

## CONSTRUCTION

# R.K. HICKS

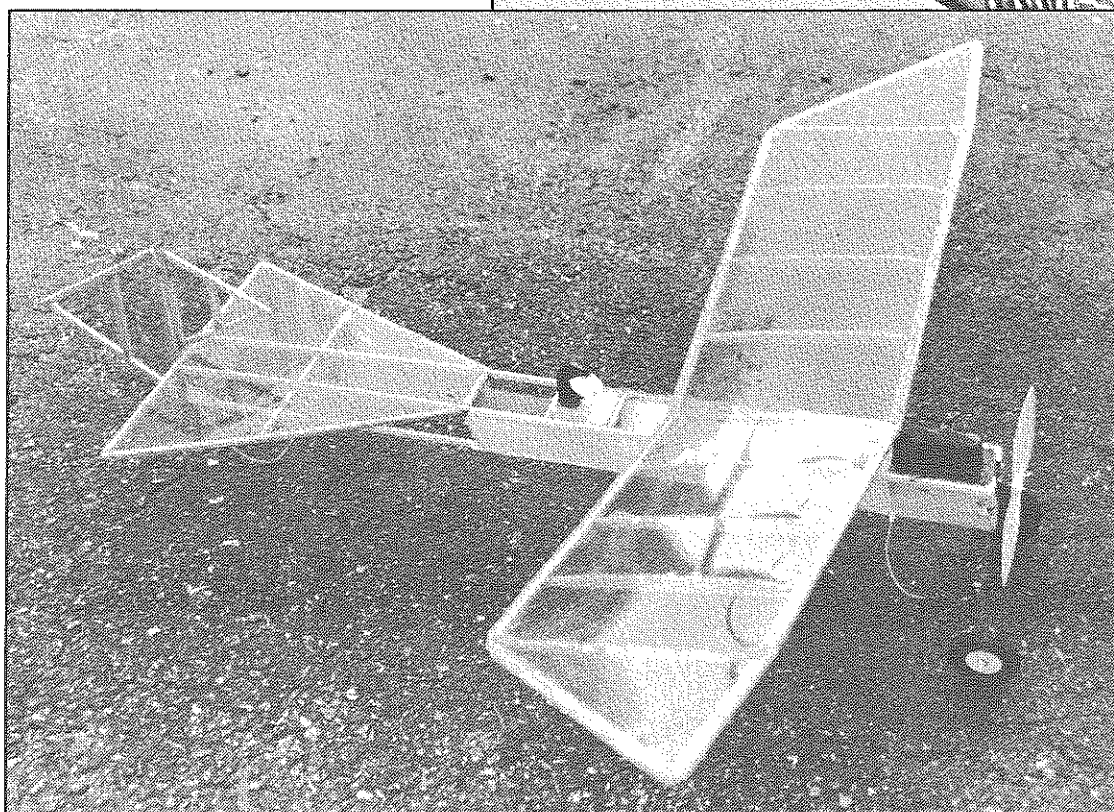
**A cute little electric-powered free flight sportster from one of this hobby's most innovative designers.**

■ BY ROY L. CLOUGH, JR.

I really love wet-engine RC, but every so often I need a change from filling tanks, hooking up glow plugs, applying starters, tweaking needle valves, checking range, twiddling control sticks, and knowing that whatever happens, I'll have a mess to wipe up afterward.

At those moments it's time to bring out R.K. Hicks, snap a couple of alligator clips to its charging stubs, hook the motor lead over a hot landing gear leg and give it a toss. I can relax, lean back against the van, chew on a straw and watch that little sucker wander around the sky until the battery poops out.

R.K. Hicks, just like Pushcart (*Model Builder*, June '93), was another plane I never really meant to build, but am glad I



■ ABOVE: The author's wife, Carol Chamberlin-Clough, demonstrates the compact size of R.K. Hicks. Model is so simple, even novice builders should be able to crank one out in a weekend. ■ LEFT: The most interesting feature about R.K. Hicks, the reason it came about in the first place, is the novel covering material: Reynolds Crystal Food Wrap, applied with Balsaloc. This combination is durable, sticks well to balsa and pulls smooth with just a little heat. The Mosquito II electric motor with mounted propeller, less battery, is available for \$10 postpaid from the author at Upper City Lab, P.O. Box 150, Pittsfield, NH 03263. You can also use other motors with results proportional to their weight and output. (Balsaloc is available from outfits that sell Litespan covering material.)

