

36" WING SPAN - RUBBER POWERED TWIN

FLYING MODELS

B 25-C MITCHELL

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TRACING BY JOE DEMARCO

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PHOTOGRAPHY MIKE MIDKIFF

B-25 Mitchell

By Mike Midkiff

This rubber powered scale version of the Doolittle raider is a fine flying twin.

The Doolittle Raid will remain in the minds of most older Americans as the first step in the allies taking the offense in the Pacific during World War II. The B-25 Mitchell was selected to strike at the Japanese homeland because of its range, striking power, ease of handling, and short take-off run. The Mitchell, in her many variations, flew in every theatre of the war and in tribute to her simple, efficient ruggedness, could be literally armed to the teeth and deliver as much destructive fire power as a naval destroyer. The ultimate occurred with the G&H Model, which was fitted with a 75 MM cannon mounted to fire straight ahead. Japanese shipping was an especially good target; a direct hit could sink most of the coastal vessels used between the islands.

Culmination of B-25 production came with the "J" Model. A total of 4,390 B-25J's were produced from January 1944 thru the end of the war making this variation the most numerous model of the Mitchell series.

War weary B-25's soldiered on thru the rest

of the war and were found on the inventory of many other allied nations in to the post war era. A few spent their last days as radar bombing trainers and some exist to this day as company aircraft, fire bombers and crop dusters.

This model of the Mitchell is surprisingly close to scale in terms of areas and outline. The only deviation that one can "eyeball" is the dihedral angle, but even then it has that characteristic wing "droop" in the outboard panels. The model's all up flying weight, less the landing gear, is approximately 4.5 ozs., which, across a 36" span, is not too bad a wing loading. My model depicts an average B-C version in three tone color.

The olive drab over medium green upper surface color scheme has not been documented, but I still like the effect of this two-tone green above the grey underside. Many other variations of color schemes exist, even one replete in pink, to satisfy one's aesthetic inclinations.

My intent with this model was to produce

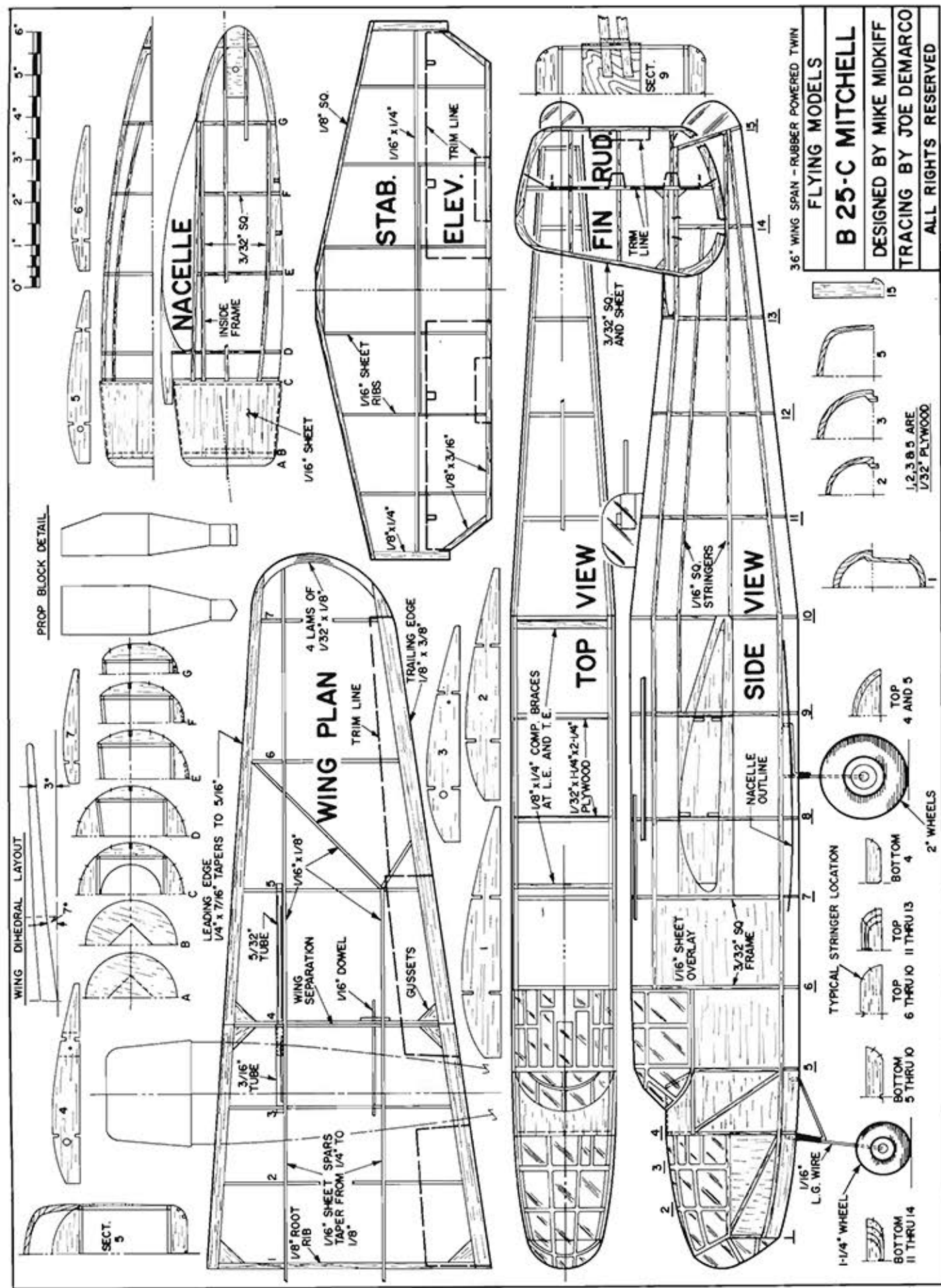
a practical flying twin-engine rubber powered model aircraft which could be flown without 2 or 3 mechanics required to hold this or that while winding or launching.

Fuselage

Frame up the fuselage by building two sides directly over the plans, these frames are built from hard, stringy $\frac{3}{32}$ sq. balsa. Separate these after they are dry and add the $\frac{3}{32}$ cross pieces. Crack the longerons at station #10 to give the angular break as seen in the top view. Add the upper and lower $\frac{1}{16}$ sheet balsa formers from station #5 back; also, add the two $\frac{1}{32}$ plywood wing spar formers. It is important that these two formers match the spar stubs which protrude from the wing roots. Add the $\frac{1}{16}$ wing base sheeting between station #7 and #10. Assemble the $\frac{1}{32}$ plywood former at station #1. Remember to slant the top portion toward the front. Now glue in the plywood formers at 2, 3 and 5. Locate and assemble the $\frac{1}{16} \times \frac{1}{8}$ balsa stringers to the top and bottom formers and the $\frac{1}{16}$ sq. stringers over the side framework back to former #15. Use $\frac{1}{16}$ sq. spruce stringers in the two "green house" area where the window framing is located; these run from former #1 to #4. These spruce stringers up front will provide needed strength in this relatively fragile area. Plank in the bottom front from station #5 forward with soft $\frac{3}{32}$ sheet balsa between the stringers. Wrap the cowl section between stations #4 and #5 with $\frac{1}{16}$ sheet, add the landing gear tubes in the nose sheeted area and the side $\frac{1}{16}$ balsa sheeting over the framework from station #4 forward. This completes the basic fuselage structure.

Wings

The wings are built in the conventional manner except the outboard panels at the dihedral break are removable. This provides for some knockoff and ease of transportation. Pin down the leading and trailing edges and the laminated wing tips. The root rib #1 is made from $\frac{1}{8}$ sheet, the two #4 ribs at the



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