Christmas Party Glider

OK, here we go, another scale model for you to build for the party. This year it is even easier than last year's so no excuses for not building one (or more!) ready for November 29th **(get your tickets soon from Col Buckley or Mike Minty)!**

It's the immediately recognisable Me163 rocket powered fighter from WWII that you have probably seen at the field generally flown by Baz in foam/electric form. All you need for this one is some 3/32 (all right ….. 3mm) balsa, some modest rubber bands for launching, a couple of bits of thin (1mm or so) ply or similar, and a 2.5mm bamboo BBQ stick.

The three plans on the web site must be downloaded and printed out as A4 sheets. The fuselage & half-wing are actual size, the plan view needs enlargement to A3 if you want it full size. You can now prick through the outlines with a pin to transfer the images to balsa (the wing's done as 2 pieces that will fit nicely on a 4" wide sheet). Before assembly draw any panel lines or insignia you want on the pieces.

Cover each side of the nose back to the rear of the cockpit with the 1mm ply or similar to strengthen it and cut a slot for the wing. Insert a small piece of bamboo stick right at the nose for the rubber band launch. Glue a thin piece of lead either side of the nose and shave it off as needed when you test glide it. The CG is roughly 40% root chord. Make the fin out of a separate piece with the grain running vertically.

Cut out 2 wing panels and join them with cyano and include a small amount of dihedral – not critical, just helps stability. Cut out the elevons and "hinge" them into the wing with a small piece of soft drink can so you can flex them up a bit when flight trimming.

A small piece of bamboo across the wing centre LE will help protect it when you slide it into the fuselage slot and glue it in place. It also helps in vertical nose first landings.

Here' the prototype, it took all of 45 minutes to make and flies pretty well!

There will be a prize for the best flight and also for the best decorated scale model so go on, get building.