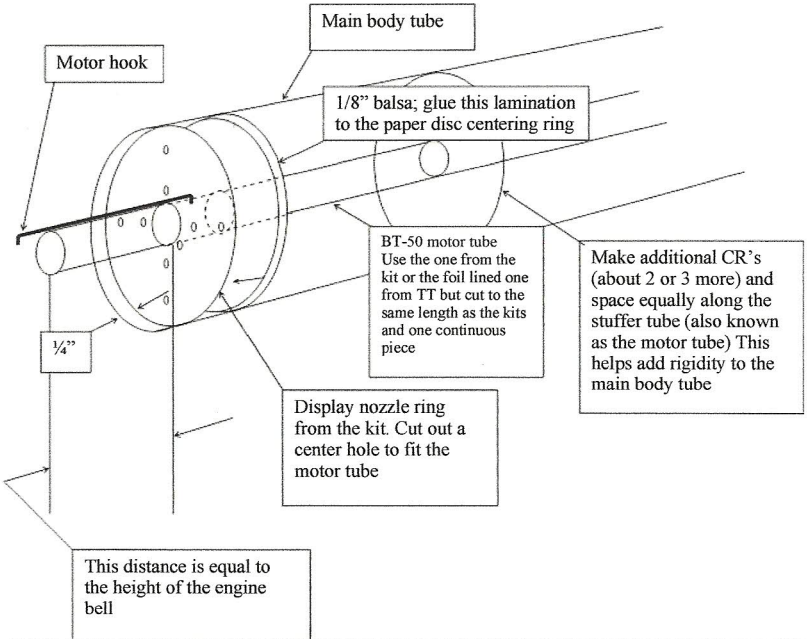

This set up moves the engine down approx 4" from the original kit position. This does necessitate the addition of nose weight to maintain the proper CG. Usually 2 ounces of clay added to the capsule is sufficient. The weight gain will mean that you cannot fly the rocket on Estes D motors. Use only Aerotech E15, E18 or F24 motors. Totally Tubular does have the new foil lined motor tubes but I don't think he's updated his catalog lately. I do know they are slightly larger in OD than the BT-50 Estes uses. So you'll have to enlarge the holes in the CR's slightly. You can email Jim at TT directly and ask what the new numbers are. As for the CR's I don't think Jim has any for BT-101 to BT-50 size rings. You can custom order from BMS or make your own. If you order from BMS the black fiberboard ones are fine. There's no need for ply rings. I made mine from 1/8" balsa.

As for the fins I just saw a neat tip someone had for gluing vaccu form fins together. Before you cut them out you fill the fin half with expandable poly foam. The two-part mix that the model railroaders use is fine for this. Smear the mixed batch of foam on the inside surface of the fin. Let it expand and do its stuff. (be careful you don't mix up too much, I'd try a test amount first just to see. Also the Great Stuff foam insulation at Home Depot might work as well) When it's dry and cured then sand the foam down flush with the sheet then cut out the fin. Glue the two halves together then finish up the edges with filler if you need to. This will make a strong, light fin. I wish I had thought of this before I did mine. I used balsa cores then CA'd the assembly together (fin half, core, other fin half)