

MINIATURE AIRCRAFT CORP.

 **9ft TAYLORCRAFT** 



OLD TIMER Model of the Month

Designed by: Unknown

Drawn by: Al Patterson

Text by: Phil Bernhardt

• Every modeler knows that “Quarter Scale” is the big thing (no pun intended) in R/C now, but actually, there’s nothing new about 1/4-scale models themselves, either R/C or F/F. At least one of these biggies, the model presented here, was designed and kitted as far back as the early 1940’s: Miniature Aircraft Corporation’s 1/4-scale, 9-foot Taylorcraft. According to John Pond, this is the same design (albeit with some structural changes) that was later kitted for R/C by Vic’s Custom Models.

Going through the boss’s collection of old model mags, the earliest ad we could find for this model appeared in the April 1941 issue of *Model Airplane News*, which puts it out of the running as far as the Texaco and Fuel Allotment Antique events are concerned, as it’s not old enough. Old Timer Scale is about the only F/F event the T-Craft could really excel in, but not many O.T. contest fliers are willing to shell out the bucks necessary to build a model this size for a two-to-three-times-a-year event. However, if you’re one of those free fliers who says to heck with contests and *truly* flies for fun, you’ll have a ball with this big, realistic performer.

According to the original ad, the model weighs 3-3/4 lbs. without engine, which would probably jump to about 5 lbs. ready to go. With an effective wing area of just under 1500 sq. in., this translates to a wing loading of about 8 oz./sq. ft., which is a good weight to shoot for.

Quarter Scale R/C enthusiasts are probably already taking a close look at the plans. About the only modification necessary would be to beef up the structure and make provision for the control surfaces. Probably the best thing to do would be to get ahold of a proven design such as a Bud Nosen Piper Cub or Aeronca Champ kit and study the construction methods on the T-Craft. A ready-to-fly weight of about 10 lbs. and a .60 size engine should be just right. (By the way, if anyone knows the name, and something about the designer of this model, please contact us. We’d like to give him proper credit.) ●