

AERONCA CHAMPION by JAMES NOONAN

ANOTHER IN OUR SERIES OF POSTWAR PRIVATE AIRCRAFT.

THIS FLYING SCALE VERSION OF THE CHAMPION IS CAPABLE OF GOOD, SUSTAINED FLIGHT

OUR model is drawn to a span of 30 inches and is exact in every detail, as factory plans were used in its make-up. If you wish, the model can be scaled up to a suitable size for gas model work, built as is for an exact 30" display or flying scale model, or the prop, landing gear, and stabilizer may be enlarged to make a -duration flying scale model.

Light balsa, of generous sizes, was used throughout in the construction and weight was concentrated well forward to give, as it turned out, perfect balance for flight in the model shown in the photos. Another feature is the demountable wings which are flicked off in case of hard landings, thus preventing damage. The demountable wings also make it easier to store the model. This idea was picked up while the author was in Kurojic, where it is universally used on every type of model.

Lay out a drawing to the desired size (wood sizes are given for a 30" model), using proportional dividers, if possible. Build two fuselage sides, one on top of the other. Note that the sheet balsa forming the cabin windows is a part of the fuselage sides. Insert the gusset for the rear rubber retaining dowel. Cut the sides apart by inserting a razor blade between them and join them as shown on the top view. In section one, the lower crosspiece is shorter; see plan. Cut and attach the bulkheads, then begin the planking as shown by the shaded areas on the side view. Add stringers on bottom and aides.

Carefully build the center section and check to see that the wing tongues fit in the boxes. Cement the center section to the fuselage and add the top stringer (cut from sheet balsa). Carve the nose block to rough shape and drill to allow clearance for the rubber motor. Use front view for the cross section of the forward part and sectional view for the rear part. Heavy lines show detail on the large plane. Sand and dope until smooth. Sand the entire fuselage. Add landing gear wire, binding and cementing it to the longerons. Fill in with sheet balsa to form the struts, and add the tail wheel. Hub-less wheels may be built up as shown, or air wheels may be used.

Tail surfaces on the real ship are flat and thin. On the model, sheet balsa and Vialat, strips form the rudder and stabilizer. Be careful, for this type tends to warp) easily.

Make a metal template of the wing rib and cut the required number of ribs. Select stiff leading edge and spar material, using soft balsa for tips and trailing edge. Carefully insert the tongues and cement well, again testing for fit and alignment with the center section. Build the wing struts of stiff balsa and fit to the wing-fuselage assembly. The prop drawing is self-explanatory only take time when carving, sanding, finishing, and balancing.

Again check all framework, sand carefully, and cover with Jap tissue or Silkspan. Then water spray and dope lightly.



The author, assembling the wing and fuselage.
Note the tongue section for ease of assembly.