

Scale Soaring UK

The forum for all your modelling requirements relating to scale gliders
<https://scalesoaring.co.uk/phpBB3/>

Airspeed Tern

<https://scalesoaring.co.uk/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=12&t=1392>

Re: Airspeed Tern

Page 1 of 1

by **VinceC**

Posted: **03 Jun 2017, 06:39**

OK Barry, just for you I am about to put up plans for "The Barge" - formerly known as the T-21.
Hope that is in keeping

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **Barry_Cole**

Posted: **02 Jun 2017, 23:35**

Sorry John, That was aimed at Vince. He knows why.....

Nice build through.

BC

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **john slater**

Posted: **02 Jun 2017, 19:24**

Just edging my bets Barry as we seem to have more water coming down than rising air!

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **Barry_Cole**

Posted: **02 Jun 2017, 19:09**

What is it with you and flying boats????



BC

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **VinceC**

Posted: **02 Jun 2017, 18:44**

Thanks John, I am still digging.



Here is a preview

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **john slater**

Posted: **02 Jun 2017, 17:02**

Thanks everyone for the positive feedback, being my only published plan gave me a certain

amount of concern, but with the help of Vince it has certainly been worthwhile for I like to think people will enjoy building and flying the Tern.
The model flies very well, in fact a little too well and hence my decision to fit airbrakes, and although they are not scale it has made flying the Tern safer and more pleasant when landing. I built in airbrakes to the design described in the forum by Robbie Bridson, a very detailed article and easy to follow, thanks Robbie.
The documentation written by Vince is first class, a lot of 'digging' has been done by him into the Tern, to complete the information we now have.
John

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **Richard_A**

Posted: **01 May 2017, 22:34**

Enjoyed the video. Thank you for posting.

Richard.

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **VinceC**

Posted: **28 Apr 2017, 20:31**

What a Tern up. Two for the price of one. Nice video, thanks

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **RobbieB**

Posted: **28 Apr 2017, 17:20**

Thought you all might like to see the vid of John's Tern's maiden from Martin (Film_Inacan)



One Good 'Tern' Deserves Another

from [Film_Inacan](#)



03:47

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **Mark Richards**

Posted: **18 Apr 2017, 14:59**

Congratulations John,
Excellent work.

It's great to see the 1/4 scale Tern back in the air again.
I definitely think you made the right decision to add the air brakes.
Looking forward to its first aero-tow session!

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **Martin Gough**

Posted: **17 Apr 2017, 20:34**

Fabulous. Well done.

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **B Sharp**

Posted: **17 Apr 2017, 12:35**

Well done John, I said it was a pretty model and it does look good in the air.

Brian. 😊

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **chris williams**

Posted: **17 Apr 2017, 11:48**

Well done, John...!

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **RobbieB**

Posted: **17 Apr 2017, 10:33**

Top job John, well done.

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **VinceC**

Posted: **17 Apr 2017, 09:25**

Excellent and great photos. Pleased the Brakes made a big difference for you. In difficult slope landing areas, better to have Brakes than not

Re: Airspeed Tern

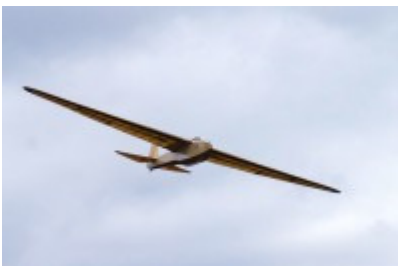
by **john slater**

Posted: **17 Apr 2017, 09:03**

Well the Tern had its maiden flight on Thursday 13th April, conditions over the Mynd during the morning were a little marginal 8 to 9 mph westerly, but I thought it to good an opportunity to miss.

The model was rigged and with Pete Dutfield and Phil Smith giving me encouragement it was launched, and can tell you what a great success it was.

It sailed away very sedately, stable and responsive, the time spent setting up at home proved time well spent. It had 3 flights for about 2 hours in total which gave me enough time to take some photos and by which time the wind had picked up a little making me feel a lot better flying the Tern for the first time.





Now as I mentioned in my first post about the difficulty in landing the Tern I decided in the interests of safety, and because my flying skills at 'side slipping' are not that good and having mixed feelings about crowd braking that (if you are a purist or of a nervous disposition, look away now) I fitted 'air brakes', making landing the Tern such a pleasure that I am very pleased I did.

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **john slater**

Posted: **05 Apr 2017, 21:42**

Thanks Robbie, Brian,

The proof of the pudding as they say ! well the design has been proved many years ago so I am just waiting for a nice westerly on the Mynd to enjoy the work that has gone in to it, the original was quite a floater and was quite difficult to land on the slope, so as soon as I have some photos of it on the air I will post some photos.

John

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **B Sharp**

Posted: **05 Apr 2017, 19:41**

Well done John. Thats a very pretty model of a most unusual subject.
Brian. 😊

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **RobbieB**

Posted: **04 Apr 2017, 23:09**

Looking good John - summer's on the way.

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **john slater**

Posted: **04 Apr 2017, 20:50**

I have reposted the photos,





a little larger this time.

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **john slater**

Posted: **04 Apr 2017, 20:40**

I have now managed to assemble the model for a trial fit , and taken advantage of the good weather by getting a few photos taken, still await the weather for a flight.



The photos help show off the beauty of a natural wood finish, and certainly the various wood colours.

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **john slater**

Posted: **02 Apr 2017, 11:39**

Hi Vince ,

Thanks for the words of reassurance, much appreciated. I must say that I am very happy the way its all gone back together and look forward to getting in some air time with it.

Will be in touch with you as soon as I have done some flights.

John

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **VinceC**

Posted: **02 Apr 2017, 08:51**

It is always a problem matching up colours in repairs, but even the old full size gliders had the same problem, so just claim it's a scale effect

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **john slater**

Posted: **02 Apr 2017, 07:43**

I have now completed the reconstruction of the wings, but the only fly in the ointment was matching up the `D' box sheeting colour were I have had to replace, the new pieces of ply are quite obvious, but has someone once told me such things you just have to learn to love.

The wings have now been recovered in `Vintage ' solartex, I will now apply a few coats of clear lacquer and hopefully we will be on the slope in the next couple of weeks providing I can get some decent weather, I will post some photos of the assembled model as soon as I have applied the lacquer.

John

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **Mike F**

Posted: **02 Mar 2017, 04:37**

John

Very nice build! I liked your fuselage jigging and construction method too.

looking forward to shots of the fully assembled project.

Thanks for sharing

Mike

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **john slater**

Posted: **01 Mar 2017, 20:27**

Hi Vince,

No, its not a published plan I drew the plans up myself in 1992 and built the model in 1993.

I was in engineering for most of my working life and was taught engineering drawing as an apprentice, and some of what I was taught was has stuck !

I never had the plans published, as I mentioned earlier this was my first project, but I do still have the plans I drew up, so it was a simple matter for this second build.

John

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **VinceC**

Posted: **01 Mar 2017, 19:46**

Nice to see an unusual model. I see you are using a published plan, who provides that?

Re: Airspeed Tern

by **RobbieB**

Posted: **01 Mar 2017, 11:10**

John Slater wrote:

'.....

The net curtains are for security, really ! . Its my shed , my wife has told me.

John

A likely story.

Nice one John.

Airspeed Tern

by **john slater**

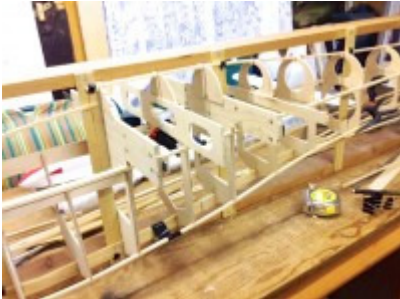
Posted: **01 Mar 2017, 11:03**

Way back in 1993 I built my first 'scratch build' an Airspeed Tern, I chose this because firstly it was a British glider and there being not too many good British gliders around, but also it looked an uncomplicated project. A bonus for me to all this was our good friend and mentor, John Watkins put me in touch with a lovely gentleman whose father flew it way back in the 1930's a man called Roger Reffel, and he kindly supplied me with some negatives and information for me to complete my build.

It proved to be a lovely model and flew really great, the only trouble was one day I hadn't checked the batteries, consequently when it came down the only bits I could find were the flying surfaces, the fuselage had smashed to pieces.

So to my new build thread, a new quarter scale 'Tern', with a dual battery arrangement. I have attached a few photos of the build during its progress to date.





I build a top and bottom keel so to speak and just hold this all together with strips of scrap balsa before clamping this onto my jig and then attaching the formers, and so on. This keeps everything nice and straight (providing the jig is straight) and allows me access all around the fuselage. when the formers and stringers are finished I can then remove the scrap strips of balsa. The net curtains are for security, really ! . Its my shed , my wife has told me.
John