

No, the *Basic Low-wing Trainer* is not a scale model of anything, it just looks that way! Add a pilot and windshield . . . and *voila!*

THE Basic Low-wing Trainer

By RANDY WRISLEY . . . The *Basic Low-wing Trainer*, or simply *B.L.T.* for short, is a fun little .049 gas or 035 electric powered model with a very descriptive name. It builds quickly, flies easily, and is plenty cute!

• The *Basic Low-wing Trainer* is a simple-to-build, simple-to-fly sport model. It has an interesting history. When the belt reduction unit came out for the Astro 020 electric flight system, I built the *B.L.T.* for it. On a good day, the model would stagger around the field, gaining perhaps 30 feet of altitude. Disgusted, I gave the model to a friend.

When Astro Flight came out with the 035 electric system, I borrowed the now dusty and neglected model back and installed the new system. It didn't even fly as well as I remembered! After a hard landing and some fuselage damage, I threw what was left of the *B.L.T.* in a corner of the shop.

When I finally got around to removing the electronics, by chance I checked the motor batteries. It was a six-cell pack alright, four cells connected to the motor and two connected to each other!

As the Astro 035 was now installed in my *Thush Mite R/C Old Timer* (MB plan No. 584-O.T.), I rebuilt the *B.L.T.* for gas. I still feel that if you built it lightly, used an 035 electric with belt reduction, and six or seven cells hooked up properly, *B.L.T.* would make a great electric!

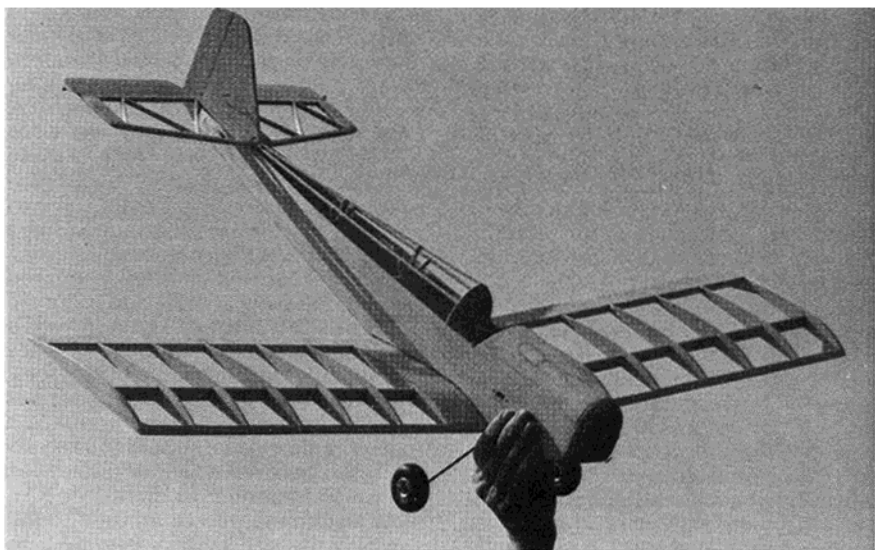
CONSTRUCTION FUSELAGE

Begin by cutting two identical fuselage sides from medium 3/32 balsa. Cut the formers from balsa or ply as indicated. Install the doubler parts, using the former as a spacer.

Bend the landing gear from 3/32 music wire and lace it to Former 2 with dacron control line. Epoxy the firewall in place. While the glue sets, align the sides. Once you're satisfied, use instant glue to affix Former 5.

Glue the 1/8 square cockpit stiffener in, and pull the tail together. Install the remaining formers: 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7.

Don't let the weird top stringers scare



All framed up and ready for covering. The *B.L.T.* is lightweight, simple, and small . . . just perfect for schoolyard flying. Constant chord wing is very easy to build.

you. Here's how they're done: run a 3/32 square spruce strip from Former 4 to 7. With the stringer just sitting there, cut a notch in a piece of 1/8 x 1/4 balsa. Place the notched stick on Former 5, raising it up until it slips into position. Now you can glue this stick to the former. Repeat the procedure on Former 4, then do the rest of the stringers. It is much easier if you don't permanently attach any of the stringers until all the 1/8 x 1/4 pieces are installed.

Cement the 3/8 balsa filler block into place as shown, then plank the fuselage bottom with 3/32 balsa applied cross-grain.

Now is a good time to mount your engine: while you still have access. I have shown the engine inverted . . .

don't be afraid of it! With the Cox stunt tank now being used on Cox's long tank .049s, you simply turn the model upside down for starting. If you want, you could even side mount the engine or mount it upright.

Once you have the motor where you want it, plank the top of the fuselage with soft 3/32 balsa. The cowl is shaped from a 3/8 piece of balsa. Be careful not to make the opening too large. Remember, you have to have the same size hole to let the air out! Sand the completed fuselage smooth, and set it aside until we get the rest of the model built.

WING CONSTRUCTION

Using a template, cut out 19 wing ribs. Slice 1/16 of an inch from the top of seven of them for use in the center section.

