Runabout version of the Dolphin 16

BROOKLANDS Aviation introduced a runabout version of the Dolphin 16 at the 1967 Boat Show, so this is yet another model you can build from the *Meccano Magazine* plans (January issue). The drawings on this page show the modifications involved.

If you are starting from scratch, all the original plan details apply up to the deck line with one exception. Bulkhead 3 needs to be modified as shown in Fig. 1, i.e. the whole of the centre part is removed down to the floor line. Since this will result in a weak bulkhead for assembly a temporary brace should be cemented across. This brace is then removed when the hull is planked up. If you have a ready-built hull you wish to convert, the whole cabin superstructure is removed and bulkhead 3 then trimmed to the new shape.

The two $\frac{1}{4}$ in. square floor beams should be extended in length to finish on bulkhead 2 and not bulkhead 3, as on the cabin version (original plan). The floor is then completely filled in with sheet from bulkhead 2 right back to bulkhead 5.

Two front seats are made from block and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. sheet balsa, as shown in Fig. 2; also two rear seats which are located sideways and face inwards. Cover with thin material to represent upholstery and then cement in place to the cockpit floor—see also Fig. 3 for seat positions.

This virtually completes the runabout version except for the windshield. Two triangular side frames are constructed for this from $\frac{3}{32}$ in. square hardwood and cemented to the deck. Two additional pieces of $\frac{3}{32}$ in. square strip are then steamed to a curve and cemented between the two side frames, one at the bottom resting on the deck, and the other between the tops of the two triangular side frames. Varnish these frame members and then glaze the windshield with three separate pieces of clear acetate sheet attached to the frames with thin cement. Finally add the two coaming strips from $\frac{1}{8}$ in. square balsa which run from the end of the side frames to the transom.

A new method of getting a quick, high-gloss finish for your Dolphin (or any other hard chine hull) is to cover with 'Monokote'. This is a self-coloured self-adhesive plastic film, specially developed for covering model aircraft, but equally suited to boats.

When covering with 'Monokote' the hull should not be treated with sanding sealer, but simply sanded down as smooth as possible. Any irregularities or poor joints will show up through the film. The hull is then covered in five pieces—the two sides, the two bottom panels and the transom. Cut out 'Monokote' panels slightly oversize and start with the transom as the easiest.

Peel the film off its backing paper and lay in place on the transom. Then using a domestic iron set for a fairly low heat, iron over the 'Monokote' around the edges of the transom. This will cause it to stick down at the edges. Finally lightly iron over the whole area to stick all the film down permanently. Trim off the edges and iron these down in place. This is a little more tricky, but not difficult. If a wrinkle appears where an edge is turned over, slit this with a razor blade and re-iron down smooth.

Next the two side panels should be covered in a similar manner. Trim off flush with the deck line but leave about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. overlapping the chine line. This overlap is then 'turned over' the chine by ironing in place. Finally cover the two bottom panels, overlapping each panel by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. along the bottom centre line. Trim off fairly close to the chine line—about $\frac{1}{8}$ in. and 'turn over' onto the sides by ironing. This will give a rather ragged appearance at the overlap, especially when using different colours for the sides and bottom, but this is then covered with a thin parallel strip of 'Monokote' in contrasting colours. Locate this strip carefully and then iron over to bond it permanently in position.

You can also cover the deck in 'Monokote' as well, and use additional strips of 'Monokote' for further trim. It is available in eight different colours and although large sheets are expensive (25s. each) most model shops will sell part sheets. Remember, too, that you save all the cost of sanding sealer and dopes normally used for finishing—and can complete a high gloss colour scheme in a fraction of the time needed with conventional finishing methods.

Suggested colour schemes are:

Hull sides	Hull bottom	Bottop (i.e. the strip separating the top and bottom colours)	Deck
blue	white	gold	white
blue	red	white	white
red	blue	white	white
white	red or blue	blue or red	blue
white	white	red or blue	red or blue