

## Construction Notes for kit FF50 Westland Lysander by Gene Smith 3/23/10

Like many Dime Scale plans from the 1930's and 40's, the Westland Lysander plan leaves some things up to the modeler's imagination. One of the primary construction considerations is the fuselage side framework. This has to be narrower at the nose than at the cabin. You can see this in the plan top view of the fuselage. For the left fuselage side I built the framework from the cabin to the tail first, then elevated it  $\frac{3}{16}$ " from the plan with balsa blocks and built the nose section, angling the stringers downward from the cabin to the nose. For the right side, I held the plan against a window and traced the fuselage outline on the opposite side of the plan, then used the same method for building that fuselage side. The rounded nose cheek formers bring the nose width out to match the cabin width. The picture of the fuselage bones shows this detail.

It is now standard practice to move the rear motor peg forward. In this case it was set at a position below the back of the rear window. The stabilizer was built in one piece and a slot was built in the fuselage, large enough to allow incidence adjustment of the stab if needed.

Another interesting area is the wing attachment. Since each wing butts against the  $\frac{1}{16}$ " square top cabin stick there is nothing left to attach the cabin and overhead window material. I added a strip of  $\frac{1}{32} \times \frac{3}{32}$  balsa above and below the top cabin stick so the window material could be attached.

The plan top view of the fuselage shows the wing placement but the root of the wing is drawn much wider than the actual wing root. I placed the LE of the root rib  $\frac{5}{16}$ " behind the front of the cabin.

The wing to fuselage joint can be greatly stabilized by inserting small (.009) wire pins in the root rib of each wing. You can get .009 wire at a guitar store. This adds no significant weight and really helps maintain alignment when gluing the wings in place. A piece of  $\frac{1}{32} \times \frac{3}{32}$  balsa was glued to the inside of each butt rib to make a platform for the wires in each wing. That also strengthened the butt rib to LE and TE joint. Unfortunately I took the "parts" picture before I installed the wing alignment pins so I don't have a picture of them.

I used the kit green tissue for covering the upper surfaces. The brown markings were done with a felt tip brown marker. The roundels were drawn on paper, cut out and glued to the model.

I am sure the enclosed plastic prop would have worked fine but I elected to carve a 6" balsa prop.

Gene Smith

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