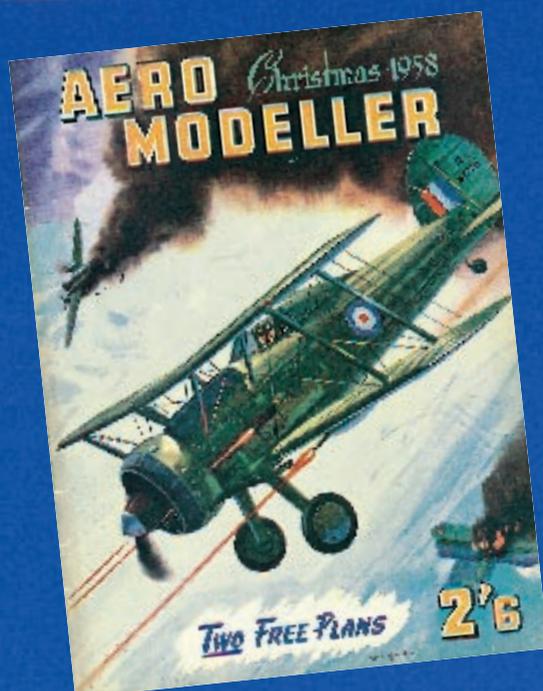


**FREE PRO-PLAN**

# CHATTERBOX 2000

**FROM THE DAYS WHEN PEOPLE WENT FLYING IN A SUIT AND TIE, RAY WOOD RESURRECTS A LITTLE SWEETIE AND TAKES THE CHATTER OUT OF THE BOX**

*BELOW: My inspiration for Chatterbox 2000 was the December 1958 edition of Aero Modeller where Vic Smeed's original 40" design was the subject of a free plan.*



It was December 1999, Christmas was looming, and a reasonable holiday lay ahead. The question? What to do with all that time? The prospect of continuing the latest project, a Great Planes Learjet, seemed rather daunting. Kits get me like that. I build the big bits, then gradually the initial dream of the finished product wanes to the point that a good deal of concentration is needed to finish it all off. To be honest, I needed a change from the technical wizardry of the Learjet and its retracts, in short, I needed something simple... something vintage maybe?

Having spent my formative years building rubber models from the Keil Kraft 'Flying Scale Series', my natural instinct is to revert to bundles of balsa and the old 'stick and tissue' technique, complete with indelible memories of ultimate happiness. Decision made! The proposed xmas project would have a completely built-up structure.

Electric flying, with all its advantages, has taken a strong hold within our club (North Downs M.F.C) over the past few years, and continues to grow in popularity. Just lately we've been swept along

with Multiplex fever; Twin Stars abound, and more recently Pico-jets, with their excellent thermal and aerobatic capabilities, have been cropping up here, there, and everywhere. My own experience of the trend comprises a totally lacklustre electric glider, built some 5 - 6 years ago, and more recently, a Model Designs Blenheim, which was a totally different kettle of fish. Equipped with 8 cells it put up a ballistic performance, with fast passes over the club strip which were more akin to a Mosquito. If only the batteries lasted longer!

#### **HISTORY IN THE MAKING**

Now, as it happens, Chatterbox was also the Aeromodeller free plan for Christmas 1958. Designed by Vic Smeed, who ranks high in the halls of fame with the likes of Taylor, Foss, Bryant and Boddington, the model was a sturdy high-wing cabin job, designed for single channel 'Gallop Ghost' radio, and a .75 diesel engine. As for the name 'Chatterbox'? Well, according to Vic Smeed's original article: "If you've ever heard a Gallop Ghost system working without the motor running, you'll know why..."