

Balsa Wood Blocks and Sheets

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Materials & Stock

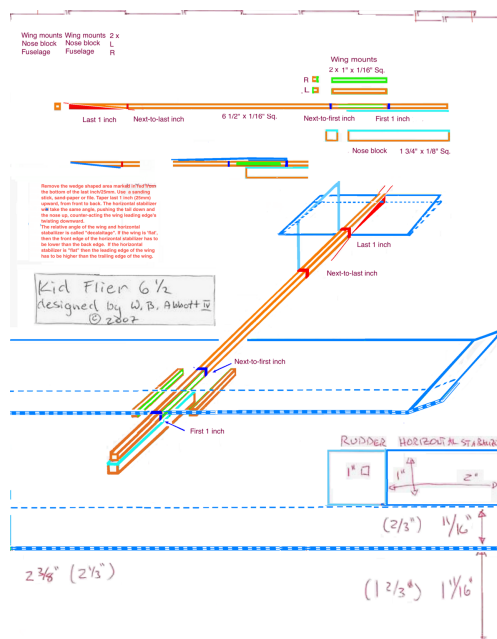


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(Kid_Flier_6.5_plans_improved_in_color!_A_balsa_wood_stick_and_copier_paper_glider_for_first-time_builders_and_fliers_.(8606241195).png)

Balsa is the lightest structural wood, with blocks and sheets used for model aircraft, bridges, architectural models and prototypes where weight matters. It cuts, sands and glues easily - and breaks just as easily, so grade selection matters.

Key Features

- Densities from light to medium-heavy
- Sheets 1-6 mm, blocks to 100 mm
- Straight grain selected grades
- Machine and hand cutting
- Glues with PVA and CA

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Build model aircraft and gliders
- Construct bridges and structures for testing
- Architectural and product models
- Lightweight jig and pattern work

Safe Operation

1. Select the density for the job
2. Cut with a sharp knife or fine saw
3. Sand with fine paper on a block
4. Glue with PVA or CA in thin films
5. Reinforce joints with gussets

SAFETY NOTES

- Knives and blades are sharp - use on a mat
- Balsa dust is fine - mask when sanding
- Do not over-load models beyond their rating
- Keep balsa away from water
- Store flat and dry

Maintenance & Consumables

- Store sheets flat, blocks stacked
- Keep offcuts in a scrap bin
- Check for warp and bend
- Keep the stock dry
- Sort by grade and size

Specification & Buying Notes

Buy selected straight-grain balsa in the sheet sizes the curriculum uses. Light density suits wings, medium suits structure. Quality balsa is grain-consistent; bargain packs split.