

The book says to test glide a new model and I'm gonna' do it, dammit!

Product Test: Bill O'Brien

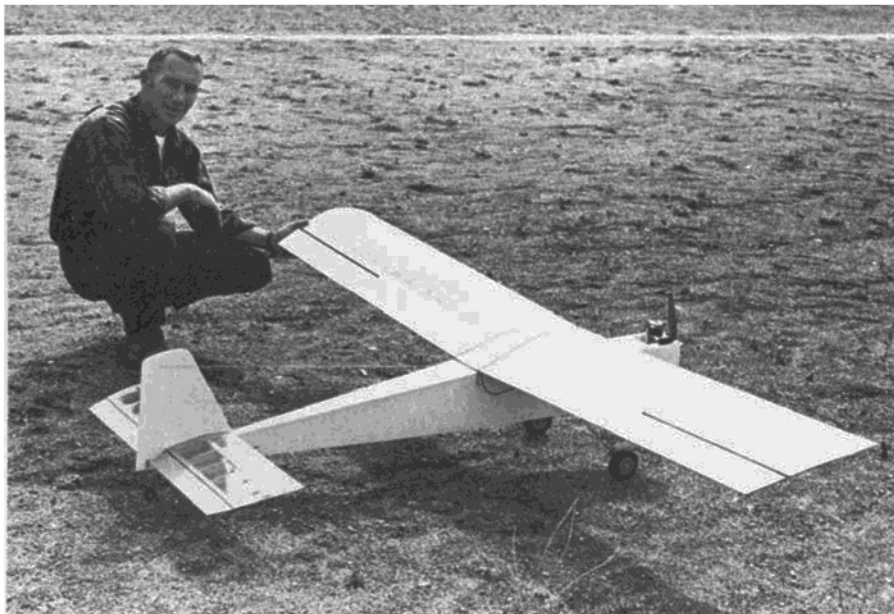


Photography: Don Dewey

RCM Builds The

# SENIOR TELEMASTER

All decked out in opaque white and transparent yellow Solarfilm, the Senior Telemaster could almost be called pretty. But, then, so could a pregnant Albatross.



If there is one thing that Jim Martin at Hobby Lobby International has, it's a sense of humor.

Over the past few years we have become somewhat used to his weird ads in the front of our magazine, but we weren't quite ready for the telephone call we received from Jim a couple of months ago. Jim's question was, "How would we like to do a review on a high winged model with a one piece 8' span wing and an all-up wing loading of less than 9 oz. per square foot?"

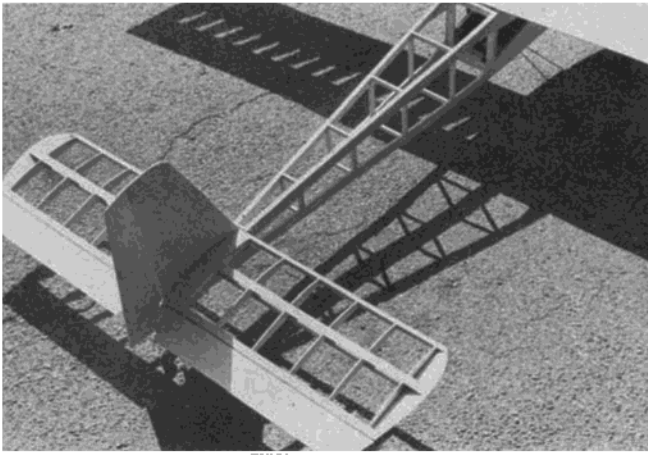
We replied somewhat to the effect that we'd enjoy such a model about as much as we'd like a hippopotamus living in the kitchen!

The trouble was, that Jim wasn't kidding! What followed a few days later was a kit box, the largest we have ever received at RCM. And inside the kit box were all the necessary parts for an aircraft called the Senior Telemaster, manufactured in Germany and imported into the United States by Hobby Lobby International.

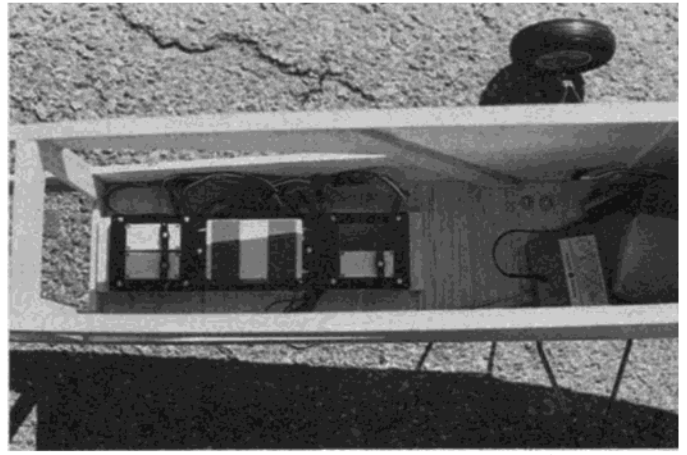
To say that the Senior Telemaster is big would be the understatement of the year. This behemoth has a 95" wing span with a 14" chord and a total wing area of 1330 square inches or 9.236 square feet! In addition, the stabilizer is a lifting surface with a 34" span and a 9½" chord for a total additional lifting area of 320 square inches, bringing the total lifting area of the wing and stabilizer to 1,653 square inches or a grand total of 11.48 square feet!

Our first reaction upon receiving the kit was to hide it under the workbench and, if Jim ever called again, to tell him we hadn't received the kit. After all, what do you do with a large "trainer-type" aircraft of this size? Our second thought, and the course of action we subsequently followed, was to pawn the beast off on Bill O'Brien, one of our editors, for his raucous and somewhat sarcastic remarks about the editor's flying ability. Before we did, however, we took a closer look at the contents of the Senior Telemaster kit.

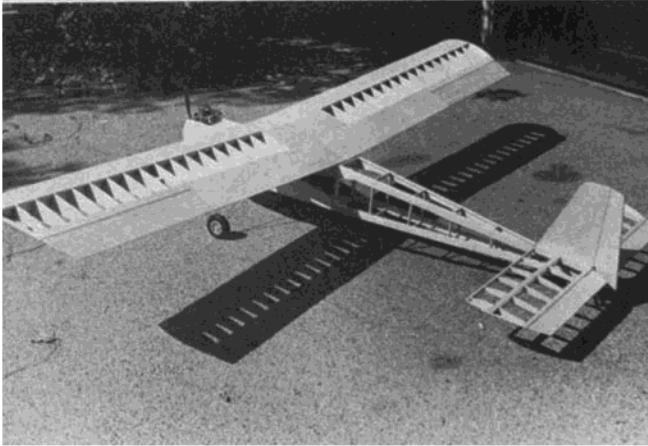
This aircraft design has been around for a number of years in Germany, and has been used to string telephone lines across deep ravines, which task would otherwise require the use of a full-size helicopter. The kit, itself, consisted of some of the finest quality balsa wood that we have seen to date. The structure is utter simplicity, and virtually any modeler could follow the construction sequence even without



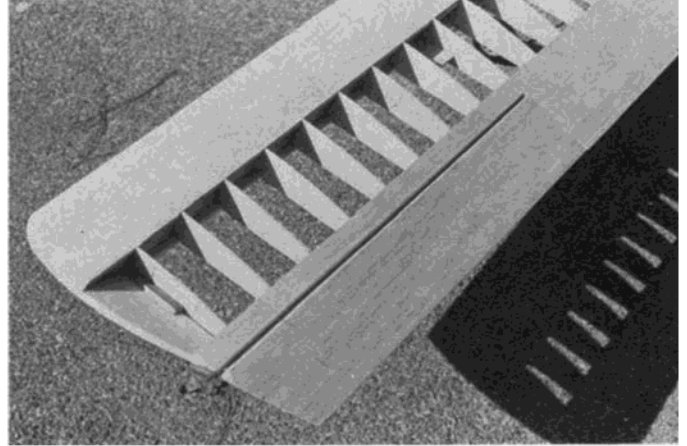
Extremely light, but rugged, framework. Note lifting stab. Just keeps lifting, and lifting, and . . .



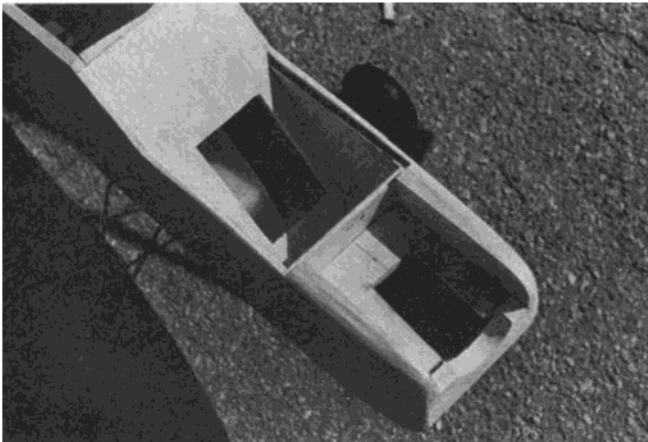
The Hobby Lobby 5 propo system is all but lost inside the Senior Telemaster.



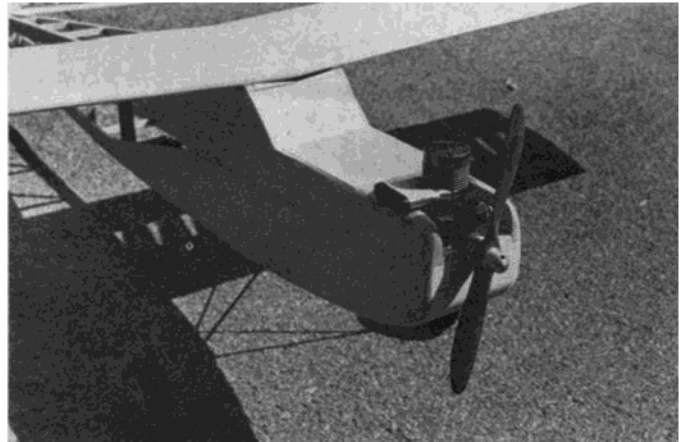
The completed framework. Very strong and very light enabling the Telemaster to lift a hefty payload.



The ailerons in this big wing are relatively ineffective. Rudder needed for coordinated turns.



The engine and fuel compartment. You can't gripe about tight quarters on this one!



The .60, complete with Du-Bro muffler. A .35 will actually get the beast airborne.

English instructions. The fuselage is of the lightest weight design we have seen, using excellent engineering techniques to achieve maximum strength and durability at a minimum of weight. As you can probably determine from the photographs of our prototype of the Senior Telemaster,

virtually any radio, along with your St. Bernard, would be lost in the interior of this giant.

Bill O'Brien grudgingly accepted the task of putting the Senior Telemaster together. Within a few days the structure was completed and the photographs accompanying this article

were taken. Shortly thereafter, the entire model was ready to fly, completely covered with opaque white and transparent yellow Solarfilm. Although the model would undoubtedly fly with any engine from a .35 on up, we installed a .60 engine and, just to

make Jim happy, a Hobby Lobby 5 proportional system. The all-up weight of the model was slightly under 6 lbs. which gave us approximately an 8½ oz. wing loading! From that point on things began to happen!

We can say, unequivocally, that the Senior Telemaster is one of the most enjoyable aircraft we have ever flown. The ailerons, when used alone, are relatively ineffective on that huge wing, and thus the Telemaster required coordinated turns using both rudder and ailerons in conjunction with the elevator. The take-off run with a .60 is approximately three feet, and from then on in the Senior Telemaster flies like a full size light plane. It is capable of doing most of the maneuvers and could carry any type of payload you wanted to include, such as a movie or still camera and the like. And, no matter where the Telemaster was taken, it was an instant hit! One modeler at a local flying field went to sleep under the starboard wing since it was the only shade available, while other modelers complained that a low pass by the Telemaster created a dark shadow on the flying field and made their spot landings difficult to observe. After awhile the reactions of the modelers at any field could be predicted. The first comment would be --- "You've got to be kidding!" followed by a short and somewhat sarcastic chuckle. After a demonstration flight, their reaction changed to --- "Where can I get one?"

That question is easy to answer. The Senior Telemaster is available from Hobby Lobby International, Route 3, Franklin Pike Circle, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027, at a price of \$49.95, which is extremely reasonable for an aircraft of this size and a kit of this high quality. We understand that the price may be going up six or seven dollars, but it will still be a bargain. And, if you have any doubts about transporting it, Bill O'Brien has been hauling the Senior Telemaster around

in the back of a Pinto Fastback! You won't believe it until you try it.

The Senior Telemaster is an excellent model that was designed to do a specific job. For the sport flyer, it is a model that is easy to fly and can perform some absolutely delightful maneuvers that you'd be hard put to duplicate with a smaller aircraft. You will enjoy building it and you will enjoy flying it. And, because of its light wing loading and easy flying characteristics, it will be an aircraft you'll have around for a long time to come. The Senior Telemaster kit, as imported by Hobby Lobby International, is Tested, Approved, and Recommended by RCM. □

**From  
RCModeler  
Oct. 1975**