

# Amazing Model Planes

*Every model plane enthusiast dreams of owning a miniature petrol-engined plane. Here we tell you how an expert made that dream come true*

Fitted with a tiny petrol engine, this model plane, called Kanga, carries a clockwork regulator which shuts off the engine at the end of every flight.



**H**ERE is a model aeroplane with a real petrol engine installed in its nose just like its big brothers! The model really looks so much like a real one that it is quite hard to tell the difference at first glance.

Named Kanga by its designer and builder, Captain C. Bowden, it is fitted with a minute petrol engine cleverly adapted from a small power unit built in America for driving model speedboats.

As you can see from the photographs the plane is a full cantilever biplane, which means that the wings are not braced with either struts or wires but are simply attached to the fuselage. Actually there is no full-size plane just like it, although it resembles the Southern Martlet in a general sort of way. The Martlet, as you may know, is a single-seater plane of very modern lines.

The span of the top wing is 7 ft. 6 ins., the bottom wing being just a foot shorter. The overall length of the plane is about 4 ft. Both wings are strapped on to the fuselage with strong rubber bands, so that should the plane make a bad landing, the wings will give and prevent a nasty smash up.

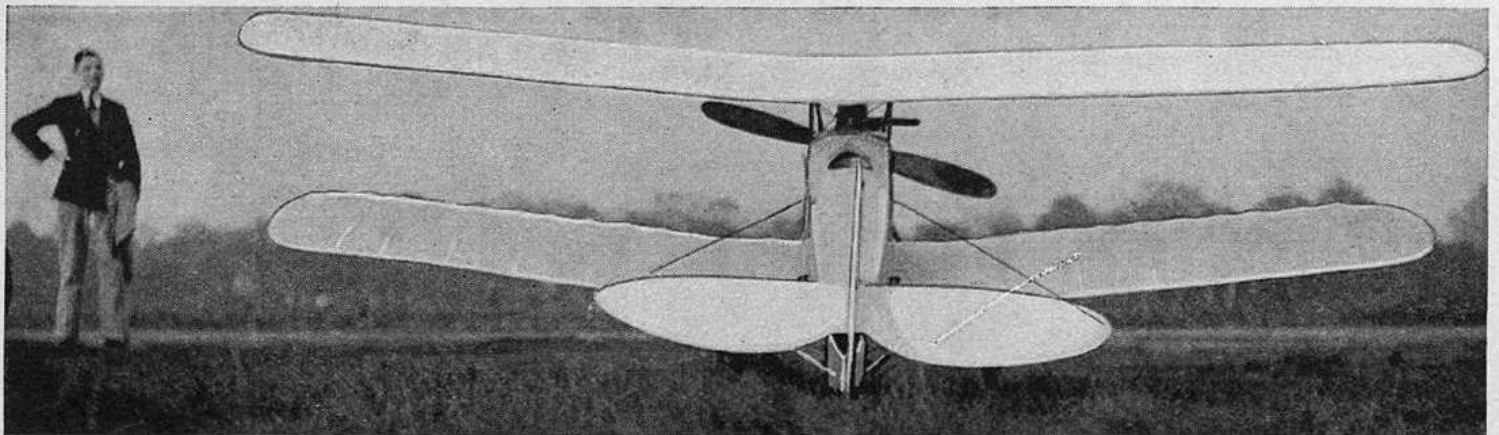
The fuselage, which was built of three-ply and

spruce longerons mounted on bulkheads and covered with doped silk, had to be made specially strong, otherwise the vibration of the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -h.p. engine, bolted to its nose, would have shaken it to pieces.

Kanga was built for an attack on a twenty-year-old record, and the very greatest care had to be taken to make it as perfect as it is possible to build a model plane. Captain Bowden even went so far as to make the undercarriage of special duralumin tubing—the metal from which airships are constructed—and to fit tiny rubber tyres specially made for the job by the Dunlop company.

When at last it was finished, the plane was taken out on to Hounslow Heath for a trial flight; and it soon showed that it was a better flier than anyone had dared to hope. It flew so well, in fact, that some way had to be found of preventing the plane flying away altogether, for once the engine was set for a steady speed, there was no knowing what might happen. It would just carry on until the petrol ran out.

So, to begin with, a thread was attached to the throttle on the engine, and every time that Kanga looked like going for good, a pull on the thread



This tail view of Kanga gives you a good idea of its size, the top wing-span being 7 ft. 6 ins.