

Longmont EAA - Builders Tip

Homemade sandbags for holding down aluminum

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As I anxiously await the day that Rans emails me saying, “Your kit is ready for pickup” this month, I’m trying my best to prepare my workshop and tooling for the Rans S-21 build. Since the S-21 is fully aluminum, I needed a way to secure the aluminum on the airfoil surfaces while I drill and cleco it. I’ve seen other builders buy 5 lb weights filled with shot, which were really expensive. I ran across a Youtuber who filled 1 quart Ziplocs with play sand. I thought this was an easy, inexpensive alternative so I decided to document the steps to create these sandbags.

Tools Required:

None

Materials Required:

50 lb bag of play sand

Box of Ziploc branded 1 quart bags

Approximate cost:

\$15

Project outcome:

~12 4 lb sandbags for holding down aluminum

1. Gather materials. I suggest going with the Ziploc brand, as they are the most durable that I’ve seen. You don’t want one of these to split open all over your workshop.



2. Fill the bags. Ideally, you want the bags to be a touch over $\frac{3}{4}$ full. This will give you ~ 4 lb per bag and give you room to double bag it.



3. Double layer the bags. Like I said before, having one of these split open would not be very fun.



4. Finished. Just in case someone didn't know these were sandbags, I made sure to label the box!

