

making a box $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long to suit width of float tongue, halving it lengthwise and mitre joint which is glued and assembled over a piece of squared wood, having lines squared across two adjacent faces. (See sketch on the plan.) When dry, reinforce boxes with tissue or silk, doped on, and build into fuselage. Then trim boxes off to line of fuselage. Top sheeting is of $\frac{1}{32}$ medium balsa and a Spitfire type clear canopy is fitted. Rubbing the canopy over sandpaper held on the fuselage facilitates fitting. Dope fuselage top black in the area under canopy. A soft balsa block nose is added, covering the removable cowl with silk and doping heavily before hollowing out to suit the engine. Addition of a quantity of Balsa cement to the dope provides a suitable filler, which enables the greater part of the cowl to be cut away.

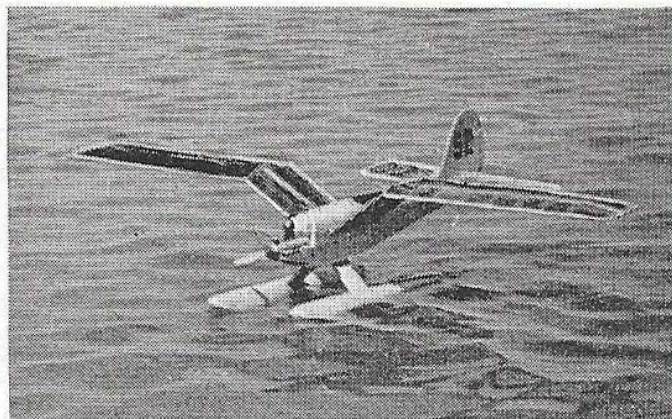
The fin is next, being cut to fit onto the rear of F7 and be sandwiched by the rear fuselage sides. Fit soft block to sides of fin at end of fuselage into which can be cemented lead balancing weights when trimming. Cover fuselage with lightweight tissue doped on, and tissue the underside of fuselage.

Cut all wing ribs to shape shown, cutting to length when fitted. Build inboard and outer wing panels over plan (note differing length of top and bottom spars). Sand ribs to fair in with trailing edge.

Assemble each wing over the plan by cementing dihedral brace between top and bottom spars. Check alignment by squaring up line of L.E. from plan below.

The tailplane is a straightforward flat plate type, tissue covered on both sides.

Mark out float formers and cut to dotted line forming also, the upper and lower keel slots. Pin down the upper keel along its line on the plan and fit the formers, pinning through the waste, and ensuring that F11 is vertical. Cement in the lower keel and sheet the bottom of floats with $\frac{1}{32}$ in. medium balsa. Remove from building board and sand formers to finished shape. Fit the $\frac{1}{16}$ in. ply float tongues, cementing around F11 and checking alignment with a scrap piece of parallel sided balsa as shown on front view of plan—pinned to upper keel. Floats are sheeted using $\frac{1}{32}$ in. medium balsa slotted, to fit tongue. Sheeting is made easier by wetting the sheet and running through fingers to give suitable curvature. P.V.A. type glues are really useful here, giving a generous glue line along edge of bottom sheeting to fix sides. Add soft block to nose and tail of floats. Tissue cover the sheeted part of the floats lapping well around bottom-



Ready for action as in heading photo or at rest as above, "Skip" bears the lines of a pre-war fighter

side junction. Block ends are best given a couple of coats of dope "stiffened" with balsa cement.

Wing roots are faired into the body by fitting 1 m.m. ply ribs over tongue and glueing in when wings are offered up. Pack out with hard balsa and L.E. and T.E. and cover top and bottom with $\frac{1}{32}$ in. balsa.

Cover model with lightweight tissue giving two or three coats of 50/50 dope thinners. The original had a spray coat of colour added. Finish off with fuel proofer all over, including wing end undercarriage tongues, which gives them the necessary tightness when fitted into their boxes.

Ballast the model as necessary to position C.G. as shown. Test glide over grass to get tailplane trim correct, then cement-in packings. The original as built had slight engine offset to starboard and flew on power without further adjustment. Under "Bambi" power "Skip" should pull away into a steady left-hand climbing turn. Landings back on to water are most exciting as, having a fair gliding speed they are characterised by a skip up into the air after the initial touch down and then a stable settling back on to water.

"Pee Wee" performance needs a more cautious approach to powered flight and enables "Skip" to R.O.W. easily under favourable conditions, offering a really sparkling free flight performance—just the thing to while away those pleasant holiday hours by the seaside this summer.