

GLASTAR SERVICE BULLETIN 41

Subject: NicoPress sleeves (P/N 450-0002-004)


Applicability: All GlaStar fuselage kits shipped prior to 11/24/98

Discussion: It has come to our attention that the NicoPress sleeves (P/N 450-0002-004) we have been supplying for use on the flight control and tailwheel steering cable assemblies may be of an improper variety. According to a strict reading of the military specification for cable swaging sleeves (MS51844), only tin-plated copper or stainless steel sleeves should be used with stainless steel cable. The sleeves we have been providing are either zinc-plated copper or plain copper. The specification of particular sleeve materials for use with particular cable types is dictated by concerns of dissimilar-metals corrosion.

We believe that the chance of premature cable deterioration due to the use of incompatible NicoPress sleeves is so small as to be negligible. We consulted our cable assembly vendor, who concurred with our assessment that the mismatch between sleeve and cable was extremely unlikely to cause any difficulties, given the operating environment of the cable assemblies in question. Further evidence that this is not a serious problem can be deduced from the fact that prominent aircraft supply houses like Aircraft Spruce & Specialty and Wicks Aircraft Supply offer **only** zinc-plated or plain copper sleeves, and their catalogs either make no specific callout of which sleeve to use with stainless steel cable (Spruce) or make an incorrect callout (Wicks) according to the Military Specification.

Recommended Action: Inspecting cables assemblies for corrosion should naturally be part of every annual condition inspection. The only action we recommend pursuant to this bulletin is to pay particular attention to the NicoPress swages while conducting such inspections. We do not feel that the time or expense of replacing completed cable assemblies is justified by any reasonable safety concern.

From this point forward, Stoddard-Hamilton will stock only tin-plated copper or stainless steel sleeves per MS51844. If you wish to upgrade to these sleeves, please order P/N 450-0002-004.

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