

TALL



A few minutes with a photocopy machine and you'll have full size plans for a quickly built .10 powered aircraft that will bore small holes in the big sky. Quick and responsive, but easy to fly.

TEXAN

BY JOHN CHAPIS

● The "Tall Texan" was designed as a simpler and smaller counterpart to Bryce Peterson's high performance AT-6. And, by using Ace mini foam wings and box type sheet construction, the "Tall Texan" took form.

When the ship was finished, I decided to use a Kraft KP3S system and OS Max .10 power. The whole time I was finishing the installation, I was thinking of how nice and easily this bird would drift through the sky. Boy did I miss! With KPS 12's and a 500 MAH pack, she weighed in at 2½ pounds and was quite a bit hotter than the average .10 powered bird. But

what a thrill it is to have this ship boring tiny holes in the sky.

Some time later, while reading RCM, an opinion was voiced by Ronald Shean about .10 powered pylon racing for sport flyers only. The "better idea" light lit. Create a pylon racer that isn't a P-51! This is my contribution to those of you who want to race for just pure pleasure. There are some publications that will give you some ideas on how to paint your bird like the great AT-6 air racers that please crowds from Reno to Cape May every year.

Since we can't paint it until it is built, let's get started. Start construction

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tion by cutting out all formers, tail surfaces, and fuselage sides. Clamp the fuselage sides together and sand them to get two perfectly matched sides. Now glue the 1/32" ply doubler and the 1/8" square stringers in place. After they have dried, clamp the 1/4" x 1" trailing edge tail post between the fuselage sides. Next, install the 1/8" ply firewall. Then add former F-4 and the other smaller formers. This should give you a pretty true fuselage. Now, complete the structure by putting the 1/2" sheet turtle deck and tail surfaces in place along with the 3/32" bottom sheet. Add the soft nose block and 1/16" sheet canopy and cowl.

The hard part is now completed. The wings are the Ace 2T mini-foam wing set with the center section trimmed to 13 inches. Trim the foam trailing edge back 1/4" and add a 1/4" x 1" balsa trailing edge. Now slot the wings as shown on the plans to accept the landing gear. Bind the landing gear to the 1/8" ply mount and epoxy "the whole thing" together.

Finish the craft by using a plastic bottle for a cowl or, if you have a good buddy who is a sheet metal man, you might be able to get a light aluminum cowl.

Finishing the model is up to you but I would suggest using Top Cote, Solarfilm, or Flitekote to cover the wing for a nice look.

Flying is no different than any other tail dragger, so enough gab. Go out and have a ball! Happy landings!

**From
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