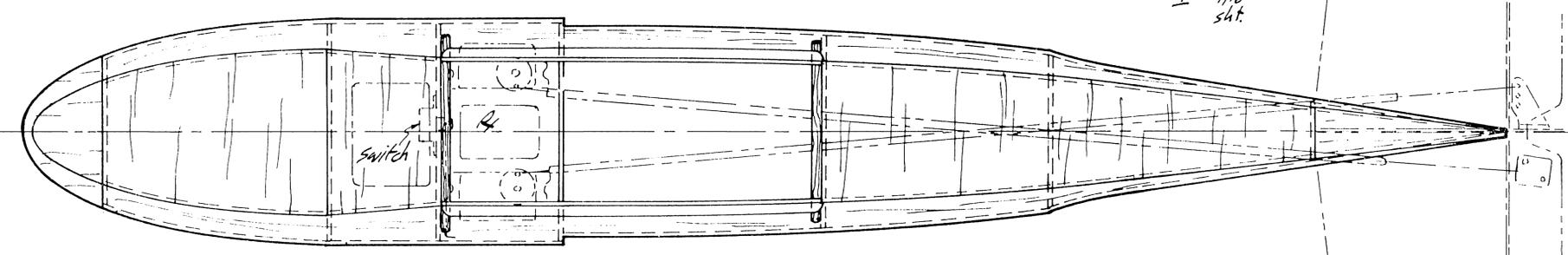


*Note: All parts balsa unless otherwise noted.



Specs.
Span 25"
Length 21"
power .030

0 1 2 3 4 5 IN. 6
0 2 4 6 8 10 CM 15

'DUCKLING'
Designed & Drawn by: Ken Willard
Traced in Ink by: Al Patterson

MODEL BUILDER
magazine
621 West 19th St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Plan No: 6821

Duckling

the
DUCKLING

BY
KEN WILLARD



Taking advantage of the throttlable G-Mark .030 R/C engine, our designer has come up with a cute little water bird that's small enough to take along in your fishing tackle box, just in case they ain't biting!

•In the past, the design and development of small radio controlled models has been hampered by the lack of a small engine which could be reliably throttled down so the model could be taxied out for takeoff, then, once airborne, run at a cruising speed rather than zipping around all the time at full power. Some throttles have been made for .049 engines, most notably the Hiscott, but for the even smaller engines, like the .020 and .010 Cox, no throttles exist other than homemade. In my opinion, that is one reason why the Tee-Dee .020 and .010 engines were discontinued: today's radio modeler wants the flexibility of power from idle to full throttle.

When the G-Mark .030 engine appeared, it eliminated the shortcoming of small engines' lack of throttle. The speed range, using a 4-1/2 inch dia. by 2-1/2 inch pitch Cox prop, is from 5,000 rpms up to 20,000 rpms, using Cox "Red Label" fuel, or Sheldon's 40% nitro. Yes, those fuels are expensive, but, as I tell the guys with their .40s and .60s, "You

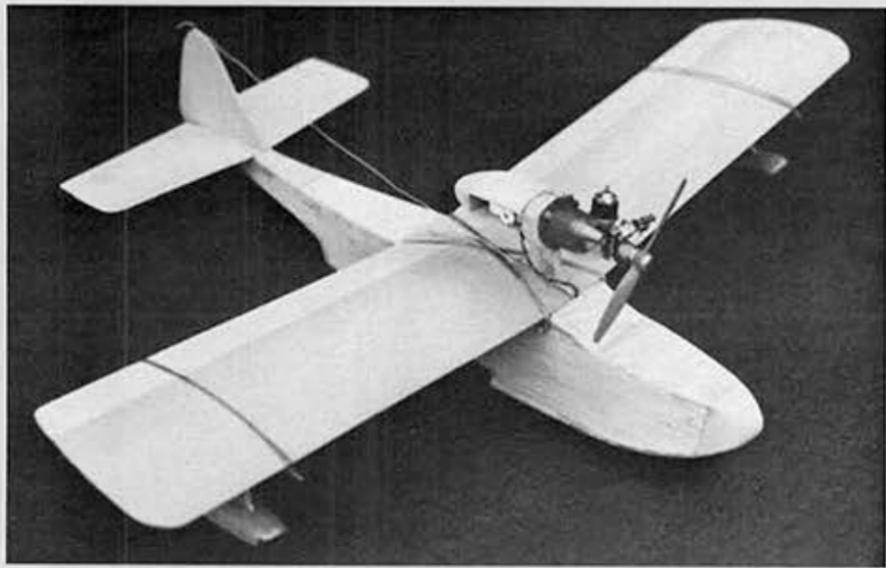
fellows *spill* more fuel in a day's flying that I use." So, the expense is secondary. One two-ounce bulbful will last all day.

The Duckling was specifically designed to use the G-Mark .030 engine. To make the design even more versatile, a quickly removable landing gear can be installed so the model is "amphibious" and can be operated off a runway as well as a pond. The only thing that I did, when flying off water, was to remove the rear half of the muffler on the .030 to make it easier to prime, and also easier to clear out any water which got into the engine when the Duckling decided to dunk. And it does, occasionally, but usually without damage; a quick dryout in the sun and you're ready to fly again. The all balsa sheet construction, when waterproofed with an overlapped Super Monokote covering on the outside, and clear dope on any exposed wood, makes it shed water "like off a duck's back."

Of course, the size of the Duckling requires that you use small radio equipment. The plans show the Cannon Super

Micro unit, but by some rearrangement of the receiver, servos, and battery pack, other small units can be installed. They may be a bit heavier, but the .030 has plenty of excess power for this size model. One minor problem is that the model is so small that a full length antenna trails too far aft. Solution: shorten the antenna, but get someone with the right equipment to retune your receiver to your transmitter with the short antenna installed. Another solution: run the antenna back to the top of the fin, then over to one wing tip, and let it trail from there a few inches. In any event, the model's size means it can't go too far out or you'll lose sight of it.

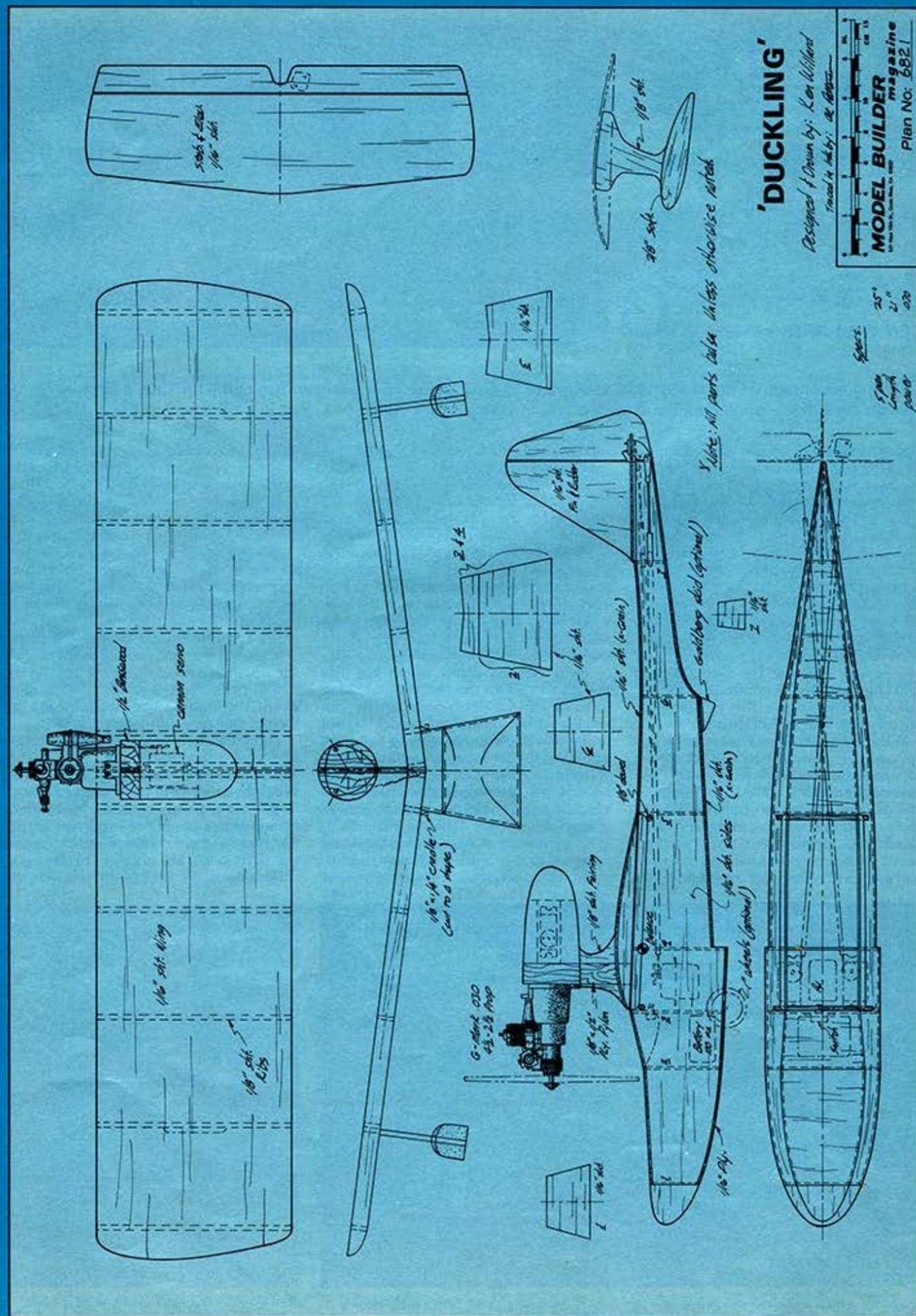
The construction technique is, to say the least, ultra simple. The sheet balsa structure, with some small amount of block balsa carving on the engine pod and the tip floats, can be Hot Stuffed together in a couple of evening's work. As you can see from the photo of the cut out parts (a few are not shown) there are only about 35 pieces in the whole



Proof that a little color and decorating go a long way in improving looks, here's the Duckling all ready for plastic clothing and make-up. G-Mark .03 R/C engine.



Ken gives his Duckling the old heave-ho over a local pond. Cannon Super-Micro.



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