

I've learned a few things since I started offering the Shrike kit. As a result, I've changed the way I do certain things to complete the Shrike but they are not reflected in the plans.

1. I no longer mount the music wire tail pins in the tail boom. Instead, I mount the aluminum tube in the boom as you have done on some of your models. You will need to enlarge the holes to install the pins in the boom. Do not trim them flush because you will also be gluing a set of plywood tail root ribs to the boom. This makes a nice match between the boom and the balsa tails.
2. You will need to elongate the holes in the plywood ribs since the tubes are larger in diameter than the tail pins. This takes a minute or two with a small rat-tail file. Glue the ribs to the boom.
3. I fill the back end of the tail boom with a mixture of epoxy and milled glass. This will secure the aluminum tubes but it also will help prevent the carbon boom from splitting.
4. Before you fill the boom with the epoxy mixture, wax a piece of music wire that is at least twice the diameter of your antenna wire. Feed the waxed wire from the back of the boom all the way into the fuselage. Now, fill the back end of the boom. When the epoxy has cured, twist the wire out. You will have a channel to run your antenna wire out the back of the boom.
5. The plans show the servo mounts being directly across from one another. This will work, but I now prefer to stagger the mounts so that one of them is about 1/2" in front of the other. This allows an extra amount of clearance for the linkage.
6. The plans show using ball and cup linkage at both the servo arm and the control cam. Use the ball and cut on the servo arm and the swivel on the cam end.
7. When you attach the aluminum servo mounts I suggest using goop. Mount the servos as low as possible in the fuselage to allow enough space between the top of the servo and the canopy so that the linkage does not touch the canopy.
8. The carbon wing rod may need to be wet sanded for a smooth fit in the wing rod tube. It won't take much to achieve a smooth fit.
9. The steel wing rod is made from unhardened drill rod stock. It should bend before doing any serious damage to the wings. I do not suggest a hardened wing rod. The carbon rod will break cleanly in the event of a rough landing. If you need replacement rods you will find it is cheaper to purchase stock and cut it to size rather than buying it from me.