The Chatterbox presented in the 1958 article was quite a sturdy little model, doubtless designed for the rough and tumble of single channel operation

TOP RIGHT: Nothing tricky here. Three days was all it took to build the entire airframe.

The Perkins motor and gearbox combination complete with 7" prop. £13.99 - see counterpoint for details. As it turned out the prop wasn't a lot of good for our purposes.

Completed fuselage prior to covering. Note the undercarriage retaining system - simple and forgiving.

Underside view showing the motor cooling slot and undercarriage mounting plate.

SURFACE CHATTER

The tailplane, elevator, fin and rudder are built over the plan from a combination of 3/16" strip, and sheet. I used Kavan fabric hinges and commercial horns, although the horns could easily be cut from Paxolin sheet and glued into slots. When it comes to hooking everything up, the choice is yours, plastic snakes, balsa pushrods, or closed loop!

If you don't get the wings done in a day or so, then you're doing something wrong - they're that easy! Built with 1/16" ribs on 1/8 x 1/4" spruce spars, the leading edge section is sheeted on the upper surface back to the main spars. Build all three sections, the centre and the two outer, flat on the plan before joining with the 1/4" dihedral brace. The trailing edge is protected with small 1/32" ply patches where the wing fixing bands bear.

COVERING & DECOR

Covering Chatterbox in anything other than tissue or nylon seemed a little wrong somehow. Modelspan tissue was my preference, applied to the lightly sanded airframe with wallpaper paste, and given one coat of full-strength cellulose dope. Beware of using excessive coats as the shrinking power is considerable and can distort the basic structure. As a precaution, pin the wings down to a flat surface whilst they're drying. Oh, and make sure you depart to the shed for the doping procedure, the aroma can only be beaten by a freshly opened tin of diesel fuel!

CHAT RADIO

The receiver is positioned on the cabin floor, secured with double sided tape, whilst the servos used are