Channel Flyer

deBolt's little radio control ship is a real cutie

■ Smallest kit plan designed strictly for R/C purposes now on the market, the Kitten is the third in the line of radio models offered by deBolt Model Eng. Co. (Williamsville, N. Y.). It was designed by Harold deBolt especially for small area R/C flying, and will put on a fine show within the confines of a football field, if need be. The kit sells for $3.95. Though the plane has a small span, as R/C ships go (34"), the area is a respectable 220 sq. in., and the total flying weight can be 18 oz. Thus, wing loading is only about 12 oz. per sq. foot, lots less than that of many successful R/C ships now in use. Radio equipment weight should be held to 12 oz. or less; this is quite possible with many sets now on the market. There is a space about 6½" long x 3¾" high and 2½" wide in the cabin for the radio apparatus and batteries.

The fuselage is built on a ⅛" thick balsa bottom plate; the bulkheads are cemented to this, then the die-cut sides are added. The landing gear is of the dural sheet type utilized on the larger Dmeco R/C kits; it is fastened to a maple plate with wood screws. 1⅛" diameter rubber wheels are furnished, with machine screws for axles.

Wing and stab construction are very similar; both are built up with shaped and notched leading and trailing edges, and both have a moderate lifting section. The wing has an added ⅛" x ⅜" spar, and ⅛" washout is incorporated in each tip for stability. The center section is sheeted with 1/16" balsa.

The rudder is 3/32" sheet, and attached to the stab; the assembly is held to the fuselage by rubber bands, and keyed to hold the desired adjustment.

The large plan sheet shows installation of two different engines, and lists half a dozen more that can be used. Similarly, wiring diagrams, battery connections and installation of several lightweight receivers are detailed, with other possibilities suggested. The instructions are most complete, and include general data on radio model work, pre-flight checks, and the actual technique of R/C flying.