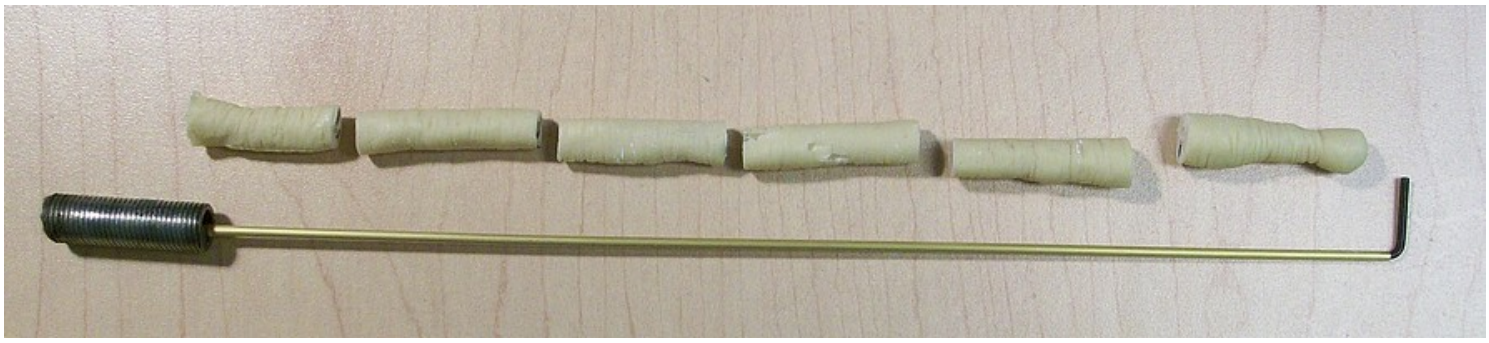
Palm Tree Support for the Huey C In the Diorama "Run – October 4, 1971, Vietnam"

www.vietnamdioramas.com

Drill a clean hole through the foam to the base. Insert the all-thread holder and attach it to the base with epoxy glue. Don't use inexpensive products. Use J&B. Gulf Industrial or a similar high quality adhesive. Use enough to hold only the bottom of the brass turning, so the hole will fill up about 1/16th inch.
Cut the all-thread to size. It must go to the bottom of the threaded receptacle and reach the top of the foam.
Cut the 2mm Albion tubing to size. Fill the all-thread with the same epoxy and insert the tubing. Hold the all-thread pressed down hard on waxed paper so not much epoxy leaks out. Hold the tubing straight until it sets. Do not let epoxy get into the threads. It is hard to clean out. Once it's all set test fit it. Clean off the threads with a brass wire brush and apply pure silicone.
Now take the Verlinden resin palm tree and cut it into 5 sections. Carefully drill out each section through the center with a drill bit about 2.2mm. The size of the drill bit is relative to the size of your tubing. Do not use less then 2mm tubing. Insert the pieces over the tubing gluing them in place with Locktite Professional ACC.

Make sure you don't kink the tubing. To make the tubing rigid it must be filled with cut off section of hex wrenches, a size that will go down your tubing with a slight push for a snug fit. Leave room at the top for the hex wrench that will hold the chopper. This will be attached to the chopper allowing it to be removed and reinserted at the top of the tree. The tree may be removed – only if you have to. See all the following pictures.

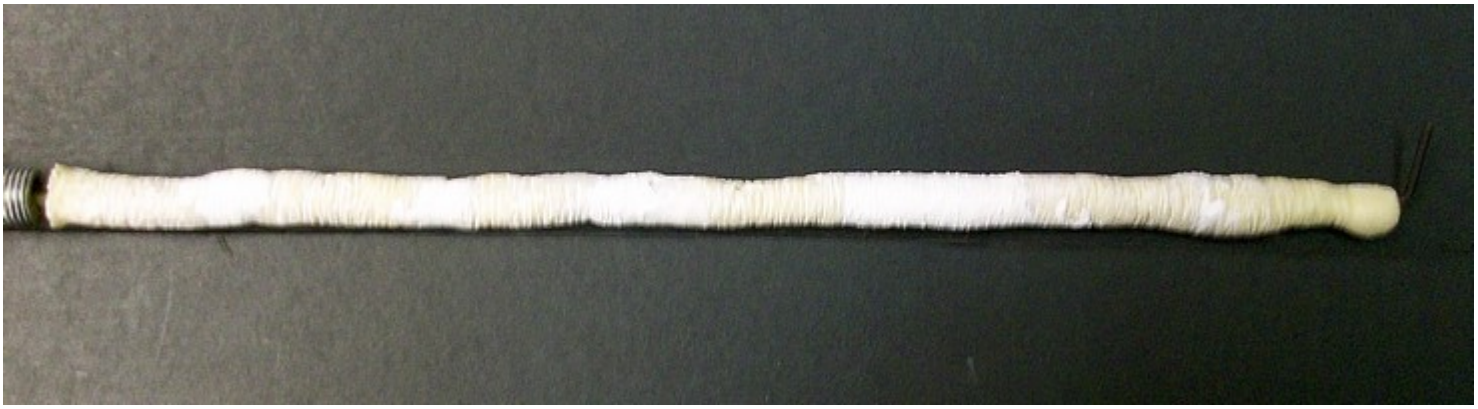
The pieces do not have to line up or fit perfectly. Once attached begin to fill all open areas with Milliput Fine White or similar epoxy. Let set and carve in your horizontal palm lines to match the resin tree. Cut you brass leaves and attach at least 1.5mm hard wire to the largest leaves by soldering. These must be strong to hold the 4.0 ounces that the chopper will weigh. The other leaves can be attached with lighter wire by solder / ACC. Prime all and paint Take care not to get the glue , paint or anything else in the tubing hole. **When drilling the holes in the top of the palm tree do not hit the tubing or drill through it. If you do, then you have to start all over again.**



TOP – All parts laid out with tubing installed and filled with hex wrenches
6 resin tree pieces and hex wrench inserted in top of tubing.

CENTER – Hex wrench inserted in top of tube

BOTTOM – Completed tree trunk. All pieces attached to tubing with ACC and filled with Milliput. Detail carved in.



.020 plastic liner for the hole in foam. Keeps foam and other particles out of the cavity.
A plastic cover will also be placed on top which is removable in case the tree has to be unscrewed.

Foam core with plastic cut to fit and glued in with Elmers Pro Bond.

What it should look like

When the diorama is completed or just this part of it, pictures of the chopper attachment will be added and also pictures of installed counter weight if necessary and any additional support trees.

Larger palm fronds with 1.5mm wire attached

BELOW:
Other palm fronds and finished palm trunk permanently set in all-thread.

Palm support installed, plastic .020 washer at base. Academy kit with hex attached, inserted into top of tree. To attach the small end of the hex to the chopper a small piece of the same tubing is attached to the model underneath and the hex glued in.