

# THE CHALLENGER

BY MARY LOUISE THOMAS

Out in Little Rock the fair sex is mopping up contests. Here's the ship that is doing it.

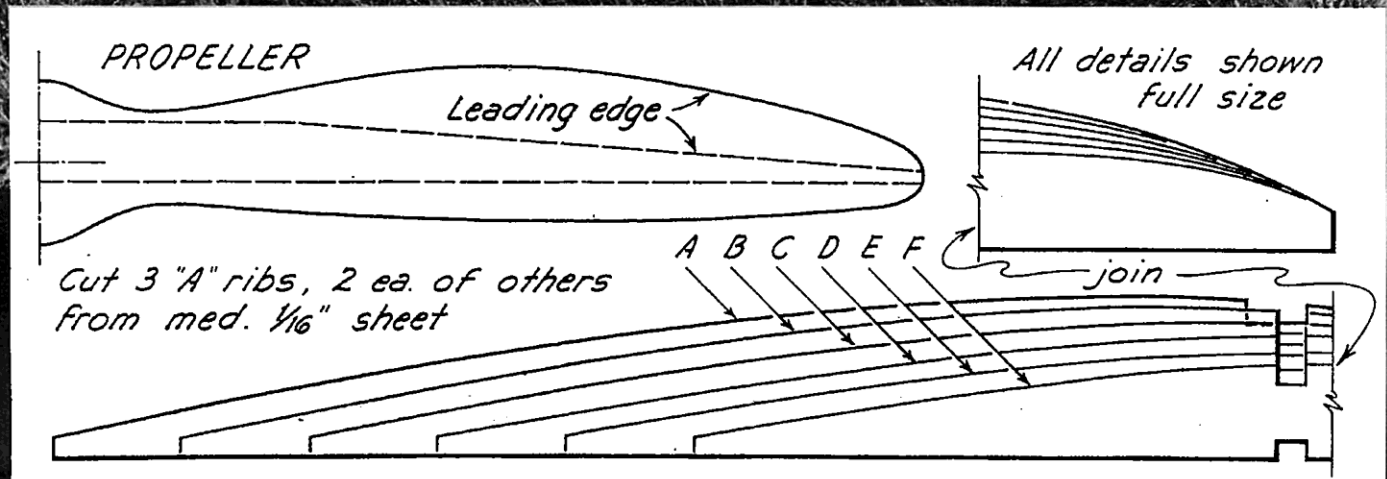
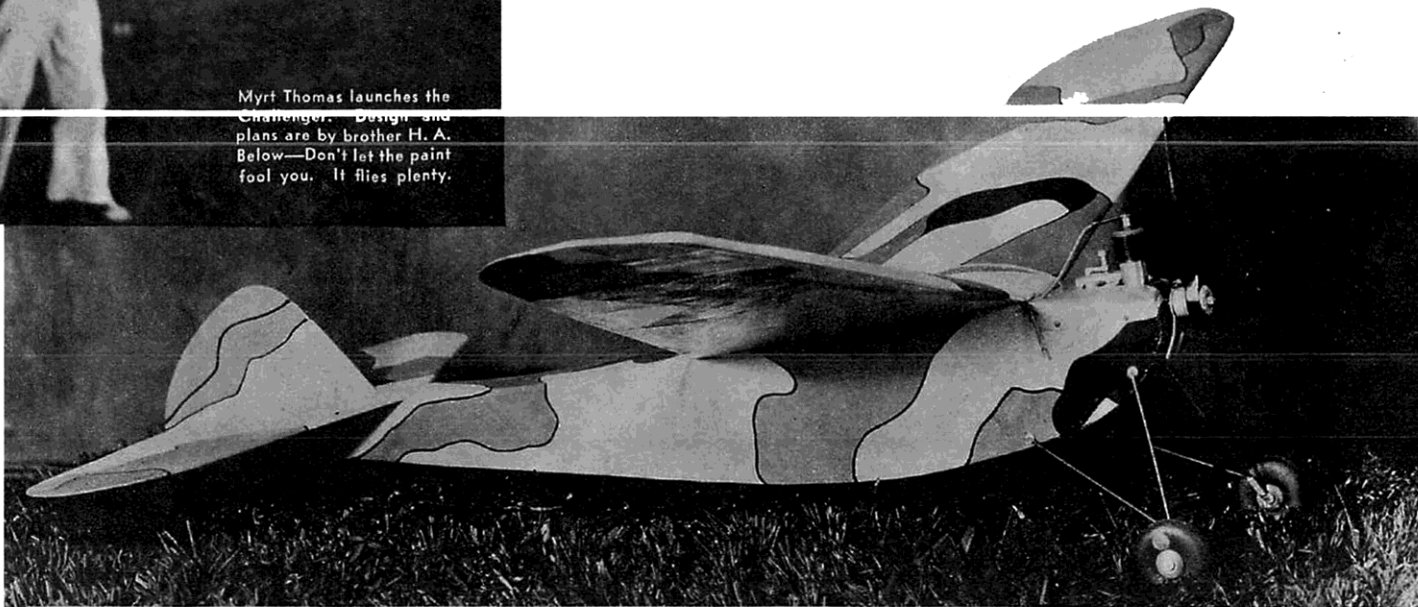


Myrt Thomas launches the Challenger. Design and plans are by brother H. A. Below—Don't let the paint fool you. It flies plenty.

**H**AVING won a Class B motor, I was in the market for a plane to fit it. So I had friend brother, H. A. Thomas, design me a simple, sturdy model, and I built it. Entering it in a contest, I was fortunate enough to win first place in the B Class—winning another motor. The ship also took a first in B in our annual Exchange Club meet here in Little Rock, Arkansas.

With its sharply tapered wing, large stabilizer and camouflage paint job, this model has a radical appearance, but has proved to be a dependable flier. It has a simplified airfoil which produces good results. The landing gear and motor mount are built to stand up under everyday flying—two things that frequently give trouble in small gas models.

There is no need in going into a detailed explanation of construction. The model is quite conventional in this respect and the builder should experience no difficulty with it. Make a cardboard duplicate of the scale to facilitate enlarging the plans. The grid shown on the tail and wing tip will make them easy to enlarge. Hard balsa should be used for all longerons, spars, leading and trailing edges, and softer balsa can be used for ribs, cross members, et cetera. Notice that the plywood pieces in the nose are reinforced below with pieces of  $\frac{1}{8}$ " sheet balsa on the inner sides. Where the landing gear passes through the plywood, small plywood pieces should also be cemented on the inside as reinforcement. All ribs are capstripped above and below with  $\frac{1}{32} \times \frac{1}{8}$ " strips. The wing center section is completely covered with  $\frac{1}{32}$ " sheet balsa. (Turn to page 54)



The camouflage paint job is easy to duplicate, and what could be more striking. Ivory is the background color with grayed-orange, grayed-green, and blue-black being splashed in at random. And  $\frac{1}{8}$ " black lines separate the color patterns.

Test-glide the model, moving the battery if necessary to produce a smooth glide. First flights should be made under low power until the model is fully adjusted. The original model climbs in fast, left spirals and glides in larger spirals to the right.