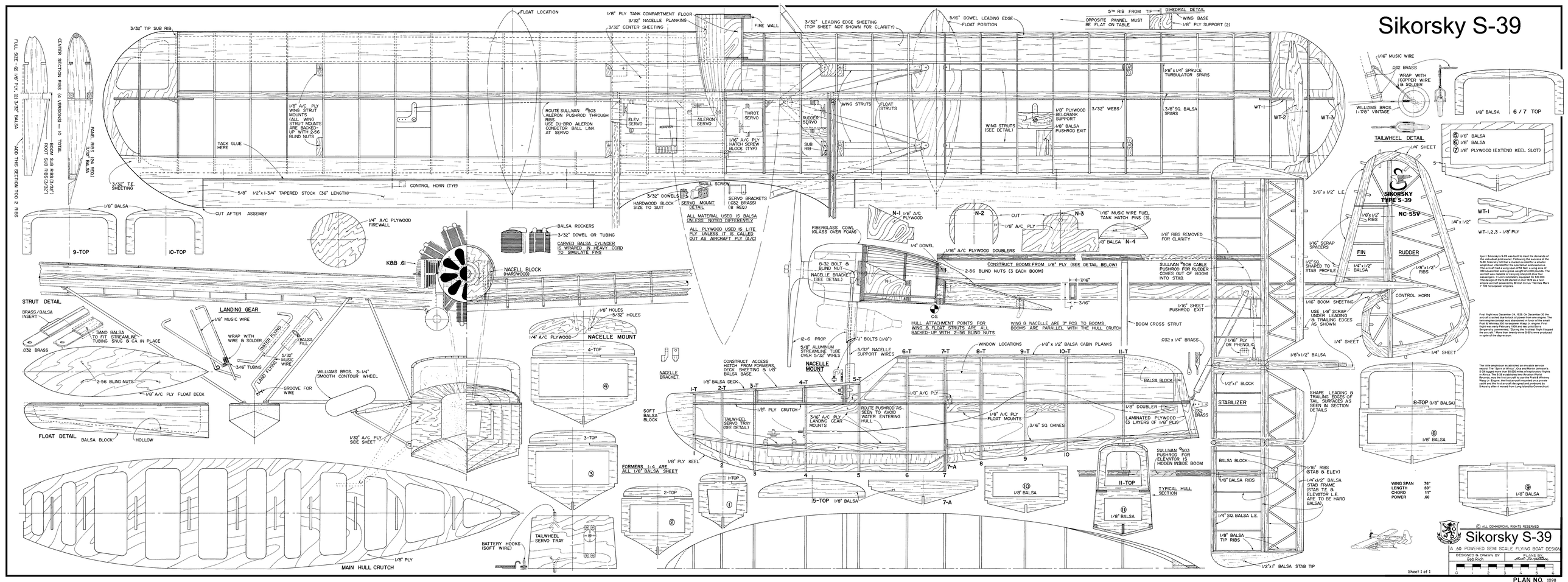
Sikorsky S-39



Sikorsky's S-39 was built to meet the demands of the individual entrepreneur. Following the success of the S-38, Sikorsky felt that a market existed for a smaller amphibian intended for the sportsman and executive. The S-39 was powered by a 60 hp Curtiss OX-5 engine. The 39 square feet of gross weight of 4,000 pounds. The aircraft was capable of carrying one pilot plus four passengers. Production ended in 1931 after 18 S-39s were built. The design of the S-39 ended in mid-1929 as a two-engine aircraft powered by British Cirrus "Hermes Mark I" 160 horsepower engines.

First flight was December 24, 1928. On December 30 the aircraft crashed due to lack of power from one engine. The aircraft was subsequently rebuilt with 200 hp Wasp Jr. Pratt & Whitney 300 horsepower Wasp Jr. engine. Final flight was early February 1930 and test pilot Boris Sergievsky commented, "During the first test flight I looped the aircraft." More than twenty-three S-39's were produced in spite of the depression.

The little amphibian established an enviable service record. The "Spirit of Africa", Clos and Martin Johnson's S-39 was responsible for many pioneering survey flights in Africa. The S-39 established two Aviation World Records, was the first aircraft to use the Pratt & Whitney Wasp Jr. Engine, the first aircraft mounted on a private yacht and the first aircraft designed and produced by Sikorsky after it moved from Long Island to Connecticut.

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Sikorsky S-39

A .60 POWERED SEMI SCALE FLYING BOAT DESIGN

DESIGNED & DRAWN BY: Bob Birch

PLANS BY: Bob Birch

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