

THE RENARD

A lesson in how to be boxy with character! Of all the Peanuts that Walt turned out, the almost caricature-like Renard remains one of our alltime favorites. Reprinted from the September/ October 1974 Model Builder.

■ BY WALT MOONEY

A few days ago a copy of L'ALBUM du fanatique de L'Aviation, No. 55 came in the mail. This translates, I guess, as "The Aviation Fanatic's magazine." That title might even be right. In any case, inside was a nice threeview of the Renard R-17-a Peanut builder's delight. The scale horizontal tail is very small and was enlarged on the model for better flight characteristics, but the rest of the airplane looks like model construction.

The plans presented here are drawn with as scale a structure as possible. Because this results in more structure than is really needed for a Peanut, and because it makes the model heavier than necessary as well as somewhat complicated looking for the beginner, we're going to tell





Don't worry about the lack of dihedral, the Renard flies well without it. Walt designed it with scale rib spacing and a very nearly scale structure, but explains how you can safely eliminate some of it to make a lighter and therefore longer flying model.

you how to simplify and lighten it.

First, there are many diagonals in the fuselage structure. These may all be omitted. The tissue covering of a Peanut model is more than adequate to take the shear loads that the diagonals took in the fullsize airplane.

Second, scale rib spacing is shown in the wings. Starting with the two center ribs, two out of every three ribs may be omitted in the wing. This will leave a rib spacing which is plenty strong and still looks OK on a Peanut.

Third, the same approach can be used for the tail as for the wings. And if you want to save even more weight, pick some light balsa.

Fourth, the dummy engine can only be simulated with something simple, like lengths of soda straw painted black, or something similar.

None of the above changes will affect the looks of the model in flight significantly, but of course, in a scale contest, one built with all the detail will out-point a simplified one in the scale judging. The simplified one will fly better or at least will fly longer, because it will be lighter.

The Hungerford wheels shown are delightful, but since the wires on the fullsize aircraft were fabric covered, simple balsa or hardwood solid wheels can certainly be used.

The color scheme on the original appears to have been overall silver with black trim and registration numbers. The trim consisted of a black stripe along each

Have fun flying your Renard R-17! MB



