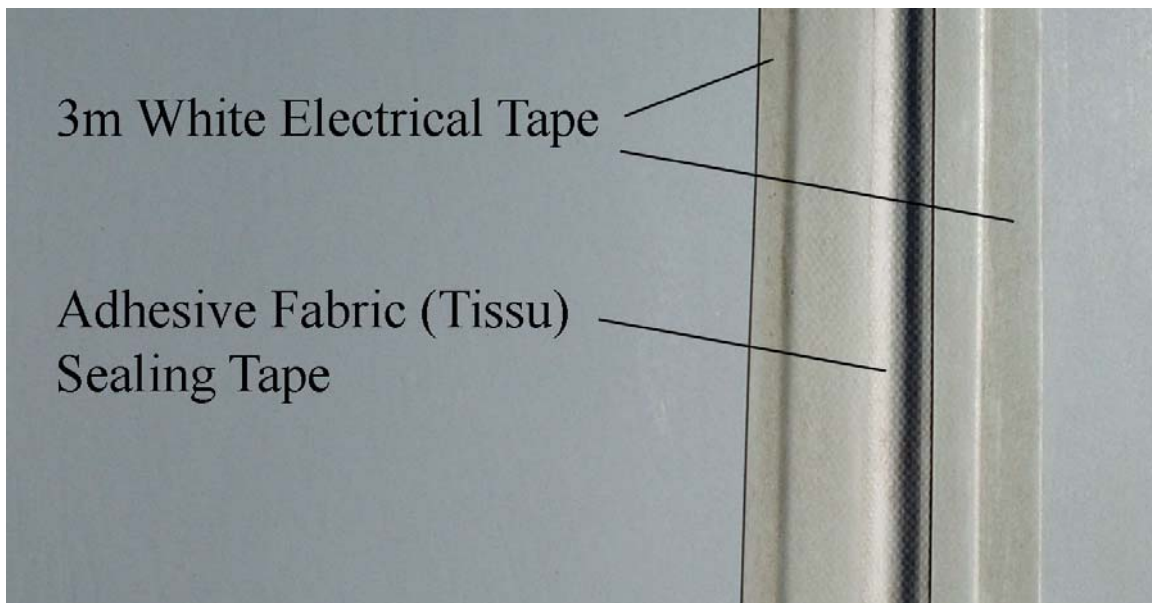


Sealing Schreder Sailplane Hinge Lines

By
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It is my belief that all HP/RS hinge lines should be sealed. Taping is the simplest solution for the rudder-vaders, ailerons, flaps and even gear doors.

As can be seen in the following photo, I am using “Tissu” tape purchased from Wings and Wheels (<http://www.wingsandwheels.com>.) It is inexpensive and one roll will last a lifetime.



The tape is applied with the control surface fully deflected. (In the case of the gear doors, with them closed.) The excess fabric is tucked into the gap as the control surface is returned to the neutral position.

Tissu tape is made of a canvas like material which tends to fray as it weathers. To keep the transition smooth, the edges are taped with white 3M electrical tape.

Good seals on the ailerons will improve roll rate. You should see a definite improvement in every measure of performance with everything sealed.

If the hinge lines of your sailplane have not been sealed, this is the simplest and least expensive procedure to improve overall performance.