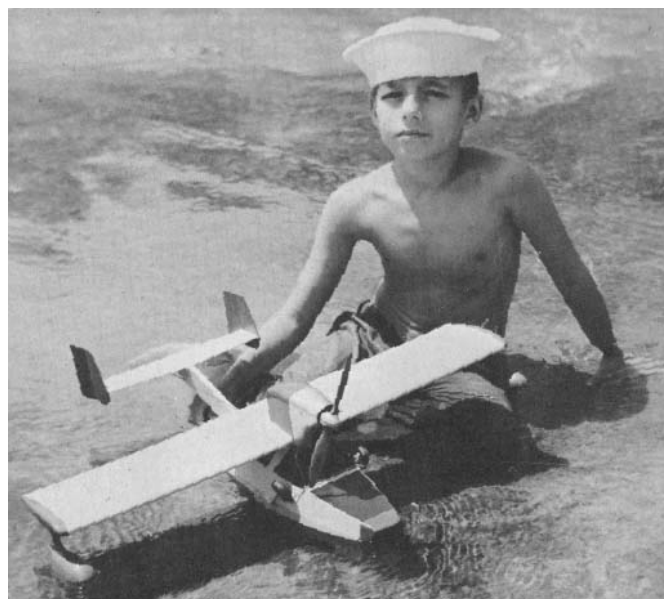


CARIBBEAN GULL

By Alexis Poyato

Fly this sporty control line amphibian off land or water... Being a real "square" she's easy to build; Hobby Helpers has plans



• "Caribbean Gull" is strong to withstand the rigors of weekend sport flying. It is exceptionally realistic, very easy to handle, and because of its small size, you can take it every place you go, even when you have all the gang in your car.

Wingspan is 27", weight 14 ozs. It is powered by an OK .14 disp. engine—do not use less than this for off-water operation. Similar power plants can be installed with little or no modification. Construction-wise this model is a cinch; hull, wing, tail group and engine nacelle are built separately, when put together they align easily.

Before starting construction study plans carefully. The wing is built flat. Carve grooves for tip floats struts at both wing tips, add lead counterweight to right wing tip, then cover wing with silk. (You can use paper as a covering material, but in the long run it pays to use silk or nylon.) Cement tip floats in place, then add control line guide.

The hull is a box, so it is very easy to build. Cut all bulkheads as shown on plans, add eyelet to bulkhead No. 6 for push rod bearing, then cut hull sides from 3/32" medium hard balsa. Assemble basic frame holding it with pins and rubber bands. Cut landing gear mount reinforcing pieces from 1/16" ply and cement in place—use plenty of cement here. Cut bellcrank mount

from 1/4" x 1/2" hardwood, drill 1/8" diameter hole for pivot and cement in back of bulkhead No. 5. Make engine nacelle mounting gussets from 1/4" sq. hard balsa, cement securely in place. Leave 1/16" wide groove between gussets free of cement so nacelle sides will slide freely into place. Bend landing gear pieces, affix to hull with bolts, cement over the bolts heads. Cover top and bottom of hull with 1/16" sheet balsa; add nose block and sand it smooth to hull lines; bend and install tail wheel strut.

Main landing gear retracts via rubber bands for water operation, tail wheel is fixed. Main landing gear is held in "down" position with stronger rubber bands which also serve as shock absorbers for operating on land. Cut out the opening at rear top of hull to receive tail boom; cut small opening for push rod. Cut tail surfaces from 3/32" sheet; offset rudders 1/4" to the right; use fabric hinges for elevator. Cement control horn firmly in place. Cut boom from 5/16" medium hard balsa, cement to stabilizer. To construct engine nacelle start with the tank because it is the basis of the unit. Cut engine bearers from 5/16" x 5/16" hardwood—I used mahogany. Firewall is from 1/8" plywood, the back piece from 1/8" balsa, sides from 1/16" plywood. Drill holes for tank

tubes and assemble over tank. Add two small hardwood blocks at back of firewall for cowl hold-down screws; cement top block in place. Cut cowl from 1/32" sheet aluminum and fix in place with four wood screws, now sand top block to final shape. Give three coats clear dope—sanding well between coats—to all parts. Cement a piece of sheet asbestos in front of firewall. Not much more to do now.

Add lead-outs to bellcrank and install in hull, slip leadouts through eyelets in hull sides. Bend push rod to exact length, connect to horn and slip both boom and push rod through openings in hull, cementing boom well. Connect push rod to bellcrank; cement wing in place. Slip nacelle in place from top using plenty cement. Let the whole unit dry thoroughly, then give two more coats of clear dope.

I painted my model yellow, the windows black, dark green antiglare; red for the rudders, nose block, wingtips and tip floats. Install wheels and engine, use a 7/6 prop with 1" spinner, and away you go!