

# The Supermarine **SPITFIRE** **Mk. Vb**



**A 25 in. SPAN  
CONTROL LINE MODEL  
FOR 1.5 c.c. ENGINES  
DESIGNED BY S. BRUCE**

**I**N the years that have passed since the war, the name *Spitfire* has become legendary. Scale enthusiasts will, we are sure, welcome this C/L model of what has been described as the greatest fighter ever produced.

## **Fuselage**

Build crutch on plan and add formers in required positions. Add hardwood engine bearers, and cement plywood nose former in place. Cement bellcrank assembly in position shown.

The fuselage is covered with soft  $\frac{1}{16}$  sheet. Cover top of fuselage leaving aperture for cockpit. Cut slot at rear for fin. Place push rod in position, then cover bottom half taking care to have the correct aerofoil section at wing root.

Lightly cement or pin top nose block in place and sandpaper to correct shape, then remove and hollow out. Repeat with bottom nose block, drilling to clear engine cylinder. Cement lower block in position. Add four small dowels in

top nose block for fixing. Drill engine bearers to suit motor used and add any internal cockpit details required.

## **Wings**

Pin centre spar to plan and cement plywood centre section in position. Position the wing ribs, and then cement. Remove from board and join other centre spar to plywood centre piece making sure dihedral is the same. Pin to board and cement ribs in place. Cement L.E. (first section) into place on half of wing. When dry cement second section to first and leave to dry. Repeat with other half of wing. Sandpaper L.E. to correct shape. Bind undercarriage in position and add gussets; cement well.

Sheet bottom of wings with  $\frac{1}{16}$  balsa. Leave ample overlap at T.E. and when dry sandpaper to conform to aerofoil. Repeat with top surfaces by starting at L.E. and working back. Allow overlap at T.E. Cement T.E. and hold together with spring clothes pegs. Trim ends and cement wing

tip blocks into place. Add line guides in port wing. Sandpaper to section, cement radiator and oil cooling ducts in place.

## **Tail Unit**

Make fin from hard grade balsa, and sandpaper to aerofoil section. After shaping cut down rudder line as shown. Reset rudder 2-3 deg. starboard, and cement well. Cut out notch on bottom of fin to allow complete tailplane movement. Do not cement into position until tailplane has been assembled.

Make the tailplane from hard grade balsa, and sandpaper to aerofoil section. Cut out elevator shape and add fabric hinges. Allow free movement up and down. Add sheet tin horn to elevator section.

## **Assembly and Finish**

Connect push rod to elevator horn and cement tailplane in position, making sure of free elevator movement. Cement fin into position so as not to foul elevator movement. Add small scrap balsa between fin, tailplane and rear of fuselage. Cement cardboard fillet in position at rear of wings, after mating to the fuselage.

Add wheel covers, made of sheet tin soldered to undercarriage wire. Cement section of bubble canopy in place after painting inside of cockpit. Cement forward windscreen in position. Add wireless mast at rear of cockpit and dummy mirror above windscreen.

After sanding smooth all over, brush on six coats of sealing compound, sandpapering lightly between each coat after drying. Draw line from end of fillet, to bottom rear of fuselage, and from T.E. to nose. Paint from this line downwards and all undersurfaces, sea grey medium.

Paint top surfaces dark green and dark sea grey. Authentic markings can be obtained from wartime photographs.

Add transfers on fuselage and wings and leave to dry; then give coat of banana oil. If a "hot" engine is used, give two coats of fuel proofer and leave to dry.

## **Flying**

Before any test flights are made check for balance. Do NOT have the model tail heavy.

If desired, attach a piece of metal to the outside wing with tape; this holds the model tight on the end of the lines for testing. This weight can be removed after the feel of the model is obtained.