Nigel's striking colour scheme depicts a Tucano of the RAF Display Team.

being the sizes of balsa involved. The 50% scale-up lends itself well to a $^{3}/_{8}$" wing, $^{3}/_{16}$" tail and $^{3}/_{16}$" fuselage sides, so the first job is to go and select the correct grades for the job. Try to use the softest, lightest sheets you can find (except where indicated on the plan) and you shouldn't go far wrong.

To show what savings can be made, I used 'typical' model-shop grades for prototype airframe #1 and hand-selected grades for #2. Airframe #1 with linkages came out at 15oz, #2 at 12oz - a 20% saving (both were non-undercarriage versions - the u/c and its mounting plates add about 4oz to the finished model).

Before beginning the construction, it's worth noting that there's a website dedicated entirely to this model, featuring a complete photographic step-by-step build sequence as well as some useful links and set-up information; http://tucanobuild.tripod.com is the place to go for those with access to the Internet.

WING

The wing and tail are a good place to start; you'll have plenty of time to get these surfaces built to a high standard before the concluding article in next month's RCM&E.

The wing leading edge can be from firm stock, but the main wing panel and trailing edge should be soft and light. Weigh the six wing panels and tips first and try to select a combination of left and right panels that weigh about the same. Assemble the components on a flat surface, sandwiching the $^{1}/_{8}$ x $^{3}/_{8}$" spacing strips (medium cyano is fine for this purpose). Clean up the tip end so the edge of the medium grade tip piece has 100% surface contact with the wing panel. I used cyano for the wingtip joint and it kept snapping off whilst profiling so I would suggest using 5-minute epoxy instead, but do so sparingly!

When each panel has glued satisfactorily, mark the extent of the shaving / sanding on the upper surface of each (see pic). A line halfway down the leading edge (i.e. at $^{3}/_{16}$") and $^{1}/_{8}$" from the bottom of the trailing edge will indicate how far down to profile. Razor plane down to just above the lines and then use a