The Profile Speedster

Come on, fans! Build this buzzing balsa baby—and chalk up a slew of fast flights on your model traffic schedule. You'll find this snappy, profile-type ship a real tip-top sky scooter. Simply-constructed, she's a prize job for beginners—but beginner or veteran, you won't want to pass up this super-plus craft.

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By Louis Garami

OUR Profile Speedster model is an improvement on the simple stick model—a step up toward the more complicated fuselage models. But though its side view is more airplane like and its rubber "motor" is half concealed in its body, the construction hardly takes any longer than the easiest of stick models.

This profile job is simplified further by its use of an allbalsa wing, a type of airfoil which can easily be assembled by even the youngest builders. The wire landing gear and* wing-adjustment features will help you to make trial flights without serious crack ups.



Yes, sir! Here she is all ready to go. And we'd say there's plenty of whiz built into this sassy little job. You couldn't ask for anything more sleek.





BODY AND TAIL SURFACES

USE 1/8" medium balsa for the body. Trace the out-line and cut it out with a sharp razor blade. Next cut out the inside "motor" section and sandpaper the whole thing lightly. The rear hook is bent of .028 music-wire and fastened in place with cement. The tail-skid is then put on in similar manner.

Now make a hole for the "prop" bearing with a large size pin, slanting the hole down in the same way as shown on Plan 1. Insert the 1/16" O.D. (outside diameter) aluminum tubing, then cement a large washer in front.

The landing gear is now bent out of .028 wire and glued on the bottom of the motor stick. The two 1" hardwood wheels can be put on after the glue has dried.

The propeller is carved out of a medium grade balsa block measuring 6" by 11/16" by 3/4". A good prop is very important. Carve it slowly and carefully using a sharp knife and smoothing with a sandpaper block. The blades should taper in thickness from 1/8" at the hub to 1/16" at the tips, with a slight camber on the inside. There is an eyelet and large washer on the hub to protect it from wearing out. The prop shaft is then bent and inserted through aluminum tubing and the prop is then glued.



And down here we see a revealing close-up, depicting the fuselage and tail structure to advantage. Just a few turns of that knife-like prop, and the Profile Speedster will show you a true Jesse Owens take-off.

Use soft 1/32" sheet' balsa for rudder and elevator. Trace them from the plans and cut them out with a sharp razor blade. Now sandpaper both sides and edges smooth and cement the stabilizer on the body first. When the cement has set, you can attach the rudder in its place, lining it up straight with the aid of a couple of pins.

WINGS

THE wings are cut out of 1/32" medium balsa, according to the pattern shown in Plan 2. Utmost care must be taken in cutting the slight curve where the two wing sections join together. The assembly of the wings is as follows: Pin one rib at each side of the body, as indicated in the drawing, and line them up from the top and sides. Now spread cement over the top of the ribs without spilling any on the body. Next pin the wings on to the ribs so that they are joined at the middle and so that the wing tips are raised to the proper dihedral. Naturally the wing sections must be cemented at the joining point also. Let the wings dry for at least one hour, then remove them from the body. A rubber band is used to secure the wing to the top part of the body when flights are made. This arrangement allows it to be moved back and forth in order to achieve correct balance.

Flying

A SINGLE loop of 1/8" rubber should be used for motive power. Glide the model first, adjusting the wing perfect balance is reached. Next wind the propeller about 50 winds and launch it straight into the wind. In case the Speedster stalls, warp the rudder to the right a little. If it tends to dive, warp the elevator flippers up slightly. The motor capacity is about 200 turns.

All set now, fans? If so, go to it! And how about a snapshot of your Profile Speedster for use in the F.A. With-the-Model-Builders page?

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