

Da' Box

(Continued from page 29)

Box's" first year.

Since that time it has won place after place in Air Force and local meets, first place open "Half-A" at the '56 Nats and second place "Half-A" open and fourth place Class "B" open at the '61 Nats. Another "Half-A" job flown by Captain Hardin took fourth in open at the '57 Nats. All told, "Da' Box" has won over 45 trophies for me alone.

"Da' Box" shown on the plans is basically the same plane that was designed in 1952. It "grew" some in '59 and structure has been changed here and there to beef up weak spots found over the years. Crankcase pressure was tried and abandoned in '53 as all the fuel cutoffs available leaked under pressure. The pen bladder tank was adopted for all sizes, except "Half-A," in 1956 when the Tattone "Tick-Off" came out and has been used successfully ever since. Auto-rudder was used for the first time this year. If you aren't an experienced modeler, I recommend that you build the standard rudder version. The Auto-rudder must function perfectly, and no makeshift work will do here or you will have a pranged airplane. Actually "Da' Box" flies just about as well without it. At the SAC meet this year, I broke part of my Auto-rudder system while making some adjustments to it and had no material at the field to repair it. I locked the rudder in place, made two quick readjustment flights, and took high time of the day with it that way.

Well, that is pretty much the story of "Da' Box." I have lost contests flying "Da' Box," but I lost them by my own carelessness and through no fault of the design. When the airplane is adjusted out to its peak, I have yet to see the competitor that could climb and glide with it. This is why I have flown "Da' Box" for the last nine years and will probably be flying it for the next nine years.

Build one and find out for yourself.

As all construction is shown on the $\frac{1}{2}$ A and A class plans we won't go into that much. If you have another engine size in

mind the A-B version in the 1962 American Modeler ANNUAL can be scaled up or down as they have been many times. For a 15 use 88% of all measurements.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ A-A version should be flown on a $5\frac{1}{4}$ " x 4" prop. The A-B on a 9" x 4". Use the hottest engines you can get.

Be sure to key all flying surfaces. Short $\frac{1}{8}$ " dowel cut in half and glued to the wing and stab on each side of their platforms work fine.

Don't forget to hook up the Auto-rudder! (I told you I've lost contests because of my own carelessness).

RUDDER CONSTRUCTION. (1)

Build rudder to $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick dimension. (2) Add 1/16" sheet to both sides as per darkened area of sketch. (3) Spot-cement tab in place. (4) Sandpaper assembly to a streamlined shape: (5) Remove tab, cement rudder stop in place, cement tubing for hinge.

STABILIZER CONSTRUCTION. (1)

Pin down leading and trailing edges. (2) Cement bottom center planking and bottom cap strips in place. (3) Cement spars in position (deepest spar in center). (4) Add center section filler pieces between spars (cement). (5) Cement cap strips to top, add center section planking. (6) Remove from plans and cement stab tip plates to each tip.

FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS. (1)

Fuselage, wing, and tail surface portions that will touch covering are sanded with 400 grit sandpaper. (2) Sanding sealer (talcum powder added to dope) applied to surfaces mentioned above. (3) Sandpaper with 400 grit paper. (4) Cover ENTIRE model with Jap tissue. (5) Apply one coat of clear dope to entire model. (6) Apply tissue letters to wing. (7) Lightly sand (400 grit) all covered wood surfaces. (8) Apply four coats of clear to fuselage; Sand (400 grit); Apply four coats of color in desired areas. (9) Apply eight coats of clear dope to wing and tail. (10) Entire model may now be rubbed with DuPont No. 7 compound for a smooth high-gloss finish.

Note: With "hobby" grade dope, add $\frac{1}{4}$ thinner. If standard aircraft dope is used, thin 50-50.

Additional note on "Auto-Rudder"—before starting a day's flying session, replace rubber bands on rudder tab.