Film Patching
(the method that Mark Bennett attempted to teach me)

Supplies to make field patches:

Some film on a covering frame (use what's left over after a covering job or start with a fresh piece)
Some stiff paper
Adhesive (dilute 3M77 or whatever works for you)
Jap tissue or Esaki tissue
Waxed paper

Making the patches

Cut the paper into squares or rectangles or circles – make them of various sizes. If you're trying to patch a specific hole or tear cut the paper a good bit larger than the area to be patched.

Coat a **narrow** band around the **edge** of the paper with adhesive. If you're using thinned 3M77 be aware that it can soak into a wider part of the paper than you intend.

Drop the paper onto the stretched film. Cut around the edges of the paper with a soldering iron or cautery.

Cut a piece of tissue the same size as the paper/film sandwich and put it against the film. At this point you have a sandwich consisting of stiff paper with film glued to it around the edges and then covered with a piece of tissue that isn't attached to anything.

Stack the patches with waxed paper separating them so they don't stick together and store in a safe place. I keep some in a compartment of my tool box.

Using a patch

In the field (or at home) find (or make) a prepared patch that is larger than the area to be patched.

Completely wet the tissue paper (water or saliva) and stick it to the film side of the patch.

Cut out your patch from the 3 part sandwich, being sure to removed all of the glued edge.

Peel off the stiff paper backing, leaving the film stuck to the wet tissue paper.

Paint the edge of the area to be patched with thinned 3M77 (or saliva if that works for you).

Carefully place the film/tissue sandwich over the hole (film side down of course).

Wait for the tissue to completely dry. When it's dry it should shrink enough to detach from the film. You can grab it with your fingers or tweezers and pull it off.

Done!