

MINI needs no explanation! And Cat brings to mind the Aristo-Cat, which is familiar to those who have been in RC for five or six years. So the Mini Cat is just that—the offspring of the Aristo, with an amazing performance inherited from its ancestor.

The idea of a small Aristo-Cat had been in the back of my mind for some years, but it did not materialize until I had to do some field testing of the new Ace Pulse Commander. None of the standard small birds was quite what was needed, and the Cat came to mind again. The Aristo-Cat was too large for testing purposes but, once the original plans were in hand, the creation of the Mini Cat did not take long.

The objectives for the Mini Cat were the same as those for the Aristo-Cat—basically simple to build, rugged, and above all, a ship that flies well. The Mini is this, and more. Made small to handle the pulse system, it is still large enough to take full-house propo gear. The Mini Cat takes a 15 to 20 engine, using a Tatone or Midwest T mount. Tests were made with a Webra 20. The ship could be called a "scat cat!" The Webra really wheels it around! A 15 is milder and would be better for the novice. The roll rate with rudder is something to see! Just as with the big Cat, consecutive rolls appear like aileron rolls on most ships. For a full house set-up, aileron outlines are shown. They may be added easily after the wing has been flown as a rudder ship.

Flown with the Ace Pulse Commander and also an EK XL-3, the Mini Cat showed excellent flight characteristics with both. When using a pulse system, loosely hinged surfaces, like the center-pin hinges, are

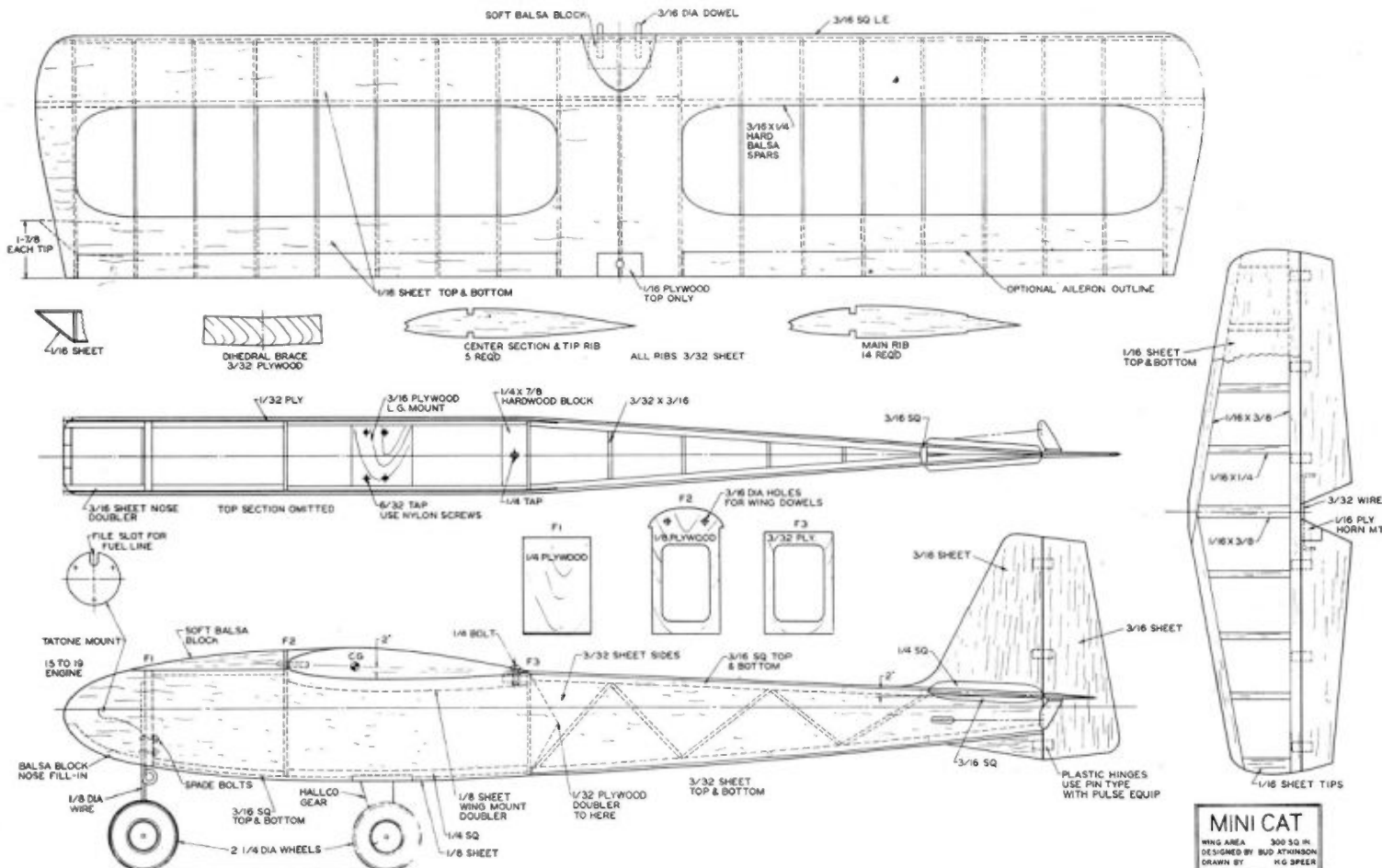
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# Mini Cat

Small field-flyer for three controls, either pulse or digital, is stable but delightfully responsive.

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# Mini Cat

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preferable. The throttle torque rod also must be loose, since the pulse system doesn't have quite the torque of a propo system. No difficulties with the pulse servos were encountered at any speed range, and the Mini can move out. Both systems weighed about the same, and the Mini Cat came out at two lb., five oz.

## Construction

The fuselage is simple, light, and strong, in contrast to many small RC models which, in order to save weight, are structurally fragile. The doublers on the Mini Cat are  $\frac{1}{32}$ " ply. Contact cement was used since it is quick to set up and will not warp the balsa as the water soluble glues do. Attach the nose gear before installing the firewall with epoxy. The Mini Cat steers surprisingly well with a fixed nose gear. The nose wheel and gear are offset  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. to the right on the firewall. This will counteract the left torque on takeoff.

The wing construction is standard. In place of the  $\frac{1}{16}$ " sheet ribs usual on a model of this size,  $\frac{3}{32}$ " sheet ribs were used. Cap strips are eliminated. The Mini Cat wing is covered with MonoKote and weighs only five and one half oz. Be sure to use selected hard spars for a true strong wing. The aileron may be installed now or later. The tail assembly is simple and easy to construct. Take care in selecting the wood and in aligning fin and rudder.

Flying the Mini Cat is sheer joy! No problem areas have been found. It is fast and responsive with the Webra 20, but the glide and landing approach are slow and easy — much different from many smaller birds, which seem to fall out of the air when power is pulled back. The Mini Cat uses the same airfoil as the Aristo-Cat, and this accounts for its ease of handling.

For a really fun bird which is easily assembled in a week, almost all out of the scraps box, try the Mini Cat. You will have a ball with it — as I have had.

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