



AEROFlyTE KIT No. 226 stratos

Stratos is a great looking model that is fun to fly and if built step by step from the plan will give you many hours of enjoyment.

GENERAL BUILDING NOTES: Before you begin it is important to look at the plan carefully, reading and understanding the instructions before starting assembly. A good flat building board will enable you to build quickly and squarely. As needed remove each piece from its balsawood sheet with the help of a sharp-pointed hobby knife.

STAGE ONE: Tape the plan to a flat building board. Lay one fuselage side FS on the plan side view. Locate the position of former F1 and glue in place. The floor 6 is glued butted up to F1. Glue F2 butting to the back of 6. Using masking tape hold the assembly in position till dry. Place the fuselage assembly over the top plan view and glue the left FS in position. When dry glue the remaining formers F3, F4, F5 and scrap balsa tail piece in position, holding with masking tape till dry.

The canopy floor 7 is glued butted up to F1 and on top of F3 followed by the bottom nose block 8 and top block 10 as shown. When dry carve and sand blocks 8 and 10 flush with the canopy floor 7. Glue the wing supports 11 and 12 to formers F1 and F2 as shown, then glue and position scrap balsa gussets. When dry drill four 3mm dia. holes where pin marked on the fuselage sides and glue wing dowels in place.

Working from F2 to the rear of the model glue top sheeting in position. Bottom sheeting is then glued from the back of 8 to the rear of the model. When dry trim and sand top and bottom sheeting flush with the fuselage sides. Bend the towhook wire to the first bend shown on the plan. Drill a 1.5mm dia. hole through the towhook mount 13, then bend and glue the wire to the mount using a short length of towline as shown. Position the towhook mount in the model by gently working the wire through the balsa floor and glue in place. When dry bend the wire to the final towhook shape.

STAGE TWO: Pin the leading and trailing edges of one wing over the plan. Cut to length and glue the wing tip in position. Next pin the lower main spar into place, pin and glue the wing ribs 9 in position. Use the wing template WT for the correct angle of the centre ribs. Glue the top mainspar into position, bending it down at the edges to meet the wing tip. Build the left wing in the same way on the reverse side of the plan, marking through the plan with pin pricks or smear a light oil over the wing plan. Join the two wings at the correct angle shown by butting and gluing the centre ribs, then strengthening the main spar with a scrap piece of 6 x 3mm balsa strip at the wing joint.

STAGE THREE: The tailplane is built over the plan in a similar fashion to the wing making sure that a gap is left between the centre ribs for the fin assembly. Build the fin by cutting strips to length, pin and glue on the plan. Cut out the fin filler strip template and temporarily fix to 14 (3x12x100mm balsa strip). Cut to shape and position and glue to the fin. When dry fit the fin into the tailplane gap, and glue in place making sure that the fin is square to the tail plane.

STAGE FOUR: Lightly sand the wing, fin and tailplane all over. To cover the wing, fin and tailplane start by cutting tissue slightly oversize to cover the bottom left hand wing. The tissue is glued to the wing by brushing a coat of dope over ribs, wing tip, leading and trailing edges. Starting from the centre of the wing, place the tissue onto the wing pulling out any wrinkles as you work. Repeat process for the rest of wing and tailplane. The tissue is finally tightened by applying two coats of dope all over. Check your wings for twists, these are removed by twisting the area affected in the opposite direction of the twist while the dope is wet and allow to dry. Glue the tailplane assembly to the fuselage making sure that it is square to the fuselage sides.

FINISHING: Sand the fuselage all over. Apply a thick coat of dope to the model, when dry lightly sand and apply one final coat. Balance your model with the wing in position by placing the weight washer on the canopy floor 7 moving back or forwards till the balance point shown on the plan is found, then glue the weight washer in position. Cut out the clear acetate canopy using the plan template and crease where shown. Tack glue the canopy in position on the model. The water transfers can now be carefully applied (refer plan for positioning). Roughly cut out each transfer from its sheet. Place one transfer at a time face up in luke warm water and let it slide completely. Lay the transfer face up on newspaper until it slides freely on its backing sheet. Locate the position on the model and slide the transfer from its backing sheet to the model. Using a wet cloth work air bubbles from the centre to the sides. Once all air bubbles have been removed leave to dry for 24 hours. A light spray of varnish will permanently seal the transfers.

TRANSFER POSITIONS SHOWN:

TOWLINE FLYING: Choose a fairly calm day and an open area free from trees and power lines. Ask a friend to hold the model slightly nose high wings level at shoulder height with the towline hooked up. Both begin by running slowly into the breeze while watching the model. As it begins to lift your friend should release it. You continue running till the model reaches the top of its climb. At this stage slow yourself down and release the model from its towline.

NOTE: The initial stages of the launch is where many models are damaged. If your model veers to one side during the tow, stop running and immediately release it. This is usually caused by running too fast or by a badly trimmed model. For best flying results trim your model for a slight turn after it leaves the towline.

