

# VEST POCKET • S.E. 5A •

By FRED ANGEL . . . What could be more appealing than a shelf-sized scale model that can be flown for fun with just enough radio control to keep it almost within arm's reach? 'Til somethin' else comes along, try this!

• There's a strange madness in the modeling world, and, it's almost an incurable disease. In their definitive study, "Balsaritis: The Social Disease of the '70's," the eminent psychologists Mixmasters and Jackson have been able to clinically isolate some of the symptoms. In an early chapter, they state. . . "and so in our studies, we have been able to pre-diagnose that 'balsaritis' will occur when the following conditions have been met:

1. The modeler, through parental or marital pressure, must clean his workshop.

2. Since he is a collector by nature, he will save everything of potential value, i.e. pieces of balsa, wire scraps, the top of a used bottle of glue, etc.

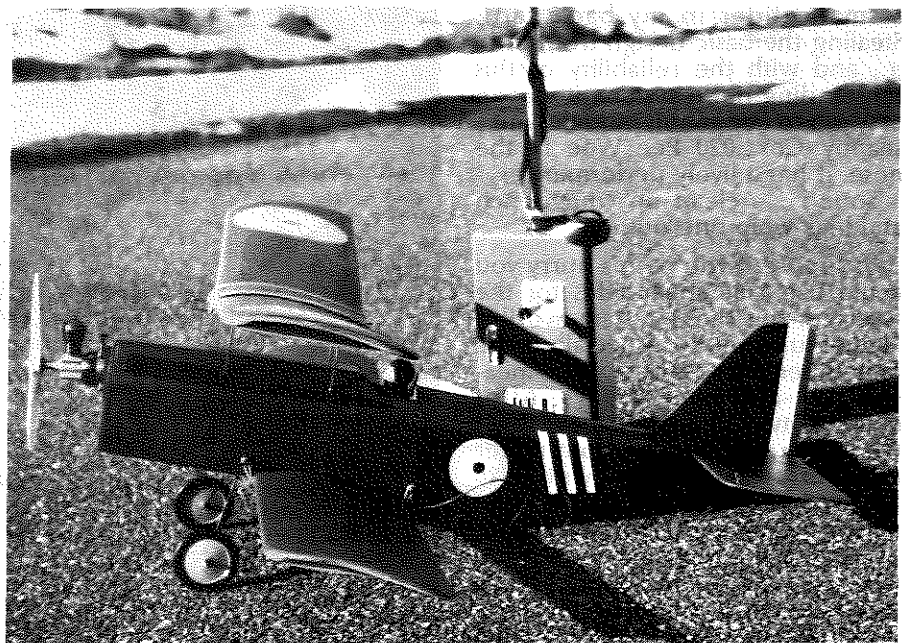
3. As the workbench clears, a reverse action syndrome takes place. One hand puts away a box of pins while the other takes out a dusty, small displacement engine. The Wonder-Blunder Eight-Channel rig goes on the shelf and mysteriously, a lightweight pulse system appears. A 10-ounce tank is cleaned and stored in a drawer, while unconsciously, the other hand reaches for a bottle of Zap.

4. The subject's furrowed brow starts to clear, as an idiotic grin spreads from ear to ear.

5. Conclusion: deep state of 'balsaritis.' Symptoms will diminish when subject starts to doodle on a

piece of drawing paper, and a modeling project is started."

Sounds familiar? Ah, yes, then you've suffered too! Read on, 'cause I've got a sure cure with the little S.E.5a presented here. I suppose a



Small Ace transmitter indicates size of this little semi-scale bug. What's that funny white stuff in background?!

couple of things triggered this model: first, somewhere in the darkening corners of my senile brain I remember the fun I had with Knobby-knee Northrop's "Li'l Beau Bipe," a mini-model that goes back many, many, many moons ago in the days of rubber band escapements, in which the sequence of flying went something like this . . . press the button once for a left-hand turn. Lookey there, it worked! Now watch while I press again for right . . . Press . . . Nothing . . . Press, press . . . PRESSSSSS! Crunch.

The second stimulus was the fun I had with the Baby Ace System, flying a small glider in my back yard. Stealing the basic design from Will, Jr., and with the reliability of this outstanding pulse system, it was an easy job to design this model. With a snappy Cox .020 Pee Wee in the nose, it has a lively performance.

Soooo . . . clean up your bench and let's whip one out.

I suppose if you're in a hurry you could use 1/16 sheet sides for the fuselage, but the 1/8 framework is kind of fun to build, especially if you remember those good old "measure-cut-and-swear" days. After building two identical sides, sheet the inside nose section from motor mount F to bulkhead 5 with 1/16 stock. Mark and groove this lamination to receive the cabane struts. Then glue the motor mount to the nose and the bulkhead 5 with the matching bottom crosspiece. Make sure everything is lined up true. Next, carefully form the cabane struts and epoxy in place as shown. A small scrap piece will sandwich them in the grooves.

Formers 1 through 4, which are identical, are glued in place, as well as the plywood landing gear plate and the bottom nose planking. You can add a larger tank between Formers 1 and 2, but if you do, make sure to fuel-proof the compartment. Now you're all set to pull the tail together and add the rest of the formers and the crosspieces on the bottom. Add stringers, front sheet covering, ply sub fin, and the motor wedge.

The tail surfaces can be made in a matter of minutes. Be sure to glue in the stiffener inserts. Also note the tail incidence wedge which is glued to the fuselage before mounting the stab. Next, glue the fin to the stab and both tail blocks.

Before covering the body with lightweight silkspan, plan your actuator installation. It's a lot easier to get those big clumsy fingers in the open framework than after you've hidden everything. Follow the recommendations of your radio

manufacturer. If using the Ace system, the actuator slides in a channel just forward of station 5, with the batteries up forward, and the receiver in the compartment between Formers 2 and 3. Finish up the body by covering, adding the cockpit floor, the wing hold-down dowels, and soldering the cross bracing to the cabane. Add the balsa exhaust stacks after you've covered and painted. To make, just slip a square chunk of balsa in your electric drill and spin it to shape while holding a piece of sandpaper against it.

Now the wings. First cut each panel to outline and glue on the 1/8 x 5/8 leading edge. Mark the rib positions. Next, spray the topside of a panel with water, and as it curves, "Zap" in the ribs. "Eyeball" each panel to watch for potential warping. Panels are joined at the center ala hand-launch glider method. 'Member how you used to build them? Blocking up for dihedral and sanding in the bevel? Sure, now you remember. After you have the dihedral locked in, cover the top mid-section with 1/16 sheet. When completely dry, take the assembled wing and sand the bottom of the mid-section on a flat piece of sandpaper. Then cover the bottom mid-section with sheeting. Reinforce the tips with the pieces shown on the plans. By keeping the grain running in the same direction as the wing panel, the reinforcements will follow the contour of the ribs. In an effort to

keep weight to a minimum, no covering was used on the wings.

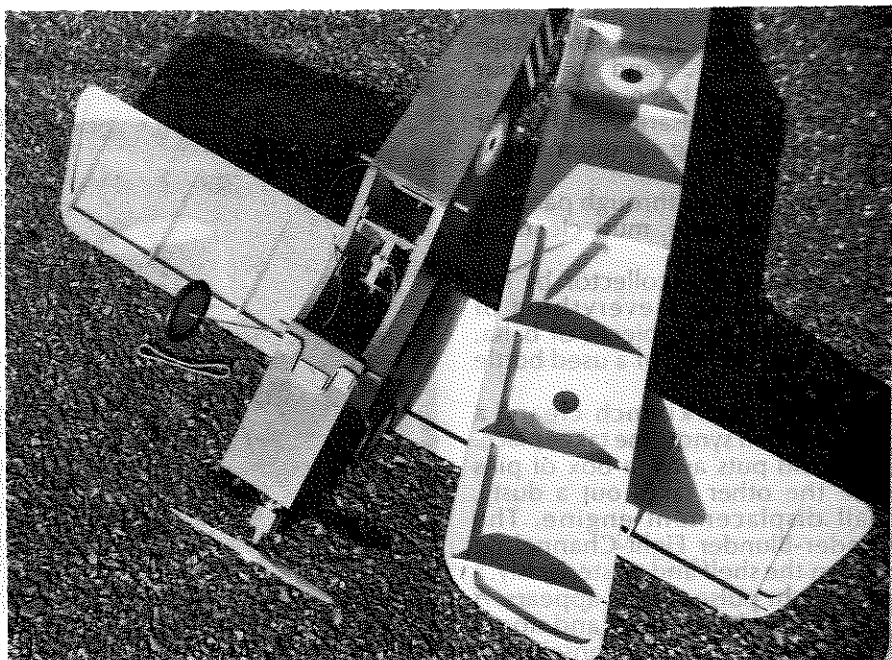
Chances are, performance would improve if the bottom of the wings were covered, but being both lazy and impatient . . . well, you get the idea.

From here on out, you can let your creative drive dictate how much effort you want to put in appearance. I used *Profile Publications* No. 1 for color markings. Three coats of clear dope were followed by a spray coat of olive drab, except for the underside of the wings and stab. A light cream was used on these surfaces. Use sticky Monocote as masking tape. It is a lot easier to cut out circles with scissors than to curve stubborn tape around small circles.

Now for flying. There's a big black arrow on the plans that shows where to balance the model. Choose any other position and you'll have a big black boo-boo.

The launching technique is easy. Just grab the little fighter on the natural holding spot, at the mid-section of the bottom wing, and send it on its way with a straight toss, nose down slightly. Do your first launches over tall grass until you've mastered the technique.

You should be in good shape right about now. Your "Balsaritis" is all cured, right? Wait a minute. Let's see what Mixmasters and Jackson has to say about "Flyingitis" . . .



Bottom wing is hatch cover for radio installation. Note pulse actuator. Wing construction is a modified Jedelsky.