

# CHECKALA ROMA

by DAVIS AND MAY SLAGLE

Member A.M.A.

1946 NATIONAL STUNT CHAMPION AND WINNER  
OF A MOST IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF TROPHIES

**D**AVE SLAGLE got into model plane flying by the same means that seems to capture the interest of most other newcomers, that is, by hanging around the flying field watching the activities, and asking innumerable questions of anyone who could be badgered into answering them. His first ship was a big, old Skybaby built by Bob Palmer, which Dave's Dad and Mother acquired for him in October, 1944, along with a small stunt job which speedily proved to be practically useless.

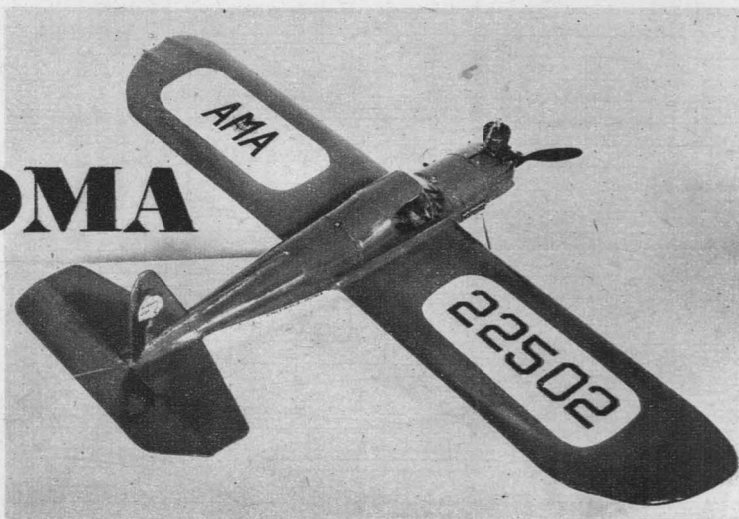
Dave got the big ship off for his first flight like a real veteran and brought it in for a perfect landing on the very first try. The flight itself was not too smooth, but it was a good beginning.

But such luck without practice was too good to last, and on the second flight he must have given it "down" instead of "up," for it plowed majestically into the cement. The ship itself was not damaged much, but the cylinder of the old Dennykite was broken completely across the bottom. However, Dad came through in the clutch with a friend who silver-soldered the pieces so well that the engine was hotter than ever!

Dave was soon flying again, to such good purpose that he entered an LERC (Lockheed Employees Recreation Club) sponsored meet and captured the first trophy for his collection, a Tiger Shark kit. Bobby Thomas, another eleven-year-old, was the only other junior present, and he, too, carried off a prize. Shortly after this meet Dave was invited to join the Burbank Model Club, where the lower age limit of fourteen years had to be relaxed considerably to allow eleven-year-old Dave to enter. Most of the older fellows were great at encouraging and helping the younger members, and Dave gave up the Cub Scouts in order to attend the Tuesday night meetings of the Model Club. Pretty soon the Skybaby had acquired the name of "Bulldozer," and had most of the local model flyers shuddering in their sleep at the close shaves it got while performing some of the antics Dave demanded of it.

On his twelfth birthday the elder Slagles came through with an Ercoupe, which Dave proceeded to power with a Cyclone bought with money acquired from the sacrifice of a treasured electric train.

Unfortunately, however, the Ercoupe came to grief in its first contest, breaking the wing in an inverted dive. Later it was discovered that the control rod was bending because of the lack of fair leads in the bulkheads, but for this contest Dave had to fall back on old Bulldozer, which performed in storybook fashion to save the day.



From then on Bulldozer went to every contest, regardless of what newer ships might be in flying commission!

One day, Reginald Denny saw Davie fly at Santa Monica and was so impressed that he promised the youthful modeler the very first engine to come off the production line after the war, a promise which was fully kept. Dave is very proud of this little powerplant.

About this time Dave began dreaming of a ship for inverted flight, and after much consultation, study, and burning of midnight oil "Chickery Chick" resulted. The first flight was again a big success, but the second ended in one of those really superior-type crackups in which the engine gets relocated in the rear of the fuselage. Nevertheless, inverted flying was soon resumed, with dozens of experiments with gas tanks and engine mounts of weird and wonderful design. Chickery Chick began to show signs of wear and tear, so "Chala Chala" (wonder *where* these names come from?) was cooked up as a successor, but an overly thin rib section which made the ship fast but tricky on control was unsatisfactory to the piloting member of the family.

Dave soon started the "Checkala Roma," with thicker, wider ribs and a wider elevator. The small rudder excited (Turn to page 103)

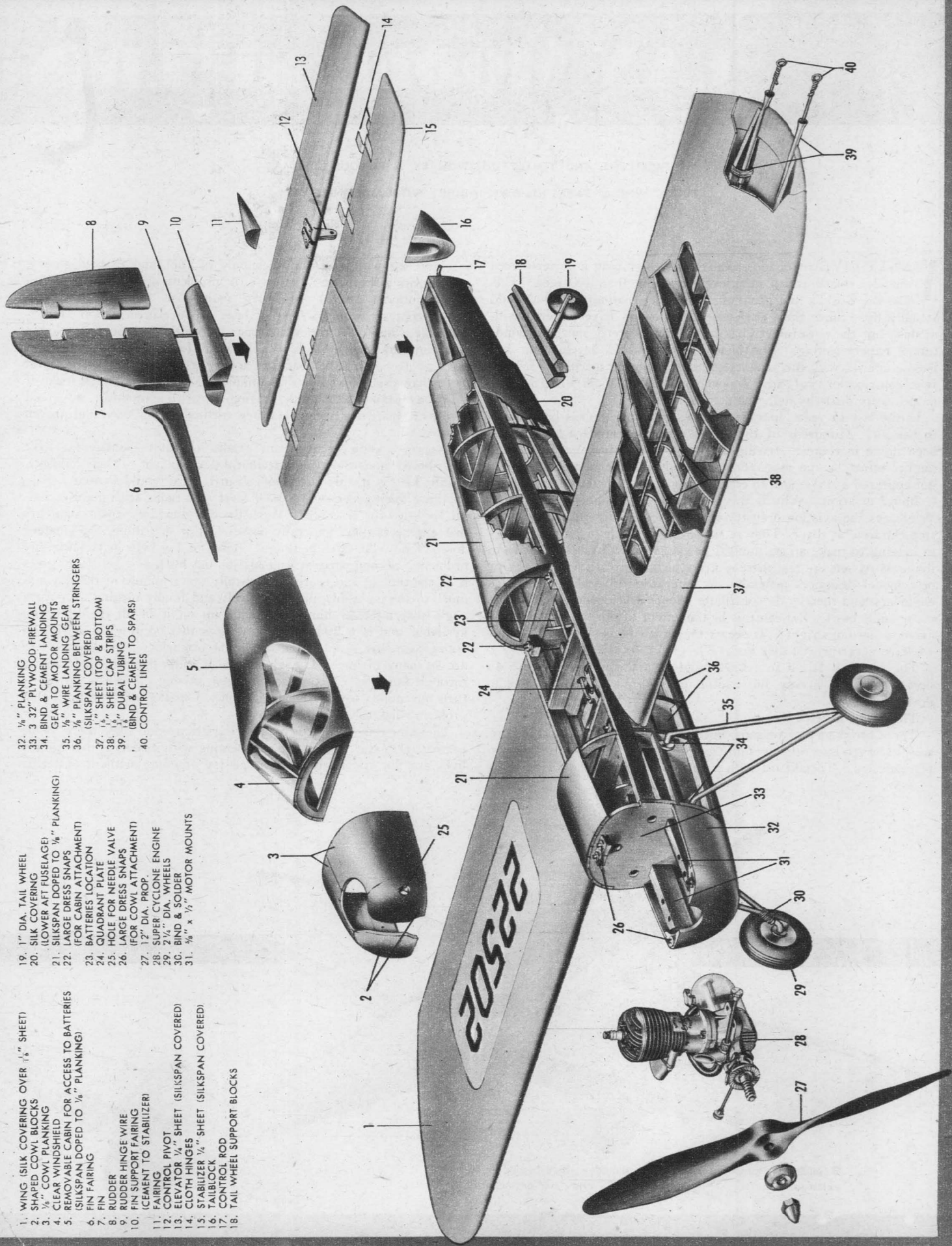


● Checkala Roma's large wing area and tail surfaces account for much of its "hardware"-getting performances.

1. WING (SILK COVERING OVER 1/16" SHEET)
2. SHAPED COWL BLOCKS
3. 1/8" COWL PLANKING
4. CLEAR WINDSHIELD
5. REMOVABLE CABIN FOR ACCESS TO BATTERIES (SILKSPAN DOPED TO 1/8" PLANKING)
6. FIN FAIRING
7. FIN
8. RUDDER
9. RUDDER HINGE WIRE
10. FIN SUPPORT FAIRING (CEMENT TO STABILIZER)
11. FAIRING
12. CONTROL PIVOT
13. ELEVATOR 1/4" SHEET (SILKSPAN COVERED)
14. CLOTH HINGES
15. STABILIZER 1/4" SHEET (SILKSPAN COVERED)
16. TAILBLOCK
17. CONTROL ROD
18. TAIL WHEEL SUPPORT BLOCKS

19. 1" DIA. TAIL WHEEL
20. SILK COVERING (LOWER AFT FUSELAGE)
21. SILKSPAN DOPED TO 1/8" PLANKING
22. LARGE DRESS SNAPS (FOR CABIN ATTACHMENT)
23. BATTERIES LOCATION
24. QUADRANT PLATE
25. HOLE FOR NEEDLE VALVE (FOR COWL ATTACHMENT)
26. LARGE DRESS SNAPS (FOR COWL ATTACHMENT)
27. 12" DIA. PROP.
28. SUPER CYCLONE ENGINE
29. 2 1/4" DIA. WHEELS
30. BIND & SOLDER
31. 3/8" x 1/2" MOTOR MOUNTS

32. 1/8" PLANKING
33. 3 3/2" PLYWOOD FIREWALL
34. BIND & CEMENT LANDING GEAR TO MOTOR MOUNTS
35. 1/8" WIRE LANDING GEAR (SILKSPAN COVERED)
36. 1/8" SHEET (TOP & BOTTOM)
37. 1/8" SHEET CAP STRIPS
38. 1/8" DURAL TUBING (BIND & CEMENT TO SPARS)
39. CONTROL LINES
40. CONTROL LINES



*Modelers in New England...*

**FREE LIST** WRITE TODAY

EVERYTHING IN HOBBIES and SUPPLIES

MODEL AIRPLANES BOATS-MOTORS BALSA-SUPPLIES

THE **Airplane SHOP**

25 HIGH ST., PAWTUCKET, R. I.



**IDEAL'S "HO" WRECKING CRANE**

- Here's a model you'll be proud to have on your layout.
- Amazingly easy to put this kit together—large sized plan has complete instructions with 17 DETAILED DRAWINGS.
- Of wood and heavy cardboard printed with rivet embossed sides.
- All wood parts are cut to size.
- The crane is weighted and balanced for actual use.

KIT COMPLETE WITH COMPLETELY ASSEMBLED BRASS WHEEL TRUCKS

\$2.00 at your dealers — By mail add 15c for postage

Send for our Catalogue 10c

**IDEAL MODELS**

24-26 West 19th St., New York 11, N. Y.

YOUR BEST BET IS A



**FLYBOY**

Span 30 Area 125

- For Class V or VI Speed
- For Class III or IV Stunt
- For Beauty Event
- For controline pleasure

AT YOUR DEALERS, OR BY MAIL Complete Kit—\$4.50

**ASHLAND AIRCRAFT**

ASHLAND NEW JERSEY

The **GAS MODEL STARTER**

**SPINIT** It's Super!



Completing your equipment with a SPINIT brings added flying pleasure. Features include finger-tip automatic safety release, rubber cushioned drive, steel-spring power. The SPINIT is just what you need to make model flying more fun.

IF IT WILL RUN, A SPINIT WILL START IT

More fun, more thrills—with a SPINIT. Standard for A & B motors. Heavy for C motors. Two blade models, short or long drive, \$4.00; 3 blade models, \$6.00. Write for folder. Order from dealer or direct.

**STREED ELECTRIC CO.**

1315 Harmon Place, Dept. A  
MINNEAPOLIS 3, MINNESOTA

**Checkala Roma**

some perverse comment, but a later ship with a larger rudder, the "Ina Bananika," didn't perform quite so well (coincidence?).

Checkala Roma proceeded to win high point spot in the precision competition in the Western Open, and anybody who saw the results of the Nationals knows how well the little ship fulfilled the Slagle family hopes.

Like most other enthusiastic modelers, Dave is looking forward to new exploits and experiments, and is hoping to be able to compete in several of the big meets. And, of course, like most young fellows, Dave finds a lot of other things interesting as well. His grandparents have built a summer cottage on White River which they firmly insist has chipmunks in the basement and a snake on the steps. Dave has written insisting that the snake be left strictly alone until he can get there to catch it, and in the meantime is saving every loose dime to finance the trip. Nevertheless, Dave says if he can't get to both the Nationals and White River (his Dad has only one vacation), the snake will have to wait!

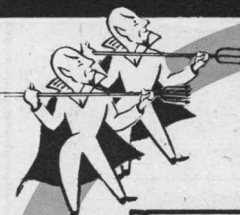
*Steps in Construction*

1. The crutch is made of balsa 1/2" x 3/16". The upper formers, #5 to #8, are glued in place on the crutch and this area is planked with 1/8" balsa.


2. The tail surfaces are made of 1/4" balsa—the stabilizer 4" wide, and the elevator 3" wide. The elevator is sanded equally on both sides. Use cloth hinges and then cover the entire surface with silkspan, put on with dope. This stabilizer and elevator is now glued on the crutch. The rudder is cut out (the hinge cutouts are optional of course). The vertical fin is then glued into place, leaving the rudder to be set on after the tail blocks are in place. These are pinned tightly to the base of the rudder to strengthen it, and then cemented.

3. In constructing the wing, the spars were made first—could not get 48" spars, so had to splice them in the center. Use 1/16" plywood splices (on both sides of each spar) and clamp them tightly until the glue is dry. (This plywood is cut at an angle to avoid stress concentration.) Extend this beyond the second rib; however, it would make the wing stronger to extend it about two ribs more. The ribs are cut out and placed together on two pieces of spar material for sanding. After sanding mark with crayon across the bottom of the bunch so they can be placed the same way on the wing (any slight difference made in the contours in sanding will show up if this is not done.) The ribs are slipped into place from each end. (Except the ones which go over the plywood splices; these were cut down from one side and the hole for the spar enlarged—a small piece of balsa was then fitted in the space). The leading edge (3/16" sq.) is then glued in place, and also the trailing edge. The trailing edge is made from balsa 2" x 1/16" glued together along one edge. When dry, this is slipped over the ends of the ribs and placed so that it is even top and bottom. Pin to each rib (both sides) and glue. The wing tips are then cut out and glued into place. After drying, fasten the wing to the crutch by cementing and wrapping cord around the wing spars and cross sections of crutch. (The wing is under the crutch.) The wing spars are also wrapped with stout cord

**Smith Coils**



"IF IT'S TWO CYLINDERS OR A TWIN IGNITION SYSTEM YOU'RE USING, TAKE IT FROM US. THE SMITH DUAL IS YOUR DISH!"



**TWIN-IGNITION DUAL COIL**

NOW—DUAL efficiency without the penalty of double weight and space. One SMITH DUAL does the job. Combines the power of 2 super-efficient coils in one convenient unit. One secondary lead may be grounded without affecting the other lead. Same size as Big Shot ..... \$4.50

**FIRE CRACKER** \$2.75  
A new model with even less battery drain than before. Famous Smith quality throughout. A whizz for U. Control.

**BIG SHOT** \$3.00  
Now only 1" in diameter with convenient mounting brackets; operates on 3 volts

**COMPETITOR** \$1.95  
New Clear Thrul Hatter spark, less battery drain. New mounting clips. No soldering. (Additional mounting clips 6¢ pr.)

**SMITH COILS**

"First Because They Last"

**NATHAN R. SMITH MANUFACTURING CO.**  
105 Pasadena Avenue • South Pasadena, California

FREE DECALS and instruction book. Send for them.

Get What You Want from

**HOBBY TOWN**

Why accept substitutes? Order by mail from Hobby Town. Our complete stock includes more than 95% of all items listed in Air Trails. Prompt service. Shipping charges prepaid on orders of \$5.00 or more.

**MOTORS**  
Ohlssons - Herkimers - Ardens - Vivals - Hurricanes - Hornet - McCoy - Super Cyclone - Bantams - Rogers - and all other leading brands. Drone - Mite and Delong Diesels. A free prop with each motor.

**ACCESSORIES**  
Complete line of accessories. King Kut - Exacto - Burgess and Dremel Tools.

**TOOLS**  
We have all leading brands of gas model kits and all models in each line—free flight and controlled, solid and stick models.

**KITS**  
McCoy - Dooling - and other race car kits

**RACE CARS**  
Full line of Varney - Pioneer - Baker - Lehigh and other popular H.O. railroad gauge lines.

**RAILROAD**  
Just write down what you want, printing your name and address. Inclose cash or money order for \$1.00 and we ship C.O.D. for balance. If not satisfactory, return undamaged and money will be refunded. All orders shipped within 24 hours.

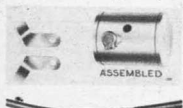
**HOW TO ORDER**

**HOBBY TOWN**  
993 SELBY AVENUE  
ST. PAUL 4, MINN.

# It's Jacobs!

FOR THE FINEST IN MODEL ACCESSORIES

## JACOBS GAS TANK



Made from the finest of materials. A lightweight gas tank resistant to all fuels. Complete only **85c**

## JACOBS BOOSTER JACK

Why pay more for a booster jack when the **JACOBS JACK** will assure positive polarity at all times and lengthen the life of booster batteries. One simple installation with only one plug required. Other jacks may be purchased separately. Booster Jack assembly complete **50c**. Separate Jacks **20c** each

## JACOBS CONTROL LINE HANDLE

The handle that is worthy of controlling the finest of control line models. Made of Magnesium aluminum alloy and is available in the following colors, red, yellow, light blue, dark blue, orange, and ivory. Complete with instructions **\$1.00**



## AND NOW

**JACOBS** offers to the Model Builder for the first time, a fine high quality control line at this new low price. This cable is a seven stranded line made of the finest stainless steel wire available for this purpose. It comes in .015 gauge with a pull test of 42 lbs.! A fine model aircraft cable to suit a modeler's needs, 145 feet for **\$1.95!**

**MODELERS** preferring a single strand line will find that Jacobs Control Wire will satisfy them in every way. A line that is rust-proof, will not twist on the ground, but will lie absolutely flat, thereby eliminating chances of it kinking and breaking. It is a stainless steel cadmium plated line and is put through a special process to insure the modeler's satisfaction. The line comes as follows:

.016	150 feet	<b>75c</b>
.014	150 "	<b>75c</b>
.012	110 "	<b>50c</b>

## WATCH JACOBS FOR THINGS TO COME!

For the best in model accessories insist on Jacobs Products, they are trade marked for your protection!

**MODEL BUILDERS** see your Local Dealer; if He is unable to supply you send direct sending Dealer's name.

**DISTRIBUTORS AND JOBBERS** write us for full details.

**JACOBS MODEL PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.**

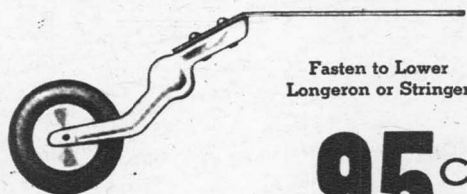
262 Pleasant Street, Dept. AT-4

WORCESTER 2, MASS.

Phone 3-0210

# NEW!

## TAILWHEEL ASSEMBLY



Fasten to Lower Longeron or Stringer

**95<sup>c</sup>**

FITS ANY SIZE PLANE

PRICE

COMPLETE

MADE BY **AEROTECK**

BOX 335

LITTLE RIVER, FLORIDA

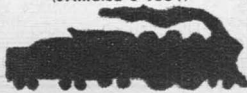
WHEN YOU WANT  
**J & S HAS IT!**

**FREE CATALOGUE**

**J & S HOBBY SHOP**

168-51 Jamaica Ave., JAMAICA, N. Y.

(JAMAICA 6-9384)



as far as the plywood splices extend, and this cord is then covered with cement.

4. The engine mounts are cemented in position in lower bulkheads #1 to #4, and, when dry, this unit is glued securely to lower side of crutch and wing spars. The other lower formers, #5 to #9, can also be glued in position.

5. The landing gear and gas tank should be installed next—the gear is cemented and tied to the under side of engine mounts and the gas tank is placed on top of the engine mounts between bulkheads #1 and #2. Cement and tie this to the engine mounts. Then the area over this can be planked.

6. Construct the cockpit next—the amount of plexiglass used is optional. Quite a large window space was used, but the  $\frac{1}{8}$ " planking overhead serves as protection in case of an accidental inverted landing.

7. The quadrant is installed between the spars, running the wire leads out the wing tips by means of  $\frac{3}{16}$ " dural tubing. This tubing is held in place by cloth tape cemented across them and also cemented to the wing tips. (A furrow is sanded to hold the tubes after their position is marked—a handi-tool was used for this, but a small round file would do as well.) At each fuselage bulkhead place fair leads around the control rod, to keep it from bending. The crosspieces in the crutch will serve for the top; the hole in the lower piece

should be just large enough to allow movement without rubbing.

8. Steam  $\frac{1}{16}$ " x 2" balsa to get the desired curve, and glue over the leading edge (both sides), pinning in place about every  $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch along the leading edge and also on each rib until cement is dry. Finish covering each wing tip (and also the part of wing adjoining fuselage) with  $\frac{1}{16}$ " sheet balsa. Then cap the remaining five center ribs with  $\frac{1}{16}$ " balsa (both sides).

9. Pin the fuselage stringers in place and mark the position. Cut notches for these and glue in place. Fill in the spaces between stringers and bulkheads with  $\frac{1}{8}$ " balsa, back to the trailing edge of the wing. The area between formers No. 8 and No. 9 will also have to be reinforced with  $\frac{1}{8}$ " balsa between stringers to support the tail wheel, which can be installed now.

10. The entire ship is now sanded thoroughly. Use a filler for the cracks and sand this down. The back part of the fuselage and the entire wing surface is covered with silk—the rest with silkspan (doped to the balsa). Use about three coats of dope over the entire ship, sanding with fine sandpaper. Apply one coat of lacquer primer and allow ample time for drying, then wet-sand with #400 sandpaper. Colored lacquer should be used for the final paint job.

Model should balance just back of the front wing spar.

Good luck and Happy Landings.