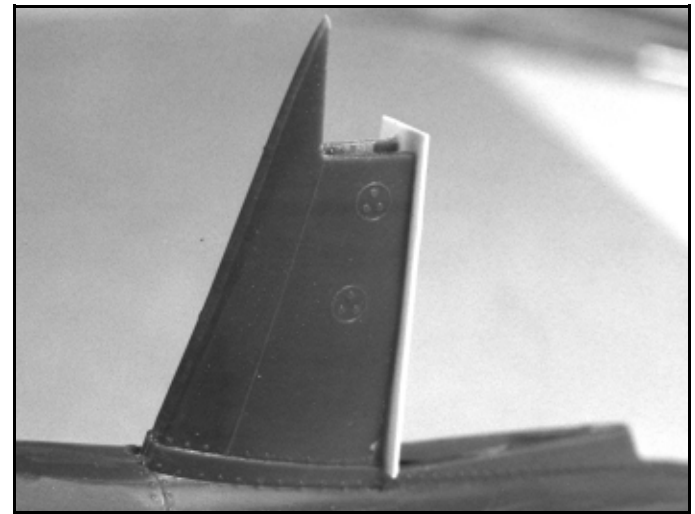
All three flap sections for the right wing are now complete and ready for their fit test. The extended curved surfaces of the leading edges of the flaps will fit snugly inside the openings in the wings.



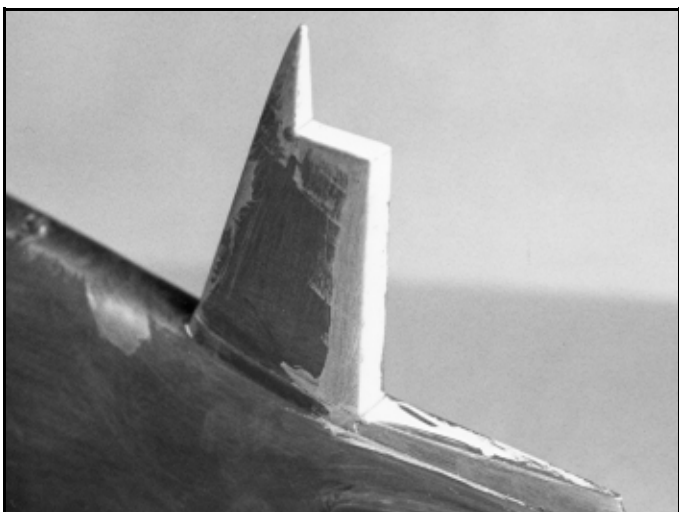
The flaps were cut out of the model I planned to build. The flaps from the donor kit are being fit tested. There was too much space between the flap sections so I added more plastic to the sides and then shaped and sanded them smooth.



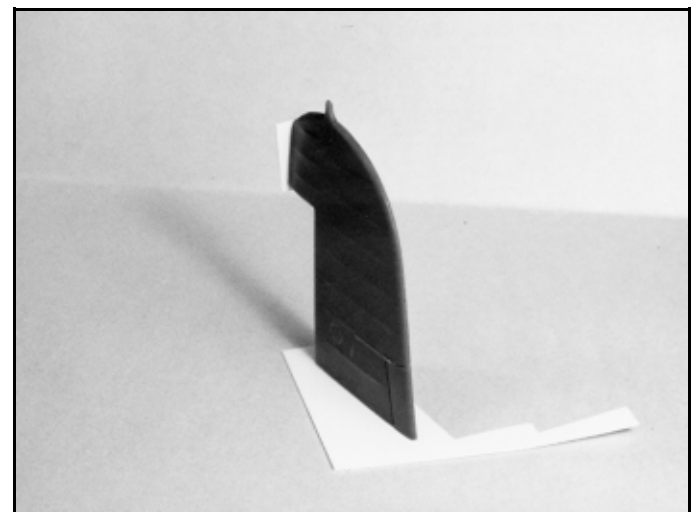
Next I carefully cut the rudder from the donor kit with a plastic scribed and a sharp number 11 X-Acto blade.



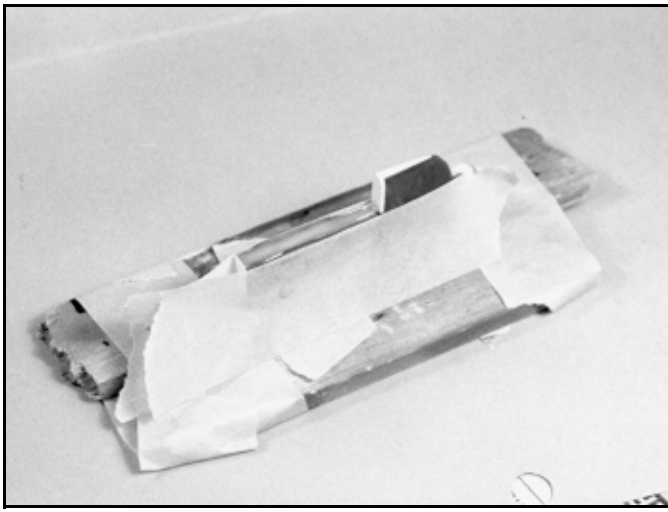
The rudder was removed on the finished kit, the edges were straightened with a sanding stick and then sealed with .020 inch sheet plastic.



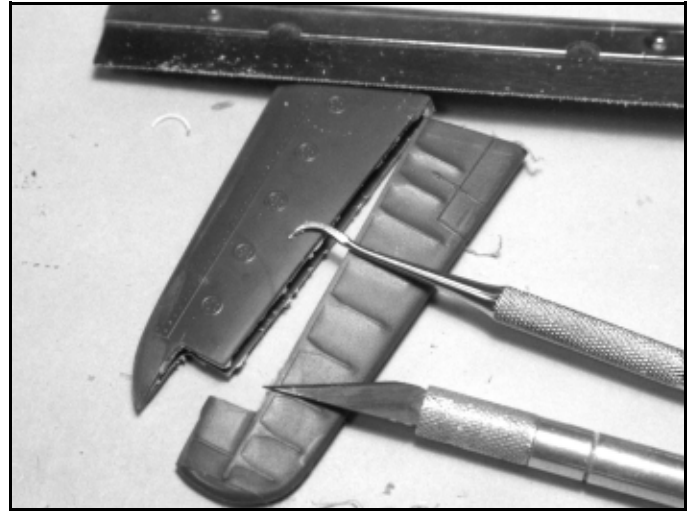
The sheet plastic was carefully trimmed and then sanded smooth. Silver paint was used to detect any flaws along the seam lines.



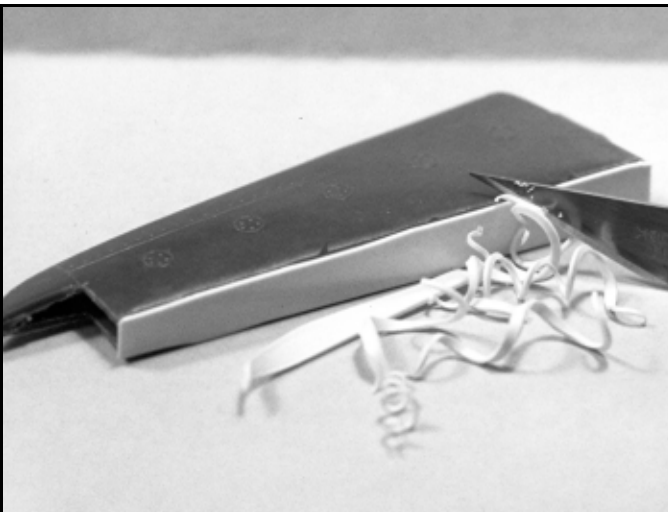
The top and bottom areas of the rudder were sealed with .015 inch plastic sheet which was then trimmed and contour sanded to the shape of the rudder.



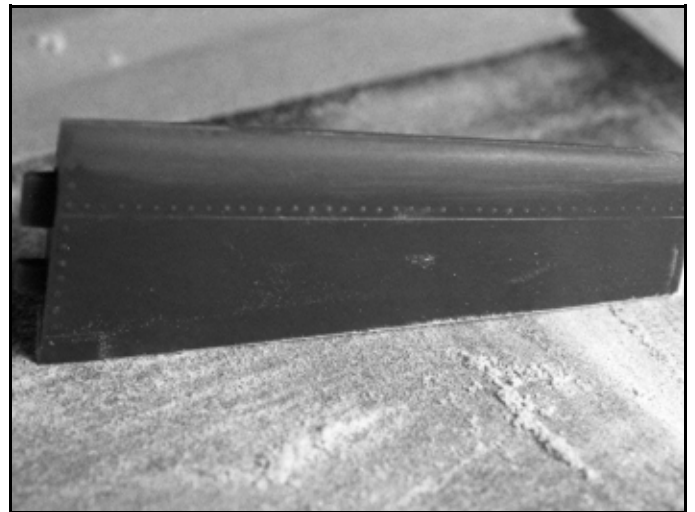
I wanted to try using resin to fill the opening in the rudder and to add strength to it. I carefully poured resin inside the cavity. Once the resin dried I added super glue to the edges and sanded the surface smooth.



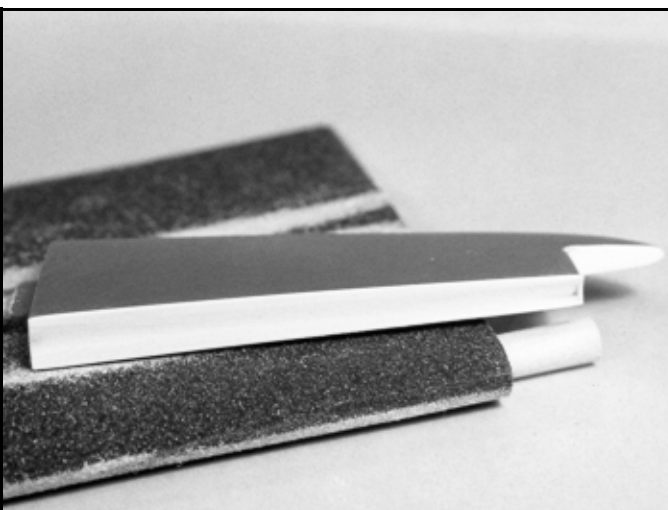
I cut out the elevators using my trusty plastic scribed and number 11 X-Acto blade on the donor kit. I used the indentations for the elevators as a guide the cutting.



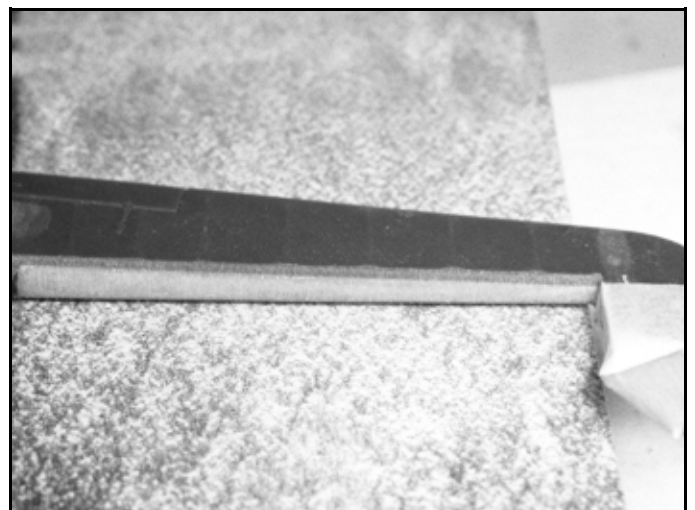
The elevator wings were sealed with .020 inch plastic. I trimmed the edges before sanding them smooth.



I then sanded the surface with fine grit sandpaper so that the plastic would have a smooth surface.



The inside area of the wing elevator had a slight convex shape which I achieved by running the face of the part across sandpaper wrapped around a wood dowel. I then used finer grits and then 0000 steel wool to polish the plastic.



I filled the inside area of the elevators with resin and then gave the lengths a slightly round shape to match the convex shape of the elevator wings. All the plastic parts were polished with 0000 steel wool.