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PML NEWS: VOLUME 8
PML Phantom kits: potential out of spec?

To all who purchased PML Phantom kits recently:

We have discovered that possibly 20-30 Phantom kits may have been sent out to customers with fin slots and fins that are a very minor mismatch in size. We have heard of 3 cases so far. The fins may be very slightly too long or too short for the fin slots cut into the airframe. This was due to an error in our setup jig that wasn't caught for a few days. The mismatch in size is quite small, and is really no big deal at all for the customer to fix up, but we thought we'd better let you know right away.

IF THE SLOT IS TOO LONG FOR THE FIN: Fill in the extra portion of slot after the fin is installed with epoxy or putty to hide the additional length of slot. (We always make the slots a *bit* bigger than the fin anyway to allow easy installation, but these aren't those, they're "bonus slots"!).

IF THE FIN IS TOO LONG FOR THE SLOT: Either open up the slot slightly, or shorten the fin via sanding to fit. It doesn't really matter whether you lengthen the slot toward the front of the airframe, the rear of the airframe, or split the difference. We recommend opening (lengthening) the slot over sanding the fin because the G10 fin material is very tough and abrasive. It will damage or destroy all but diamond or carbide cutting tools, so sanding is the only recommended way for most people to shorten it. It's much easier to open up the fin slot than to sand the fin.

If neither of these options is acceptable to you, measure the fins and slots on your Phantom kit. Then email me *direct* with the measurements of your fins and slots, and your US mail address. We will then mail you new fins.

If you choose to modify your existing kit, rest assured there's no stability concerns if your fins are too short; the error is very small and she'll fly just fine as is. As noted, there's only a potential for about 20-30 Phantoms that may be affected, and we've only heard of 3. We apologize for the mistake, but want to make sure you're happy with your Phantom!

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