

ZIPPY

Claude Powell handed out the *Zippy* plans at the Petersburg deluge. I have cleaned them up and added the parts that are not shown. There are however several problems with this post war Comet dimer:

- 1. The landing gear mount is unclear. The 1/16th sq cross brace implies there is no wire support. The wheels are most likely supposed to be held on by a pin. A much better system is to use the .025 music wire shown and add an upright to the fuselage to support it. A balsa or paper fairing can be added to look like the original.
- 2. The wing and stab are set at zero incidence and decalage. Set F-4 at 3 degrees to cure this. Modify the fuselage uprights to suit. Adding staple wire pegs for a rubber band hold down beats gluing the wing on.
- 3. Formers F-1 and F-8 and a relatively high thrust line doesn't make thrust adjustment easy. Modified as shown with a 1/64th ply facing, it is stronger with more room for the rubber hook and thrust adjustments.
- 4. The cross pieces shown on the isometrics at the upper longerons interfere with the rubber motor. Eliminate them and add splices on the upright at their locations.
- 5. The rear motor peg at F-7 is too far aft and the fuselage is too constricted in this area. Move it forward to F-5.
- 6. The wing spar should be moved to the top of the rib to increase the bending stiffness.
- 7. Use an S-hook, clutch, and 4" prop with a peck thrust button. A NorthPacific "skeeter" prop would be ideal with a 15" loop of 1/16th rubber. Since I didn't have one, I used a 4" kaysun.
- 8. Use foam wheels not the 5/8" hard wood shown.

My version came out to be 8 grams, so I used a 15" loop of 3/32 Tan II. It flies fast- very "zippy". The first flights exhibited a slight dutch-roll. That slim rear fuselage I guess. I added the landing gear fairings hoping the extra area low would reduce the dihedral effect. Well a little more incidence in the wing slowed things down. I would increase the stab area by about 10% if I were to build it again. The plans show parts to build the original design. This page show the parts I modified per my comments above.

