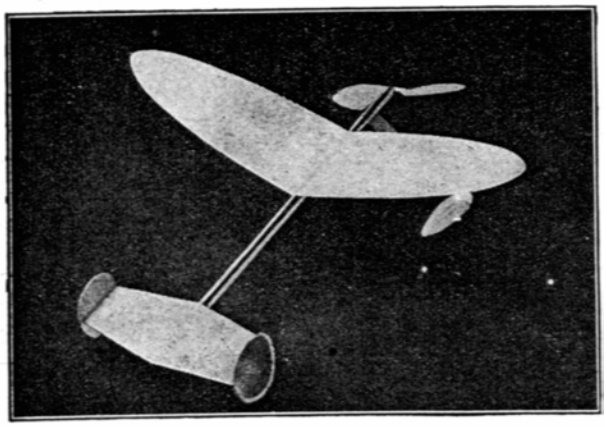
“Snowbird Stick” Job

by Alan Orthof

After Al Orthof hoiked his big dogs into galoshes the other day to plod through the first snow of the season, he realized that models need winter boots, too. So he got the stick-job designing portion of his gray matter working overtime -- and this neat little ski-shod "Snowbird" was the result. Sweet? Just scan the pix here and you'll see!



IN KEEPING with the winter spirit, I have designed a little craft expressly for snowy weather. Fitted with skis, this model is ideal for take-offs from wintry fields. Yes the "Snowbird" is just what her name implies. For she'll turn in fast, long, and smooth flights in almost any cold weather. What's more, this little 18-inch spanner can be built in just a few hours by the average balsa butcher .

On her trial flights, the model showed remarkable consistency. Flights of two minutes and over were frequent, for those twin rudders make her plenty stable.

Although the "Snowbird" is equipped with skis, it is perfectly capable of taking off from grass, sand, or pavement, too. As a matter of fact, its first takeoff was from a pavement in New York's Central Park. Yep, she took off as pretty as a picture and landed equally as sweet. Take-off runs from all sorts of places and fields were tried, and every time the little ship hopped into the sky like a fish does into water. So fret not, all you lads basking in the sunny climes, for you too can enjoy the flying thrills the "Snowbird" has to offer--even though snow may be a strange word in your vocabulary.

Building the Body

CONSTRUCTION of the craft begins with the motor stick. A rather hard strip of balsa, 1/2 " by 3/16" by 17 1/2", is used for this section. Round the edges and sand smooth, gluing a small thrust bearing at the nose. Apply a liberal amount of cement.

Bend the rear hook from .020 wire, as indicated in .the drawing, and cement into position. The landing gear is made from .020 wire

and stiffened with landing struts of 1/16" sheet balsa. Patterns for these are indicated in full size on the drawing. Use wood with a stringy grain for maximum strength. Streamlining of the struts consists only of slightly rounding the edges with light sand paper. Make certain of strong joints where the landing struts meet the motor stick.

The skis are built from 1/16" sheet balsa shaped as indicated. To form the front of the skis, moisten them with hot water and slowly bend to shape. Then reinforce with wood blocks and pins until the wood has dried thoroughly. After that, coat the skis with three coats of cement to waterproof.

Tail Assembly

THE stabilizer is cut from a 1132" by 3" sheet of balsa. Shape as indicated, coat with banana oil, and sand smooth. The rudders are also cut from the same size stock and finished in the same manner. Mount the rudders to the stabilizer, making certain they are parallel to each other. When the cement has hardened, attach the stabilizer to the motor stick with an ample amount of glue. Note, incidentally, that cap stripping is cemented to the bottom of the rudders to prevent them from sinking into soft snow.

The Wing and Prop

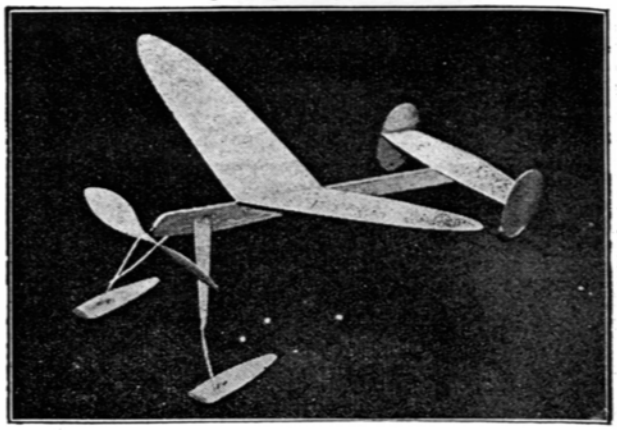
CONSTRUCT the Wing panels from 1/16" sheet. Shape the sections as shown, then round off the edges with fine sandpaper. Also, sand the wing surface until it tapers to 1/32" at the tips. Apply several coats of banana oil and finish off with very fine sandpaper.

Cement the wings together and place-blocks under the tips until the glue has dried. Remove the blocks and attach the motor stick with a liberal amount of cement.

A ready carved prop is advised for the model. The ship was designed to be flown with a hardwood airscrew. Therefore, do not expect maximum performance with a balsa prop. Two washers are used between the propeller and the thrust bearing. It is advisable to put a drop of oil between the washers.

Now that you've got the "Snowbird" completely finished, let's go out to the nearest field and prepare for –

Below we have a photo of Orthof's latest—the "Snowbird."



Flying and Adjusting

YOU may fly the model on either two strands of 1/8" flat or 3/16" flat brown rubber, depending on the weight of the of the finished craft. To determine which to use, it is wise to try the job with both. Lubricate the rubber slightly and use a winder.

The usual methods of adjustments are used in order to offset any intricacies that may arise. However, be very careful when making those changes, for the "Snowbird" is as excitable as the real feathered creature. In fact, if you touch the right – or maybe wrong – spot, she'll leap right from the ground without even being wound!

* * *

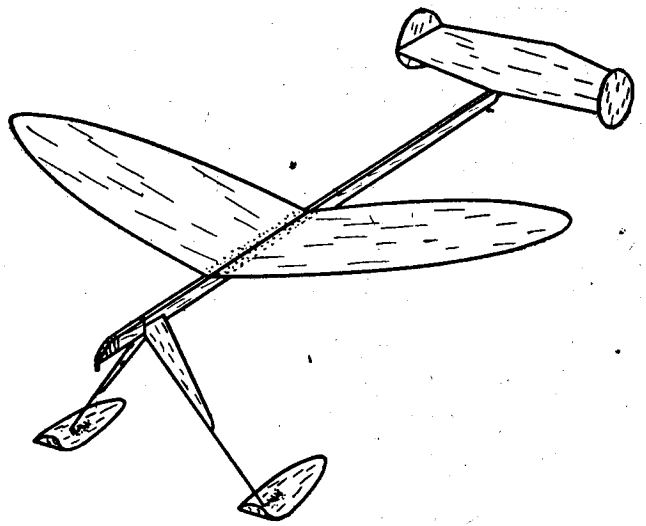
Editor's Note: Speaking ornithologically, Al may be trying to give you the (Snow)bird with that last claim of his. But whether or not you "swallow" that or not, we guarantee not-a-chirp-in-a-flight-load performance – and no bird seed expense.

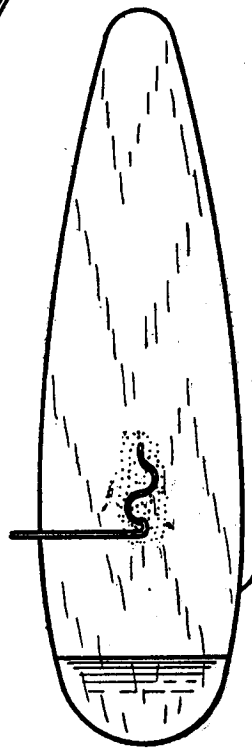
Flying Aces April, 1940

A.ORTHOF

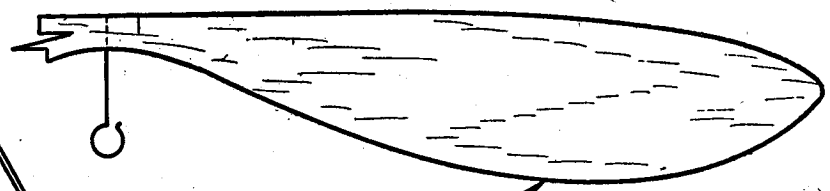
LANDING-GEAR BRACE. MAKE 2 OF 1/16" SHT.

.020 WIRE.





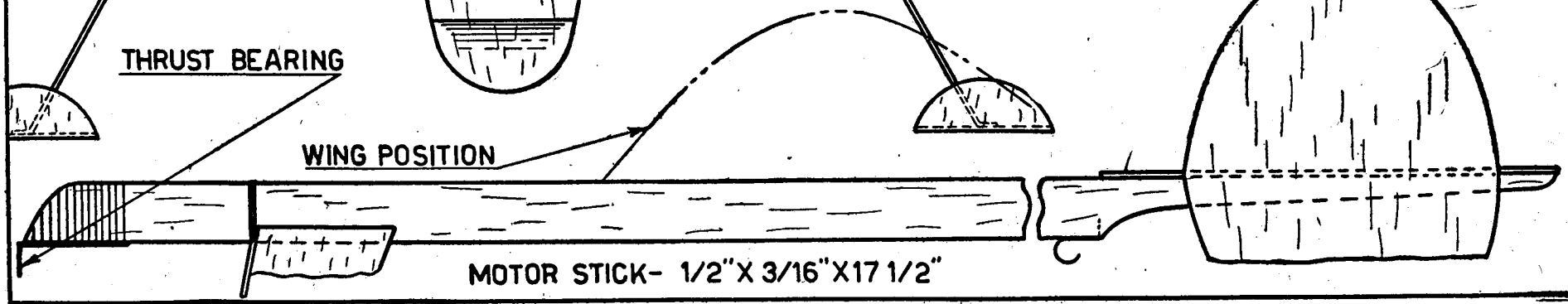
SKI- MAKE 2. OF 1/16" SHT.



PROP TEMPLATE.

THRUST BEARING

WING POSITION



MOTOR STICK- 1/2"X 3/16"X17 1/2"

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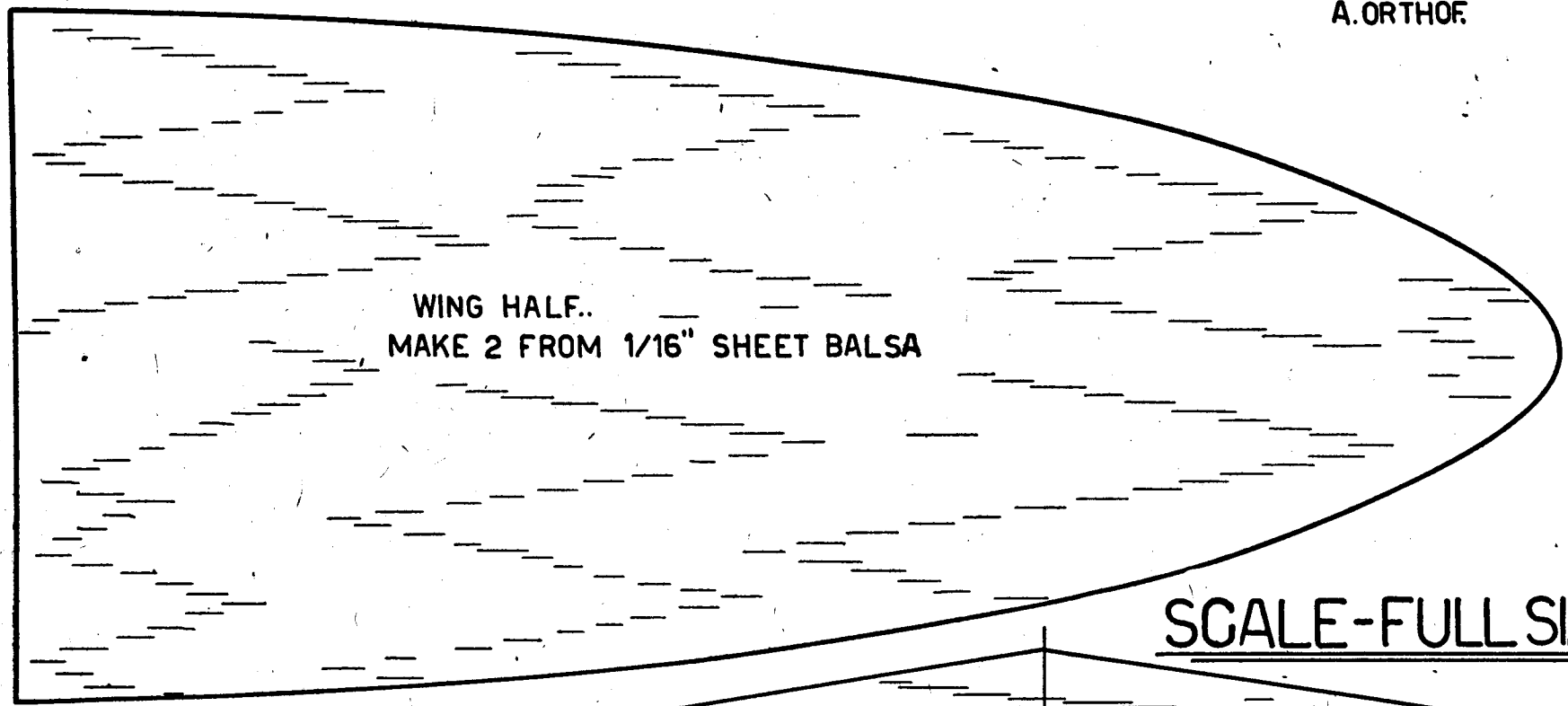

SCALE-FULL SIZE