

Richard Shagam's "Flemish Patient".

Richard has dabbled in aircraft construction for a few years, including vacuum bagging of wings. He decided to try his hands on a somewhat non-a/c project, but using some of the same skills. The picture below is not of an airfoil test section, but the curved side (the 'bentside') of a 17th century Flemish harpsichord (the instrument that Lurch of 'The Addams Family' used to play).



The bentside is laminated out of Baltic birch over a form using vacuum bagging. An Aerospace Composites E-Z Vac pump does the sucking.



The assembly was wrapped in an electric blanket and the epoxy was allowed to cure for a few days. Here, Richard is checking his Flemish Patient's vital signs.



The bentside was assembled into the case which will eventually receive a soundboard made from what else, but genuine aircraft spruce (from Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co., no less)

Right now, the project is in hiatus, as Richard has had to build some other aircraft, as well. His 'explanation' is that he is seasoning the wood some more.

By the way a bit of trivia—did you know that the German word for a piano or harpsichord is Fluegel, which means 'wing.' So there is a connection, after all!!