

## Sterling Ringmaster Built to Legacy Materials and Methods

When John Penney got his Sterling S-1 Ringmaster off of ebay, he decided to build the kit as close as possible to the materials and methods that Matt Kania may have used when he built the original Ringmaster in 1950. As such the kit was assembled using toluene based model glue, "silksan tissue", cloth hinges placed accurate to the plans, coating with brushed on butyrate dope, with colors exactly as described in the plans ("Original model was painted as follows: wings and tail – cream, fuselage and rudder – red, nose of fuselage (F2's) – black, canopy – white"). Close inspection of the image on the plans and "yellow box" boxtop, show narrow black stripes bordering the red panels on the wing and stabilizer, and another thin one at the base of the canopy. Note: the white box image is not accurate to colors described in the plans.

Measurements were made and scaled up for the location of the "Ringmaster" decal and checkerboard pattern. It was found that a checkerboard decal with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares was not accurate. The outer row included 9 squares (which appear to be black like the nose), and when scaled to match the plans and box image, the squares had to be a smidge larger (about  $\frac{1}{32}$ " ), to match the original image. Checkerboard masked and was painted on.

The finish is not "pristine" to today's materials and methods but meant to be as it might have ended up in 1950.

Other items to make it accurate to the plans include: use of the kit plywood control horn, cutoff safety pin for control rod guide, Perfect large bell crank modified per plans, soldered washers for control rod retainers, no tail skid or wheel, and vintage Veco 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wheels retained with soldered washers.

A vintage Perfect #10 wedge tank (per plans) was mounted with a "solder strip of metal (cut from tin can)". The oldest "K&B .35" John could find was a 1954 Torpedo with left hand exhaust (per box and plan image). It is mounted with legacy, round head, non-zinc-plated 4/40 machine screws. The front end is rounded out with a vintage Top Flite 10-6 wooden prop and a 1  $\frac{3}{4}$ " Veco spinner.

As stated before, the paint job was not intended to be an award winning, hand rubbed, mirror finish. Instead the intent was to make it, as best could be guessed, like it might have come out of Matt Kania's workshop over 70 years ago!

It will fly during the 2020 Ringmaster Fly-A-Thon.

