

RUBBER SCALE EDO FLOATS

The Puss Moth, or most any scale ship, for that matter, on floats, is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. Use these scale Edo jobs as a basis for putting your model on the water. By HAL COVER

● With the past flying successes experienced with the updated Lanzo Puss Moth (M.B. Jan. 1972) it was a natural to add floats. Edo floats 1 inch to the foot scale (June 1938 Air Trails) were selected for this purpose.

Initial flight tests illustrated only one problem, a slight tendency to dutch roll. Fin area was added to correct this. All other flight adjustments were left alone.

Several items should be kept in mind when installing floats on any scale model. First, is the correct location of the step in relation to the center of gravity. It should be located slightly ahead of the C.G. . . . 2 to 3 percent of fuselage length. Next, the float angle should be 1.5 to 2.5 degrees positive to the thrust line. It is also important to mount the floats firmly so no movement can occur.

CONSTRUCTION

Cut out two keels from medium 1/16 sheet . . . don't forget to cut out the center as shown. Four of each former should then be cut from medium

1/16 sheet. You will notice that formers No. 3 and No. 5 show notches for the inner float struts, but only two of the four formers require it. Glue the formers to the keels, making sure they are in line with each other and at right angles to the keel. Glue the two upper 1/8 square stringers to the No. 1 nose former. When dry, glue the two stringers in place to each former. Always work with both stringers at once, otherwise it will be difficult to keep the float keel straight. Attach the bottom stringers in a similar manner. Sand all the 1/8 square stringers to the correct former contour.

Plank the sides with straight grain 1/32 sheet which has been soaked in water. Titebond works well for sheeting, and masking tape holds the sheeting in place without marking the wood. Trim and sand the edges and then plank the bottom, but do not wet this sheeting. After the bottom has been trimmed, sand the sides and bottom to a smooth finish.

Make the two inner float struts from

medium hard 1/8 x 1/2 and 1/8 x 3/4. Sand to a streamlined shape. Cut a slot in the float inner side sheeting at formers 3 and 5, then position and glue the struts to the floats. Centerline to centerline distance should be 9-1/2 inches. Make sure they are parallel and square to each other. Cut out the aluminum float mounts A and B. Bend as shown, and using 5 minute epoxy, bond them to the inner float struts. After you are sure they are positioned correctly and are firmly in place, the top planking can then be added. Trim and add the nose blocks. Sand to a smooth finish and put on two coats of sanding sealer. Re-sand and cover with tissue. Apply 4 coats of 50/50 dope and thinner to all surfaces.

FIN

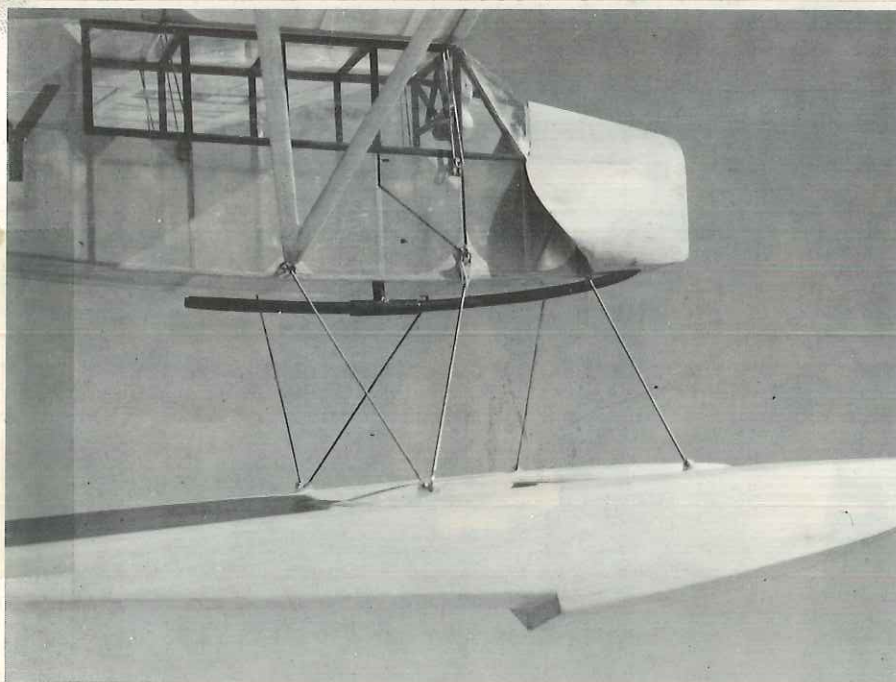
The fin is constructed from light 1/8 sheet with the outline laminated from four strips of light 1/32 x 1/8. A detailed description of how to laminate is in the Puss Moth article M.B. Jan. 1972. Sand the fin to a streamlined shape and cover with tissue.

FLOAT ATTACHMENT

The author's Puss Moth has detachable landing gear, which makes the float attachment easy. The wire struts plug into the fuselage and are held in place with rubber bands. If your plane has a permanent landing gear, install the floats by removing the wheels and attaching the gear to mounts "B." The front wire should then be attached to the front landing gear at the fuselage. The 3/64 wire attaches to the wing strut hook. Adjust the wire lengths to accommodate your landing gear but be sure to keep 1.5 to 2.5 degrees positive float angle. The wires are held to the floats by washers soldered on either side of mounts A and B.

FLYING

The Puss Moth should require no changes in its flight trim, assuming the extra fin is straight. The water rudders should be bent slightly to the right. The author's plane is flown with 16 strands of Pirelli and with very conservative winds (75%) it turns in flights of one minute to 1:15 off the water.



Plug-in landing gear struts makes it a simple task to switch from R.O.G. to R.O.W. Ship lifts off water in about 5 to 7 feet. Floats are 1/32 sheet balsa covered, very light.

The MODEL BUILDER

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