AERONAUTICS

Science Clubs of America To Cooperate With Navy

Cooperation in the Navy's program, designed to train Americans—civilians as well as naval personnel—to know friendly airplanes from foes, is an opportunity for the members of 967 Science Clubs of America and readers of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER and newspapers cooperating with Science Service.

To train Navy personnel in aircraft recognition and range estimation for gunnery practice, the Navy urgently needs 500,000 aircraft models made exactly to scale. This number includes 10,000 models of each of 50 different types of fighting planes.

Civilians, too, should train themselves to know the U. S., British, German and Japanese planes and be able to distinguish friend from foe.

Exact scale models of the fighting aircraft which can be made by anyone handy with a knife and other simple tools will be extremely helpful in this training, it is believed.

Through the U. S. Office of Education, Secretary Knox is asking the students of 26,000 high schools in the United States to build these models for the Navy.

You, too, can help.

First sets of working drawings will be sent to the cooperating high schools through the Office of Education by Feb. 23.

Set of drawings, from which models meeting U. S. Navy needs can be made, are being released to newspapers by Science Service for the use of their readers and Science Club members. The first is printed on this page.

The scale to which the models are made is of extreme importance, it is emphasized by Navy officers. The Navy has adopted the scale of 1 to 72, or one inch equal to six feet. This is the same standard used by the British. based on their experience in the war, and will be used also by the U. S. Army and Office of Civilian Defense.

By using the same scale for all models it is possible for spotters to gain a true sense of proportion with regard to the various aircraft they will see in the sky.

It is also possible to suspend the models overhead and gain a true idea of what the actual aircraft would look like at a proportionate altitude. A model seen a distance of 35 feet from the eyes, for example, would look exactly the same size as the real airplane seen at a 2,500-foot distance.

A cadet flyer can observe the models through the standard ring sight used on aerial gun mounts and learn range as well as identification.

Qualified inspectors will review every model that is intended for the Navy. The little planes must be perfect in every detail.

Approved models will be sent to aviation units, ashore and afloat, through special committees set up locally.

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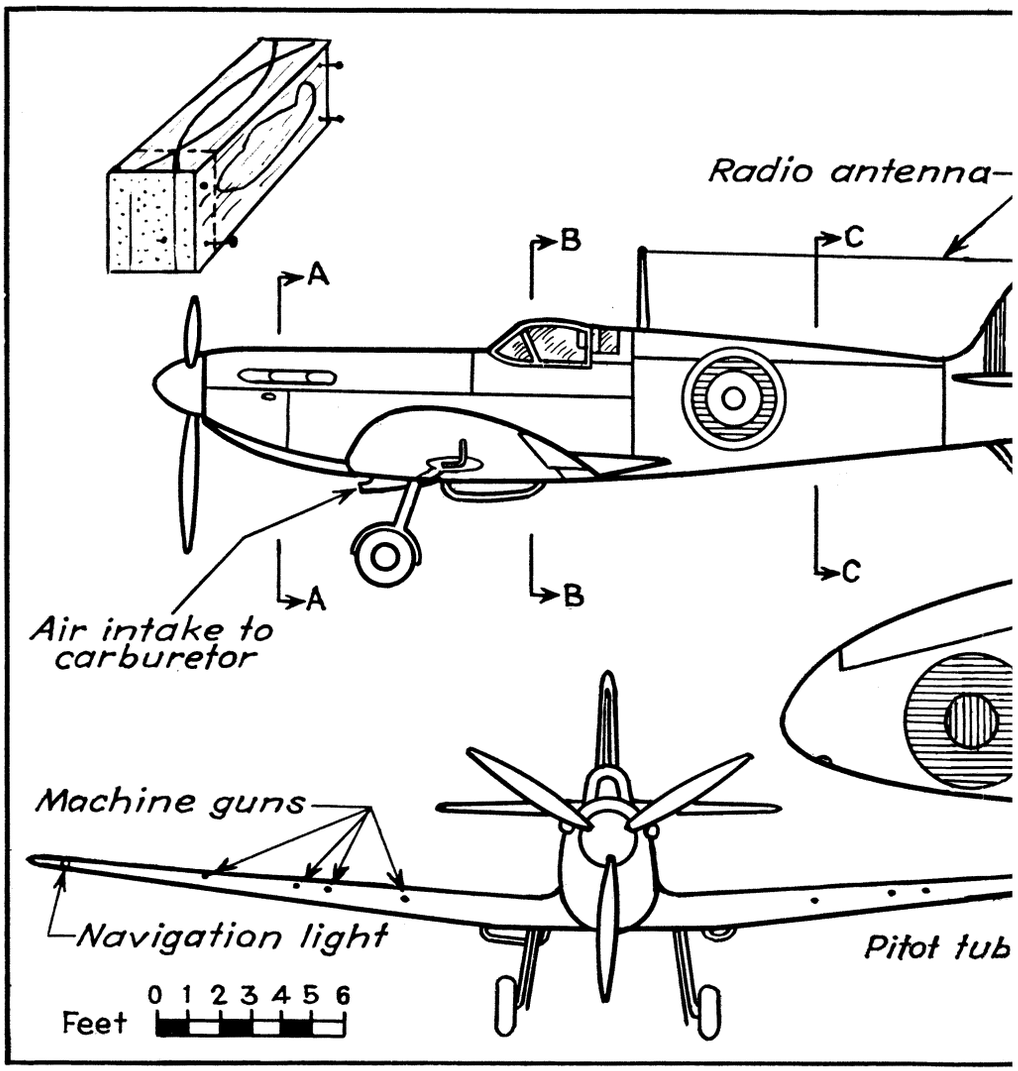
Build These Aircraft



By JOSEPH H. KRAUS

Science Clubs of America Editor

The entire field of model aircraft building is being stimulated to greater activity by the fact that the U. S. Navy is anxious to have model makers direct their attention to the building of true-scale models of fighting aircraft.

The Navy has decided that such scale models should be standardized along lines already established by our English compatriots; viz., all models should be built on a scale of one foot equal to 72 feet (1-72).

In an interview I recently had with a member of the Special Devices Section of the Navy, it was recommended that scale models of the following planes be built first: the British —Supermarine "Spitfire" II, fighter; the German—Messerschmitt Me. 109E fighter; the U. S. Army—Curtiss P40 "Tomahawk" fighter and the U. S. Navy—Grumman "Wildcat" F4F fighter. Accurately made models can be used for recognition purposes and will be invaluable to aircraft spotters.

The first models I built from these drawings are shown on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, held by Lewis Schaub, junior aviator.

Recognition of certain finer details, gained through the building of accurate models, guarantees rapidity of identifying the plane in question for the builder.

The plans given on this page are for the Supermarine "Spitfire" II. These plans are to exact scale. Your model, when completed, should be exactly the size of the drawings.

The full-sized craft is a single seater fighter built by Vickers-Armstrong,