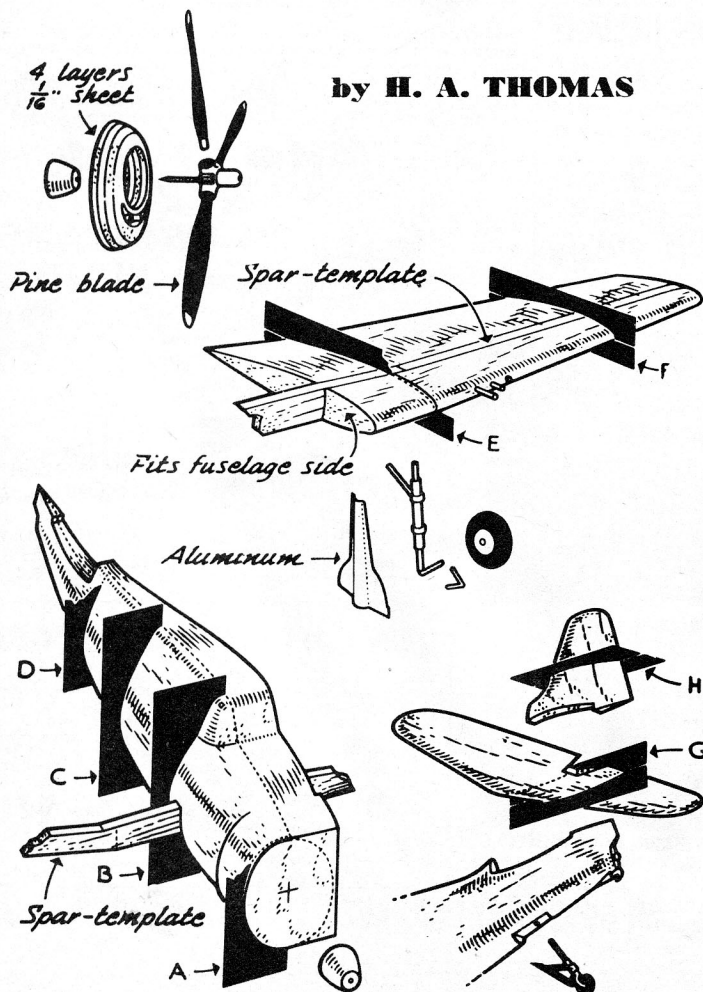


GRUMMAN

F6-F

by H. A. THOMAS



THE NAVY'S OLD RELIABLE IS THE EIGHTEENTH IN THE SERIES OF 3/16" = 1' SUPER SCALE SOLID MODELS

WHEN the tough little Grumman Wildcat came up for redesign and improvement to keep pace with new Japanese fighting planes, it was wisely decided to count heavily on the pilots' combat experience to arrive at design changes. On this basis, the F6F Hellcat emerged and immediately became the front-line U.S. carrier fighter plane. Powered by a 2,000-hp Twin Wasp engine, the Hellcat is maneuverable, fast, yet easy to handle.

Used widely in the Pacific and to some extent in Europe, the F6Fs operated from baby flattops at times. The six fifty-caliber machine guns are supplemented by rockets and bombs while the flight range is greatly extended by use of an auxiliary belly tank.

Build the $\frac{3}{16}$ " scale Hellcat model of medium texture balsa throughout. First saw the fuselage block to side, then to top outline shape; carve and sand it accurately to contours indicated by the templates. Cement the spar-template into the slot and fit the wing parts to it. The spar-template fixes dihedral and wing thickness automatically, and small imperfections in the wing joints are easily concealed with wood filler.

Tail parts are of simple construction. Give special attention, however, to tapering all trailing edges sharply; this is a detail which contributes greatly to the final appearance of your model. Build the cowl front of balsa sheet layers and fit the dummy crankcase on the center line of the fuselage. If a true-scale plastic propeller is not available, try cutting plastic blades from an over-size propeller, trimming them and fitting them to a balsa hub.

Build the landing gear of paper clip wire and simulate the recoil strut by wrapping paper strips around the wire. Fit balsa or plastic wheels and add such detail parts as tail wheel, pitot tube, antenna masts, exhausts, and arrester hook. Dope and sand the entire model and fill the wood grain before applying the color.

Early F6Fs had a flat finish, but late models are highly polished. Lower areas are gray and upper parts are dark blue. The cockpit may be masked with narrow Scotch tape strips and painted silver for contrast, while the cowl interior, wheels, propeller, and other detail should be flat black. Add decal insignia to complete the Hellcat.

A builder from Ohio suggests use of aluminum leaf for models with natural metallic finish. He further suggests that transparent enclosures of Cellomold or other preparations add extra realism to models of this size. Send in your own tricks which are adaptable to small solid scale models and we'll pass them along to others.