

Introduction to
the Model Aircraft World

P-30, rubber-powered

Suitable for courses involving children and young adults.

Peter Ziegler

Anyone with a serious interest in rubber motor-powered model aircraft will sooner or later encounter the P-30 Class. P-30 are models that are built and flown according to strictly prescribed rules. The competition class originates from the USA and is popular throughout the world.

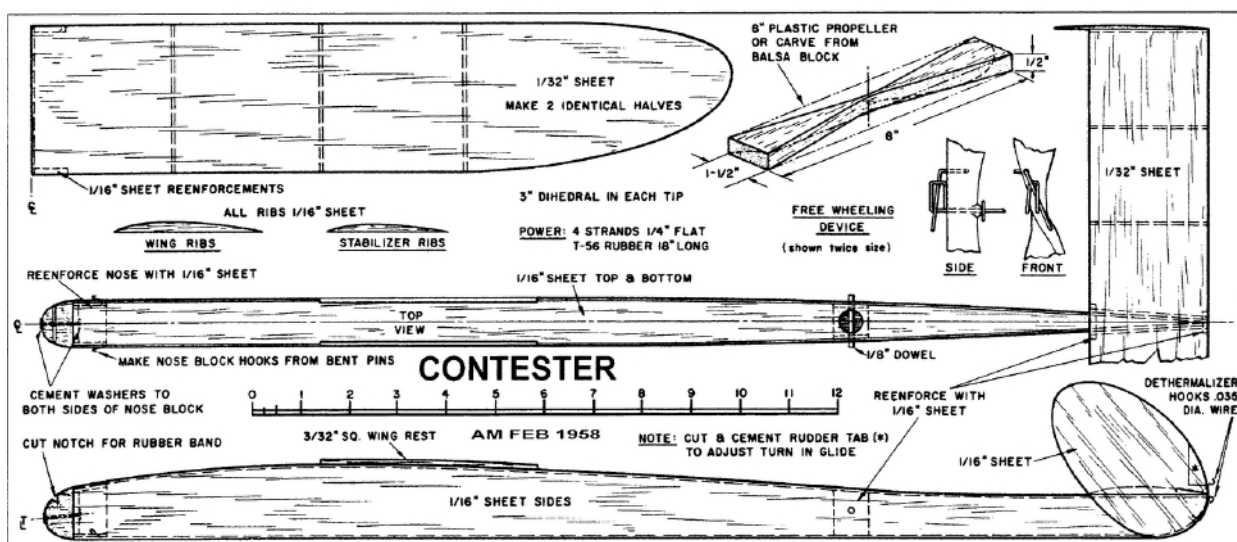
Aeromodelling for everyone

Models of this class are commercially available, but generally have to be ordered from internet-based traders. They are simply designed and come with clear building instructions, thus enabling every model builder, including



novices, to build a model with good flying performance without too much effort. Models are built from materials that are available from

specialist retailers. The P-30 Class is a free flight class requiring no RC equipment and is therefore very suitable for courses involving children and young adults.





Completing and flying in

Wings are always covered with lightweight tissue and highly diluted dope to avoid adding too much weight. Weight is a major consideration as lower weight means better aircraft performance. The centre of gravity is determined by moving the wing along the fuselage to avoid having to add lead weights. A thermals brake, even when flying in, is essential as, without it, the model could escape even on its first flight. Despite often lengthy walks required to retrieve the model, flying is a lot of fun.

Self-design and self-build

The P-30 Class is ideal for anyone wanting to design and build their own models. Wing profiles range from those with a straight underside, such as Clark Y, through the entire NACA range for free flight, to custom developments. Wing shapes can be anything from single to triple V-shape and outlines can be elliptical as well as straight. They have leading edges angled towards the rear or, conversely, trailing edges angled towards the front. The elevator can be built in a rod or rib design, i.e. it can be load-bearing or not. Fuselages generally have a square cross-section or are tubular.



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