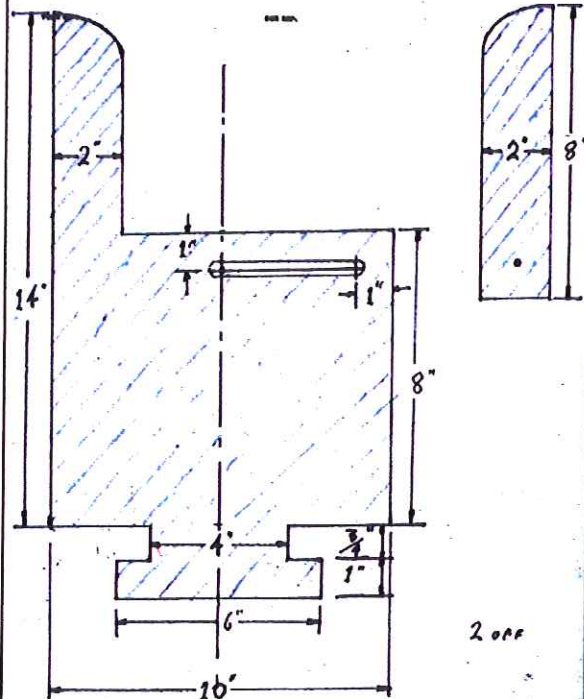


No.1 Field Workbench

(Taken From *Flyer* Issue 12. February 7th. 2005)

Field Workbench

Some months ago I noticed that Elwin Rawson was using a handy bench system to start, and work on his models at the flying field. This appealed to me as, (I suspect) many members of advancing years (like what we are) would benefit from not having to kneel down to start our models, (or in my case it's the kneeling down **and** the getting up that's the trouble.)



Having promised to one day fit myself out with something similar, I promptly forgot all about it, or have been too busy to get round to it, or both. Then a couple of months later Brian Arnall turned up at the field with a similar set-up. I talked to Brian who told me that it was a feature that had appeared in the July 2004 edition of RCM&E. He also said he had a copy that I could borrow. With my interest renewed I set to work to adapt the plan to my own requirements.



Cheap Ingredients

The basis of the bench is the common-or-garden DIY workbench obtainable at B&Q or similar for around £10 and while you could use a Black & Decker Workmate, you really don't need a bench of that quality: the cheaper versions are also usually lighter and therefore easier to carry, and the weight of your flight box placed on the rails underneath will give you all the stability you need. Cut two cradles, as in the drawing from 18 m/m MDF, they feature one fixed and one adjustable jaw that can be set to suit different fuselage widths. They are covered on the contact area with off-cuts of pipe insulation or foam glued or stapled in place to protect the fuselage. The inverted "T" shape of the base of the cradles allows them to be gripped in the vice of the bench at a spacing to suit the length of the fuselage. The adjustable jaw is secured in position by a bolt and wing nut, and the size of this dictates the size of the slot to be routed in the position shown. Finally a couple of coats of varnish to fuel proof the finished items is advisable. Obviously, my instructions are only intended as a rough guide, and you can tailor the design to suit your own needs. But for minimal cost and a little effort you too can start, and work on your model at a comfortable height.

Bob F.