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PEANUT
SCALE
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HALBERSTADT DII

By JOHN WALKER . . . A very rare fighter plane from World War I. Probably rare because it wasn't too good as a fighter . . . but then, Peanuts are really lovers . . . so who cares if it couldn't fight, as long as it could fly!?

• While looking through FIGHTER (Bryan Cooper and John Batchelor, Ballantine Books, 201 East 50th St., New York, NY 10022), the Halberstadt DII caught our eye. A bit of research found that it was a sturdy airplane, but at 90 mph was a bit too slow for the Allied aircraft of the mid-1916's.

The plane had a span of 28.9 ft. and a length of 23.9 ft. It was powered by a 120 hp Mercedes engine and mounted one or two Spandaus.

BUILDING THE MODEL

Construction is typically "Peanut." Mount the plans on a flat building board. Protect it with clear plastic sheet. We usually use the backing sheet from Monokote . . . "Waste not, want not."

Start by constructing identical fuselage sides from 1/16 sq. balsa. Hot Stuff or a similar adhesive will greatly speed construction. Assemble the finished sides by starting at the nose. Make sure the work is square. As mentioned in a previous Peanut article, we used aluminum blocks machined square at the local high school machine shop.

Add the formers and stringers. Strengthen the area in the tail where the dowel holding the rubber will be mounted. One advantage of using a cyanoacrylate adhesive is that the excess adhesive adds very little weight, and is absorbed into the wood where it greatly improves the strength of the fuselage.

Lightly sand the fuselage before covering. Bond paper is shown on the plan for the area around the cockpit. However, 1/64 sheet balsa may be substituted.

Construct the landing gear legs and cement them into place. Hard balsa or bass wood should be used. Don't forget to streamline the landing gear legs before assembly. Williams Bros. vintage

wheels were used.

Assemble the tail surfaces. BUILD IN LIGHTNESS! Remove square corners by careful sanding.

Last, but not least, we come to the wings. Use care so they will be warp-free.

Ribs and tips are cut from sheet. You may form the tips from 1/64 bass wood shaped over a cardboard pattern, if you want to take the time.

Cover the model using your favorite method. Shrink the tissue with water or alcohol. When thoroughly dry, apply two coats of thinned, plasticized, nitrate dope.

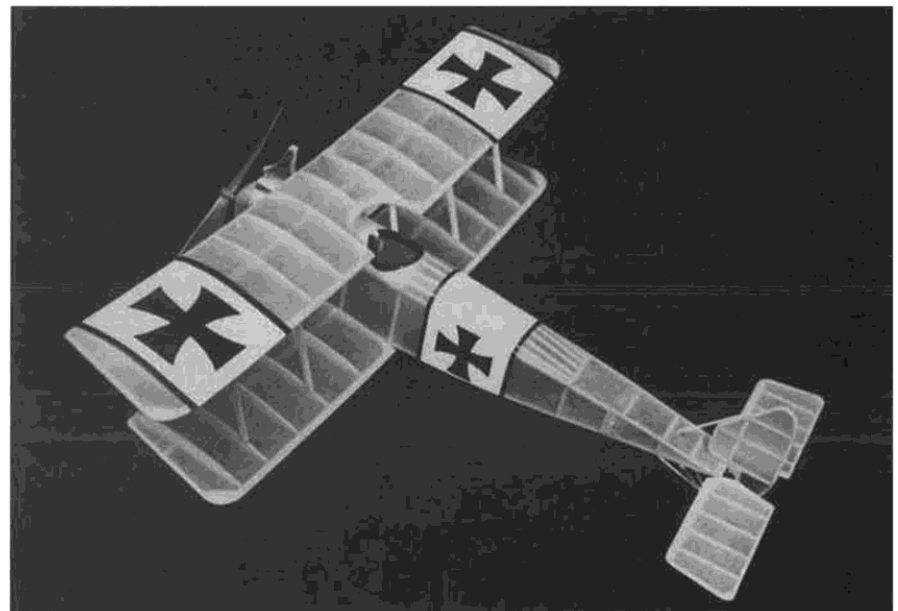
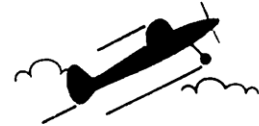
The Halberstadt flew under different flags. They were standard in the Turkish Air Force for years. See our SPAD XIII (Model Builder 3-76) for how to make up the Turkish insignia. The Maltese Crosses were painted on the model.

Assemble the wings and tail surfaces to the fuselage. Use care when aligning and rigging the airframe. It is the secret to good flight.

Two wings produce a good bit of lift. We carved the propeller from bass wood. It is the easiest way to get weight at the nose.

Test glide over tall grass. Add weight (clay or bits of solder) until you get a suitable glide. We used a loop of 1/8 rubber for power. You may need 3/16 rubber if you didn't build in the lightness previously mentioned.

Our next step is to double the plan size, beef it up a bit, add an .02 and an Ace Baby Pulse System, and fly it in our back yard. More on that later! •



Although tail surfaces are small, the tail moment is extremely long. Note that rear rubber peg is further forward than on plans. This is probably better for proper balancing with less weight.