CHAPTER 9

EXCALIBUR

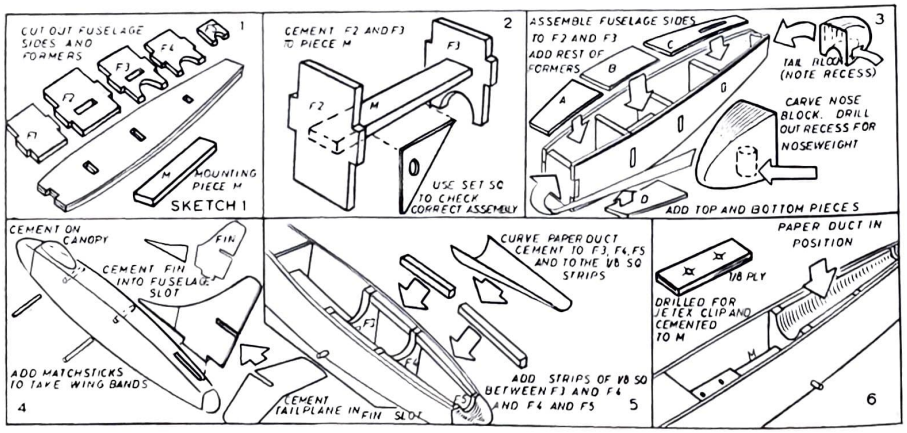
A SEMI-SCALE MODEL ATOM-BOMBER

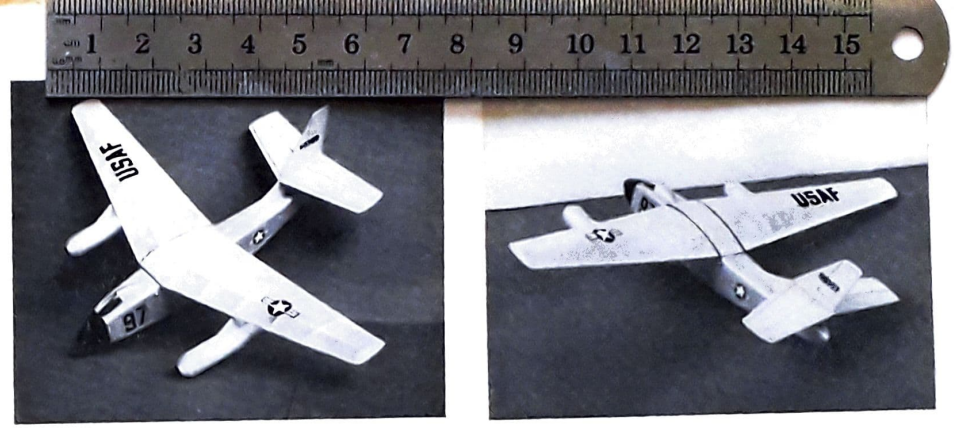
POWERED WITH THE JETEX 50B MOTOR

EXCALIBUR is based on the twin-jet atom bombers in service with the United States Air Force. This model looks exceedingly realistic in the air and may be flown with or without the jet pods under the wings.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES—The small sketches show the method of construction. When cementing piece M between Formers 2 and 3, ensure that the formers make right angles with piece M. Add fuselage sides to Formers 2 and 3. When cement is set, add remaining formers, top pieces A, B, C and bottom piece D. Complete by adding nose block and tail block. Sandpaper all edges round. A small celluloid canopy (a few pence from your model shop) is cemented to piece A. Matchstick dowels are added for taking the rubber bands holding the wing. Fin must be cemented upright and tailplane must be at right angles to fin. Add the ¼ in. x ¼ in. square strips between formers 3-4 and 4-5. Gently curve the note-paper duct and cement in place. Carefully drill 1/16 in. ply Jetex mounting piece and cement in place on piece M. Give the fuselage a coat of clear dope. If you dope the fin and tailplane do it BEFORE assembling them to the fuselage and pin them down while drying in order to stop them warping.

The original *EXCALIBUR* had a second coat of silver dope on the fuselage and the nose was doped black. Fin





and tailplane were left their natural colour. The U.S.A.F. markings were transfers (a wide range of easily applied water-slide transfers is obtainable at your model shop).

The wing is in three sections: two outer panels and a centre section. Join together and cover with white lightweight tissue, covering each section separately. Water-shrink and dope, pinning down the sections while drying to prevent warps. If you intend to fit the jet pods the sketches will show you their simple construction.

Balance your model carefully by adding weight to the nose. The balance point is 1⅞ in. back from the wing leading edge.

FLYING NOTES—Test glide over long grass with Jetex motor *unloaded*. Launch gently with nose pointing slightly down. If model stalls, add a little more weight to the nose. If it dives, bend UP the rear edges of the tailplane slightly. The glide must be straight. Then load the Jetex with *half* a charge. Light the fuse, wait a few seconds and then launch gently on an even keel—never throw the model. If the model stalls (climbs too steeply) insert a very thin sliver of plywood under the REAR of the motor clip. If it dives bend up the rear edges of the tailplane. If it turns too steeply to the left, bend the rear of the fin slightly to the RIGHT (viewed from rear) and vice versa.

Everything O.K? Then we are all set for take-off.