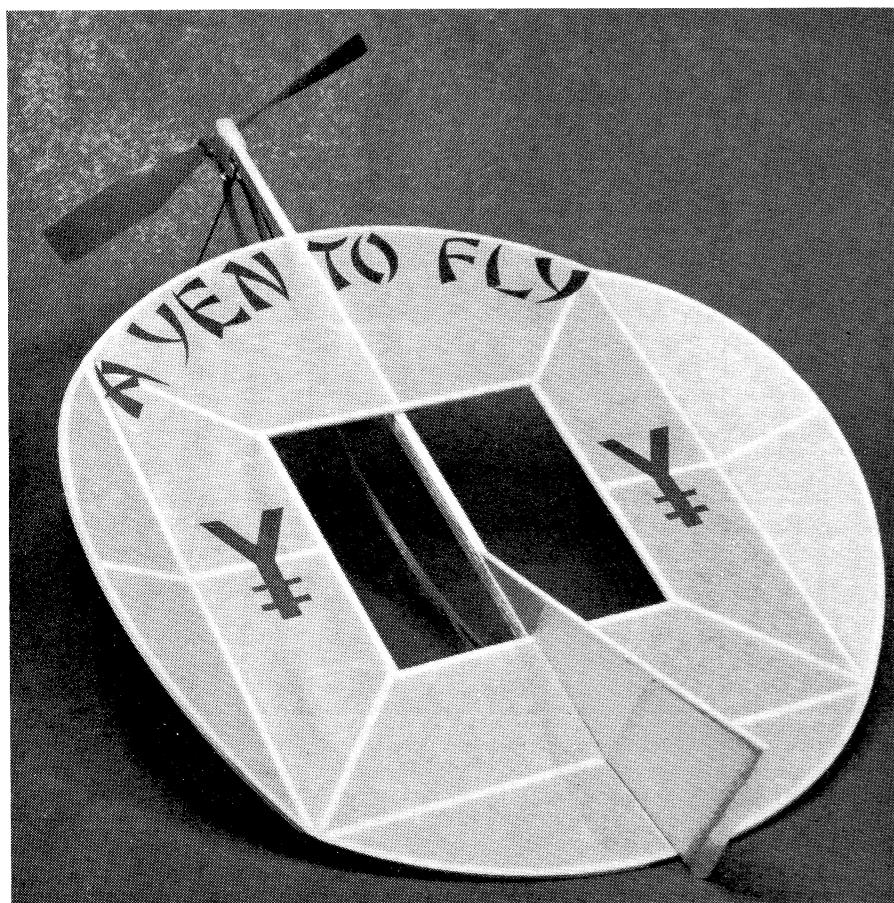


# A YEN to Fly

Here's an inscrutable way to flip a coin . . .



Short-stick version with landing gear.

HERE'S A LITTLE flying novelty . . . sort of a visual pun, which resembles an old oriental coin. It can be constructed inexpensively and is almost guaranteed to attract interest wherever it is flown.

**Construction:** A soft building surface, such as insulation board, into which pins may easily be pushed, is recommended. The outline of the wing is laminated around a circular object of 8 inches diameter. A slightly larger size would be O.K., but a smaller diameter is apt to lead to stability problems. We used a pan lid for a form, but a disc cut from cardboard would serve equally well. Wax the edge of the form with either paste wax or a white crayon, to prevent glue from adhering to it. Place the form over a sheet of clear plastic kitchen wrap or waxed paper.

Bass wood strips, available from model railroad shops, Peck-Polymers or Vintage Aero are suggested, but 1/16" x 1/64" or 1/16" x 1/32" balsa strips would be satisfactory. Soak the strips in water to soften them, then wipe off the excess moisture.

Titebond or white glue, slightly thinned with water, is used as an adhesive. We prefer to apply it with a small pointed brush for best control. Wrap the strips around the form, adding glue between each layer, and staggering the end joints for strength. A total of three layers is used. Straight pins, quite closely spaced, are used to hold the strips tightly against the form while drying, preferably overnight.

When thoroughly dry, pin the circular "hoop" over the plans. If you have made an oversize hoop, the internal wing structure must be extended to meet the edges. Glue the 1/16-sq. strip structure in position as indicated. When dry, cut the outline at the dihedral and elevator joints, so that the edges may be raised. For greatest strength and neatest appearance, the joint edges should be beveled where they meet. Note that the dihedral sides are raised 3/16 in. each, but the elevator is only lifted 3/16 in. to match the angle on the underside of the fin. Small pieces of scrap wood can support the parts while they are glued in position.

After the wing has dried, remove it from the building board, and cover it on the top side only, with lightweight tissue. Yellow is appropriate, to resemble the brass color of the old oriental coins. Tissue may be secured either with thick clear dope or thinned white glue. But do not shrink or dope the covering, as warping will almost surely result. Note that the square central portion of the wing is not covered.

Construct the vertical fin from 1/16-sq. balsa strips. We covered ours on both sides, but one side would be adequate. Note the small paper rudder for adjustment purposes.

The fuselage stick is a 3/16 x 1/8" balsa strip selected for its straightness and stiffness. Cut it to 10 1/2-in. length, if you are building a hand-launched model. Cut an additional short piece of the stock for the nose piece, as shown, but do not glue it on at this time.

Bend the rear rubber hook from thin music wire, force into the rear of the fuselage stick, and secure with a film of model airplane cement or epoxy.

**Decor:** The decorations add to the charm of this aircraft, and may be applied in either of two ways. Fastest, but probably not the neatest, unless you have an unusually steady hand, is to simply draw them on with a brown or black fiber-point pen. The second, and more difficult method, is to cut the markings from colored tissue paper. A good approach to this is to trace the characters onto thin paper, and to tape it over the colored tissue, which in turn, is taped to a sheet of cardboard. A sharp-pointed modeling knife is used to carefully cut through the tracing paper, colored tissue, and just slightly into the cardboard beneath. The results should be clean, neat tissue edges. Note that both "YEN" signs may be cut at once, by using two layers of tissue. Apply the characters with clear dope.

**Assembly:** Glue the wing onto the fuselage stick, being certain it is properly aligned. Add the vertical fin, centering it on the assembly, as viewed from the top. It should also be vertical as seen from the front of the model.

Balancing this aircraft is somewhat different than usual: Slip a North Pacific "Skeeter" propeller and bearing assembly onto the front of the fuselage stick. It will, of course, be a loose fit at this stage. The model should balance near the point indi-

