

Making the boat tail

I like boat tails and since I have two nose cones, let's bob one to make a boat tail.

This is actually pretty simple in theory. The only catch is where to bob it. I want it just big enough to accommodate the Aeropac retainer flange. I figured I need a diameter of 5.25" at the bottom. This allows the centering ring large enough to mount the retainer flange.

When I measured the nosecone and figures it was a Ogive shape and Rocksim indicated that bobbing it at 14.5" below the shoulder would do the trick. But it was still a bit small. So I bobbed .5" more (14") and it was perfect.

On to the pictorial...



Ok, my daughter Jan got a pic of me measuring.



Ok, this is better, I used a paper strip with a mark so when laid on the curved surface it would yield exactly 14" from the shoulder. Using this I made a series of marks around the nosecone every few inches. From past experience it's really hard to eye-ball this sort of cut.



I then used a piece of trim tape and followed the markings. Here is where I used my eye to adjust for variation in the mark position and that I had a straight line.



Sorry, no pics of the cutting! My son Phil helped me. It turned out great. I used me Dremel to clean up the inside layup and make it a smoother.

Next up – making the rear centering ring bulkhead.