An airplane cradle is indispensable for holding the fuselage during assembly, maintenance, or simply while attaching the wings when you get to the flying field. With its adjustable arms and cradle bases, the Carl Goldberg Mini Hold’em suits this purpose for most models up to “giant-scale.” The Mini Hold’em can be assembled as-is, or finished with clear varnish or paint. If applying a finish, note that the parts fit is tight, so the notches in the cradle bases and cross bars will have to be widened accordingly. This can be done with a strip of coarse sandpaper glued to a sheet of plywood, but use care not to widen the notches too much. Otherwise, the parts will fit loosely and the stand may not be rigid.

1. Remove all the parts from their laser-cut blank sheets. For the best finish, take your time to cut around each part with a hobby knife where necessary.

2. With the exception of notches and slots where the parts fit together, sand the edges of all the parts smooth.

3. Glue the guide sticks to the large cradle arms with the bottom of each stick even with the bottom of each arm (be certain you have selected the large arms, not the small arms). And it doesn’t matter which side of the arms you glue the sticks to—there isn’t a right or a left. Optional: Sand the sticks even with the beveled edge of the arms.

4. Use pliers to flatten the spikes in both 6-32 blind nuts.

5. Mount a large arm and a small arm to each cradle base with a 6-32 screw, washer and the blind nuts.
6. **Optional:** If you prefer the arms to remain level (without the ability to tilt), glue the remaining two guide sticks to the cradle bases at the bottom of the arms—be certain not to inadvertently get any glue on the arms.

7. Cut the foam cushion tubing into six 3-1/2" [90mm] pieces. Slit each one all the way down.

8. Glue one tube to each of the four vertical arms. Fit the remaining two tubes over the horizontal portions of the arms, but do not glue these tubes on. **Note:** If using your cradle for a large model and spreading the arms wide, longer pieces of horizontal tubing may be used. These will have to be purchased separately.

9. Connect the cradle bases to the cross bars where desired and adjust the spacing between the arms to fit your model. Tighten down the screws and test fit your model.

Questions or comments? Please contact us at:

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