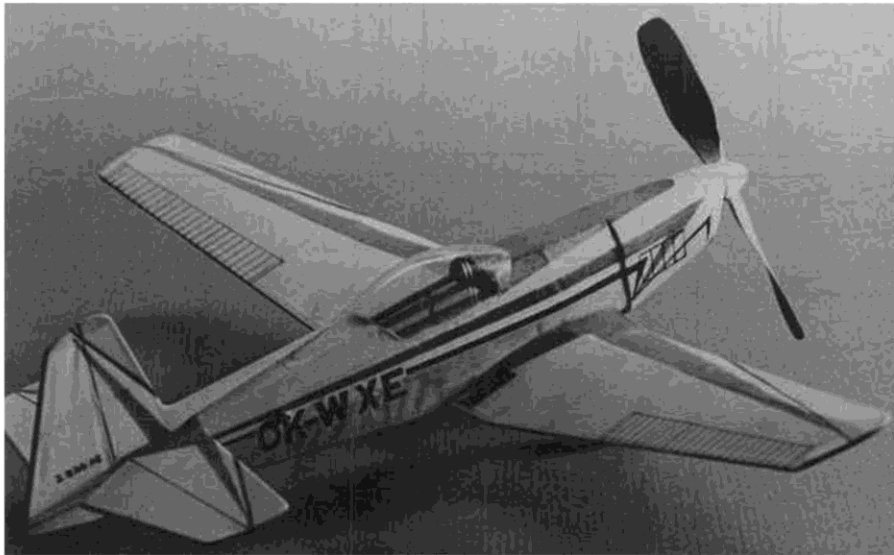




ZLIN 526 AS AKROBAT

By STEPHEN HALES . . . This month's Peanut takes us back 14 years to 1969 and the World Aerobatic Championships where the Akrobat flew as the Czechoslovakian contender.



• The Zlin 526 AS was built specially for the Czechoslovakian aerobatic team. It was used to compete in the World Aerobatic Championships, and as of 1969, the Zlin was considered the top aerobatic airplane in the world. There were five planes made; the factory numbers went from OK-WXA 1026 through OK-WXE 1030. They all had the same trim colors, white with red and black, but the base colors were all different. OK-WXE had yellow as its base color; this is the plane I chose to model.
BUILDING THE MODEL

Carefully select the wood to be used. You won't need any wood that is over six pounds per cubic foot density. My model weighed eight grams without rubber.

FUSELAGE

First, pin down the plan, then cover it with waxed paper. Build one side over the cross-hatched areas. Use stock of equal firmness for the longerons. When this side is dry, cover it with plastic wrap, then build the second side directly over the first. Separate the two sides carefully when dry.

Glue the tailposts together and use the top view for finding the cross-brace lengths. Add the bulkheads and stringers, then sheet the nose from A to B with 1/64 or 1/32 sheet balsa. Carve the nose piece to shape from a block of 5/16 medium hard balsa. Fill in the bottom of the fuselage from G to the tailpost with light 1/16 sheet.

TAIL SURFACES

Build the fin and stab out of 1/20 square balsa. If you don't have 1/20 sq.,

use very light 1/32 sq.

WING

Use medium hard balsa for the leading edge. Lay out the leading edge, trailing edge, and the wing tips, then install the ribs. Glue in the 1/16 sheet saddles for the landing gear. Next, cut the dihedral breaks, and prop up the wing tips 7/8 of an inch. Then install the corner braces, and main spars.

Bend the landing gear wire to shape using 1/32 wire. Install the landing gear wire in the saddles, and glue securely. Carve the wheels out of balsa, and insert 1/32 aluminum tube bearings. The tail wheel is a 1/16 sheet disk glued to a straight pin.

For covering material use good, Japanese tissue from Peck-Polymers or Sig to cover your model. My tissue was put on with white glue, then shrunk with rubbing alcohol.

FINISHING

On my model, I sprayed a very thin coat of white paint on the entire airplane. The trim and yellow base colors were done with ballpoint and felt pens using a straightedge. The registration numbers were cut out of black tissue and doped on. The word "Akrobat" and the "Z 526 AS" were done freehand with a fine felt-tipped pen.

FINAL ASSEMBLY

Install a 1/16 aluminum tube, or a Peck-Polymers thrust button, in the nose block. Be sure to include the two degrees of downthrust. Use a 3-1/2-inch prop; mine is from a North Pacific Skeeter. The spinner is carved from balsa, fitted to the prop, and painted white. Drill the 3/32 hole for the rear rubber peg. Use a 3/32 aluminum tube or a wooden dowel for the peg. Carve a plug for the canopy, and stretch form or vacuum form the canopy out of .007 butyrate sheet. Install the main, and tail wheels.

FLYING

First, balance the model at 1/3 the wing cord. Install a loop of 1/16 rubber 12 inches long; put about 100 turns in the prop, and test fly for proper flight trim. Increase the number of turns a little at a time until you reach a max of eight or nine-hundred turns.

I hope you have as much fun with your Zlin as I have. Good flying. •



The Zlin 526 AS Akrobat Peanut model pictured here is yellow with red and black trim. The author's method of obtaining the yellow base color is to give the model a light coat of white paint followed by a coat of yellow felt pen ink.