



JUPITER

The bringer of jollity...

Vintage day at Old Warden is a great event in my calendar and I nearly always see a model that inspires me.

Brian Downham (when he's not having a lunchtime doze) makes some lovely aeroplanes, but his Frog Jupiter always seemed rather special. With its low wing, 30's racer look, and seductive shape,

it is a beauty. As soon as I saw it circulating the hallowed turf, I knew I had to have one, but I didn't pursue it till I spotted it in Mike Woodhouse's catalogue along with many other desirable plans.

Visiting Mike to pick up a plan, I took the opportunity to stock up with his special quality balsa (each sheet marked for weight and density), and some Esaki Jap tissue

which he sells along with hundreds of hard to get items.

The Jupiter was a 1947 Frog kit and Bob Jones has kindly re-drawn the plan and added the wood patterns we need, plus prop details - so there's no excuse for delay.

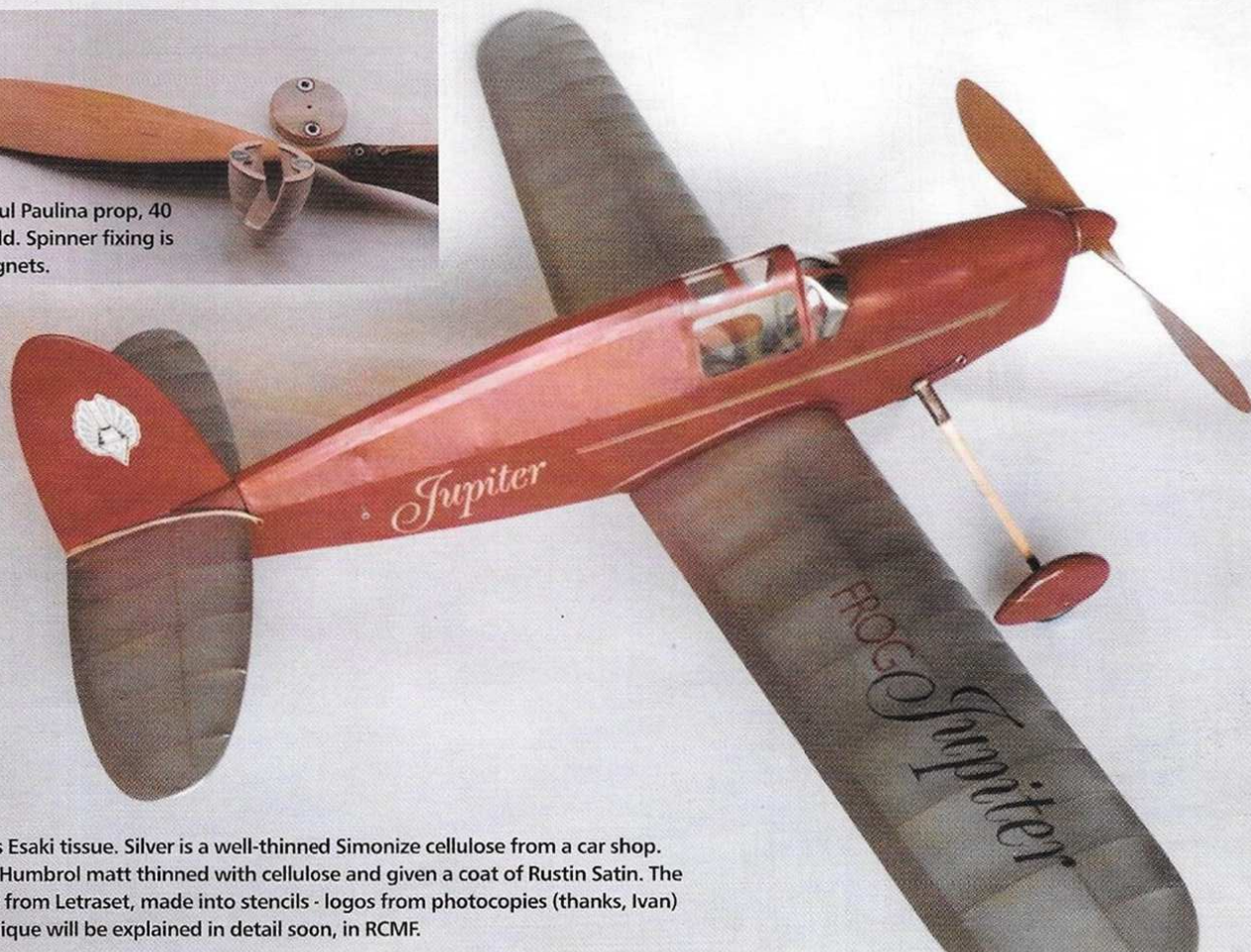
WATCH YOUR WEIGHT

There's a lot of lumber in the fuselage, so you need nice light

1/8", 3/32" and 1/32" sheet and keep weight down as best you can. The fuselage is rectangular aft of the wing, but at the front the sheet sides are pinched into fair with the scaleish nose shape. If you have used lightwood for your formers with vertical grain, they will bow as you pull the sides in. I modified my formers as shown, to include a horizontal square spacer at the



Beautiful Paulina prop, 40 years old. Spinner fixing is via magnets.



Covering is Esaki tissue. Silver is a well-thinned Simonize cellulose from a car shop. Maroon is Humbrol matt thinned with cellulose and given a coat of Rustin Satin. The lettering is from Letraset, made into stencils - logos from photocopies (thanks, Ivan) - the technique will be explained in detail soon, in RCMF.



Sprung U/C should help to preserve spats. Gold lining is Model Technics Trimline.

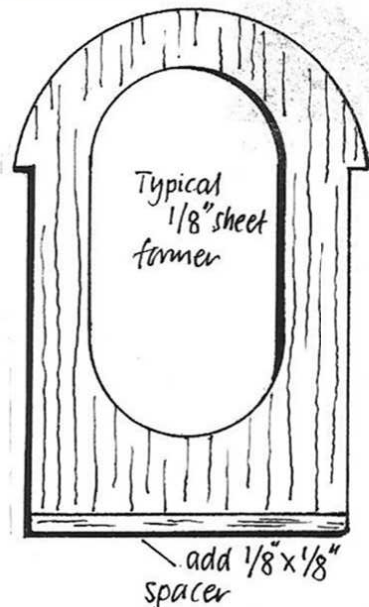
bottom, which helped a lot.

Wing fixing is tongue-in-box, which is a good knock off feature. I opted for 1/64" ply each side of a 3/32" balsa tongue, well drilled to save weight.

Undercarriage legs are spruce, hinged at the back with rubber band springing working through tubes in the fuselage. It's all very practical, if a little heavy. The spats add a lot to the appearance, but I kept them thinner than drawn, to save weight and reduce drag. The wing is tapered in plan and section with rounded tips - all scale like features, which enhance the lines. The only change I made was to reduce the width of the LE, again with weight in mind.

A CARVE UP

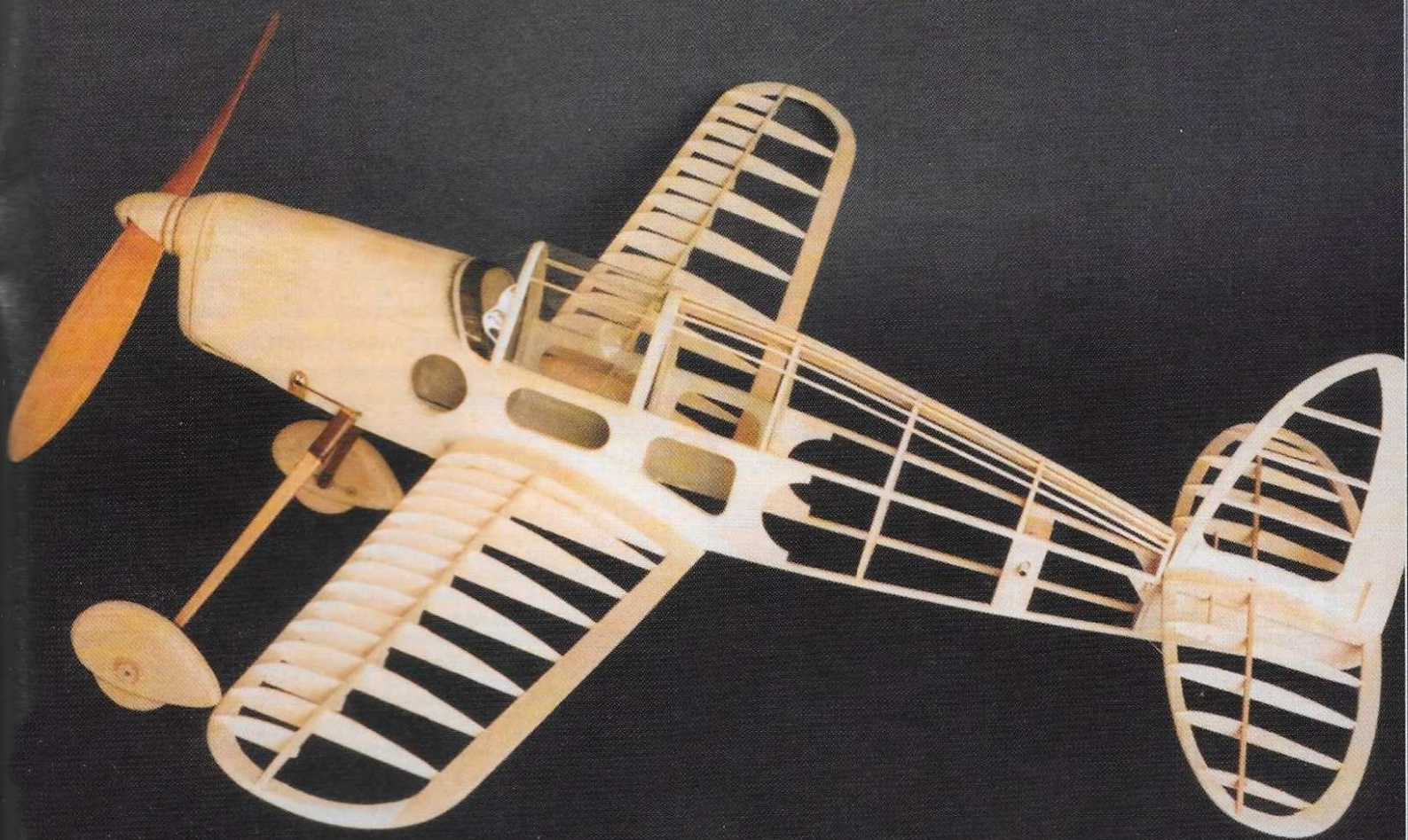
This model calls for a 13" hand carved balsa prop, so I screwed up my courage and made one, but I didn't know how to hide the freewheel device in the spinner. My prop hub was too bulky and the balsa too weak to thin down. Fortunately, I still have a 'Paulina' prop given to me by the proprietor of Teddington Models, 35 years ago. Beautifully carved from a wood that looks like Lime, it is very, very thin. Try as I might I just can't match the



Dave's Jupiter former mod - a 1/8" sq. spacer under each former prevents bowing.

exquisite quality of this old prop.

The spinner in the Frog kit was plastic, which must have been an innovation in 1947. I chose the easy way out and made a balsa/ply laminated spinner 'turned up' in the drill and hollowed out. Brian made his in fibreglass.



Low wing with elegant lines, the Frog Jupiter is reminiscent of a '30s racer.

FINISHED

Covered in lightweight Jap tissue and given a scale like colour scheme, I must say I feel highly jollificated by my Jupiter. Let's hope the weather will improve so that I can test fly it - over some suitable vintage long grass, of course!

SOURCES

Free Flight Supplies: Mike Woodhouse (01603 457754), excellent catalogue - All you need, Frog Jupiter plan, light balsa, Esaki tissue, thrust races, rubber, the lot! Even single-edged razor blades!

WHO DESIGNED JUPITER?

Vic Smeed's wonderful book 'Favourite of the Fifties' lists Jupiter as designed by C T Buffery, who did several Frog plans after the war. However, Bob Jones credits E A Ross and dates the model 1947. Perhaps a Vintage Frog buff out there can set the record straight? ☺

Tongue in box wing fixing for crash-ability. U/C is sprung on a band in a tube through the fuselage.

