Junkers J.1

The brainchild of Professor Hugo Junkers, the J.1. was specifically designed for contact-patrol. This involved flying at zero altitude over the trenches in order to ascertain the exact position of the troops.

The J.1 first appeared early in 1917. It was powered by a 200 h.p. Benz engine. Christend the "Mobelwagen" - Furniture Van - by it's pilots it nevertheless became popular with all who flew in it when it's full potential and safety features became apparent. The complete front section, which enclosed the engine, pilot, observer and fuel tank, was constructed from 5mm thick armour plating and weighed over a thousand pounds. The wings and tailplane were covered in corrugated sheet duralium. Altogether the aircraft was capable of absorbing a great amount of small arms fire, usually the greatest danger to planes engaged in low level flying and observation. Usually the only armament carried was a single Parabellum gun for the observer, though one or two machines were fitted with forward and downward firing parabellums in the fuselage. Altogether a total of over 200 machines were produced.

CONSTRUCTION

1. Cement the pilot's "arm-chair" into place along with the observer's stool onto the floorboard. Glue this into place in one side of the fuselage.
2. Similarly cement the engine into one side of the fuselage and add the instrument panel.
3. Paint completed interior of the aircraft, then glue fuselage sides together.
4. Assemble top and bottom wings, checking plans for angles.
5. Glue bottom wing onto the fuselage.
6. Assemble all struts onto the bottom wing, when completely dry cement the top wing into place. NOTE: The top wing being of some weight it is best to support it at the tips with lumps of Plasticine while the struts set thoroughly.
7. Cement all tail surfaces onto the fuselage.
8. Laying the model onto it's back assemble the undercarriage. Because of the weight factor we have cast these in White Metal. NOTE: We have found 5 minute Epoxy or one of the thicker (and marginally slower setting) Super Glues best for joining the White Metal parts to the Plastic ones.
NOTE: Apart from the Elevator and Rudder controls there was no rigging or wiring carried, a fact no doubt appreciated by many modellers!

COLOUR SCHEME

The Junkers J.1 was during it's service camouflaged in both Lozenge and ordinary camouflaged schemes. We have illustrated one of the latter planes, which was painted Dark/Medium Green, Leaf Green and Purple on the top surfaces, with a pale grey or pale blue undersurface. Rudder was white. NOTE: Some machines carried crosses on the top wing which overlapped the Ailerons, others (as per our plan) carried them only on the fixed surfaces of the top wing. Either would be correct.