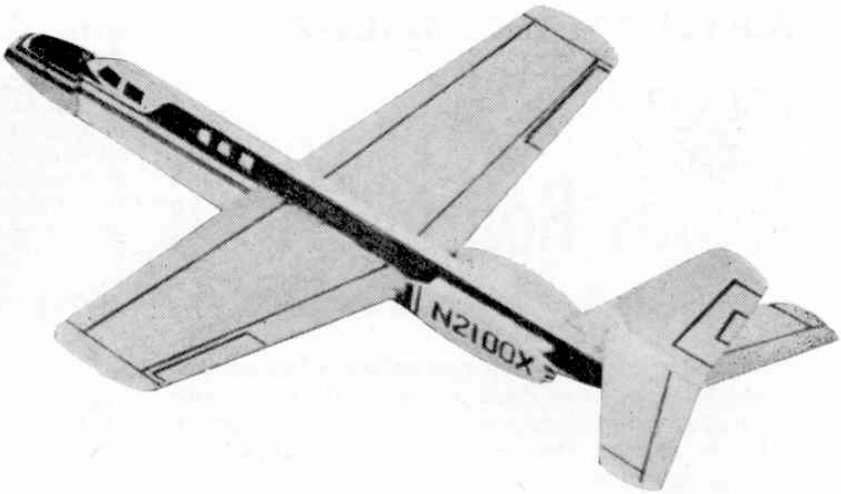
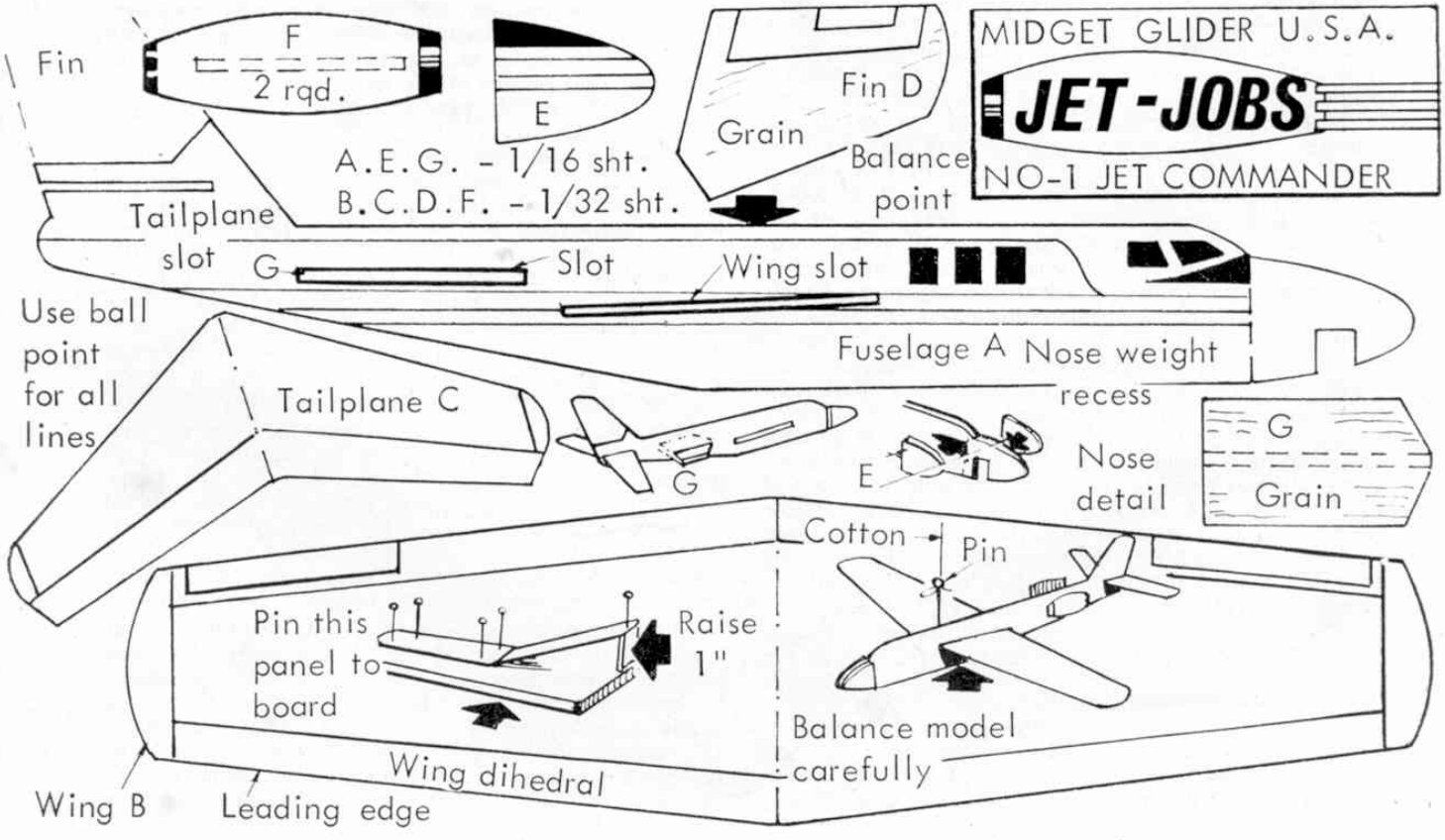
FULL-SIZE MIDGET GLIDER PLAN



The first in a series of simple balsa profile gliders by Meccano Magazine's regular model designer Ray Malmström

No. 1. Jet Commander

THE JET Commander is an American high-speed, executive, jet aeroplane, with handsome lines. It is very fast, cruising at Mach 0.8 (nearly the speed of sound). Our little model is also a fine flier. Start by tracing the parts onto sheet balsa and carefully cutting out. Add the markings and decoration with a ball-point pen. Assemble the parts together, using balsa cement, as shown in the small sketches. When completed, balance the model by pushing a tiny piece of lead or used cement tube into the recess in the nose. Suspend the model as shown, and adjust the amount of nose-weight until the model hangs level. You can now try a test flight. Choose a dead calm day, or preferably a large room or hall. Holding the model beneath the wing, launch smoothly with the nose pointing slightly downwards. If your Jet Commander dives, bend up the rear edges of the tailplane slightly, or remove a little nose-weight. If it climbs steeply and then dives (stalls) add a little more nose-weight. If it turns sharply to right or left, bend up the front edge of the wing near the tip, on the inside of the turn. You will be surprised how much you can learn about a model aeroplane from this "jet-job"!