

# RACEK R-7

By LUBOMIR KOUTNY. . . This Czechoslovakian import is a Peanut Scale replica of an aerobatic aircraft that didn't get beyond the first prototype. As a model, it is a great flyer; 70-second flights indoors are possible.

• The winners of the First World Aerobatic Championships all flew ZLIN-26 trainers; these planes were merely modified versions of the normal flying school trainers only.

A new, special aerobatic plane, the Racek R-7, designed by Z. Rublic made its official roll-out on March 7, 1964. The experimental workshop of Brno-Melanky had made a very fine ship; Rublic used all-wood construction and the same airfoil he used on his famous M-1D Sokol, powered by an in-line Walter Minor 6-III 160 hp engine, and a constant-speed V500s propeller.

The new plane was a better trainer in most respects from the Zlin, but there was no interest shown, and the Racek never got beyond the first models.

## BUILDING THE RACEK

Our system of building the peanut version of the Racek is very much like the full-scale plane, and isn't very complicated.

## WING

We use light, but strong balsa and very light glue; I use Czech Kanagom glue thinned one to one. The ribs are cut from 1/32 balsa, using the aluminum pattern as shown on the plan.

## RUDDER AND ELEVATOR

Both the rudder and elevator are built on the plan.

## FUSELAGE

Both sides of the fuselage are built on the plan as a basic box. Glue the half-formers in place, then glue sheeting over them to form cowl and area behind canopy. Make an instrument panel and glue to former 3, and make pilot figure from styrofoam or soft balsa and glue in place in cockpit. Canopy is molded from .15mm celluloid and glued over cockpit.

## PROP

Make the propeller from hard balsa, 1.5mm thick. Blades are formed on a hot,

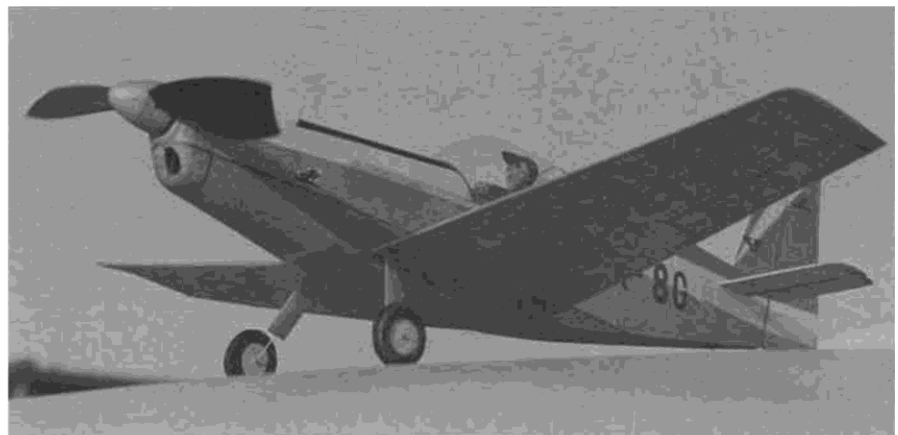
flat iron. The blade joiners are made from 1.5mm bamboo and glued to the spinner. Or, to simplify the system, a plastic prop can be used.

## MOTOR HOOK

Use .5mm steel wire (music wire) for the motor hook, formed on the plan pattern. It is wise to use a bit of plastic tubing over the hook to save your rubber from damage.

## UNDERCARRIAGE

Make landing gear from very light balsa



The R-7, in its red, white, and blue trim is a good flyer when built to the plan's specifications; it is a replica of an aerobatic plane designed for competition but never put into full production.