

How to Build a Model of Col. Roscoe Turner's Thompson Trophy Winning Racer

The plane is easy to build and is a good one for the beginner to start on. Get the dimensions for purchasing materials from the plans. Supplies may be bought at your nearest model shop or from the supply companies advertising in this magazine. If you wish to square off the plans, making it easier for measuring, joint the corresponding dashes on the border with straight lines. Each square will equal one square foot.

Balsa wood is to be used throughout in making the model. The paint job is silver with black trimmings and only small cans of dope ore lacquer will be needed. The wheels or any other accessories may be purchased if desired.

Make the fuselage first. Draw the outline of the top view on a piece of balsa with the grain of the wood running lengthwise. Cut to shape with saw and sharp, flat chisel. Go over the surfaces roughly with course sandpaper and then draw on the side elevation. The fin will be put on later. Cut once more and then shape the out the contour with your razor blade, as shown by the cross-sections.

Go over the surfaces with course and then fine sandpaper until maximum smoothness is obtained; and then begin the wing surfaces. They will be made in two panels, one for each side of the fuselage. Draw the plan view accurately on stock

and cut to shape. Then taper them down as shown by airfoil sections and airfoil sections and front elevation with a cold chisel and razor blades. Sandpaper the surfaces to smoothness and then make the tail surfaces in a like manner.

The propeller is made in four separate parts, namely the three blades and the hub. When they have been whittled out with your razor blade cement the blades to the hub using colorless model cement and lay aside to dry.

It is easier to make the landing gear legs in two separate parts. Shape out the landing gear legs proper and then the part that extends outward to form the axle on separate pieces of wood. Then connect the two pieces with cement and when connections have dried thoroughly sandpaper to smoothness.

The assembly of the model is simple. Lay the fuselage in flying position and put the wing panels in place with planet of model cement. Put blocks under the wing to hold it in place. Join the tail surfaces in place next. Take plenty of time and be accurate.

The next step is the landing gear which must be sturdily built. It might be well to use small pieces of wire as dowels. Go over all joints once more with cement and then sandpaper again. Brush off all dust and begin the paint job.

Many coats will have to be applied before a smooth finish is obtained. It might be well to go over

the entire model with fine sandpaper after the first coat has dried. After a smooth finish has been obtained and the propeller has been painted silver, connect it to the nose with a straight pin as a prop shaft. Put the wheels on with wire inserted into the landing gear legs as axles. Any trimmings may be added that your skill will allow. You will then have a complete replica of the plane flown by Col. Roscoe Turner to win the 1938 Thompson Trophy Race, setting a new speed record for the event of 283 miles per hour.

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COL. ROSCOE TURNER'S "METEOR"

