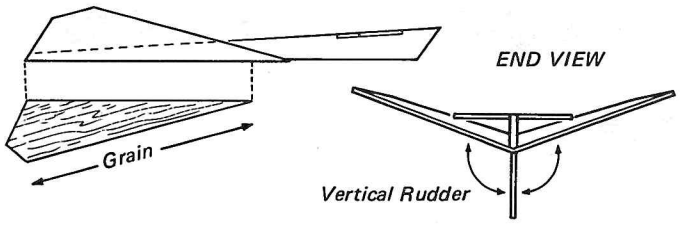
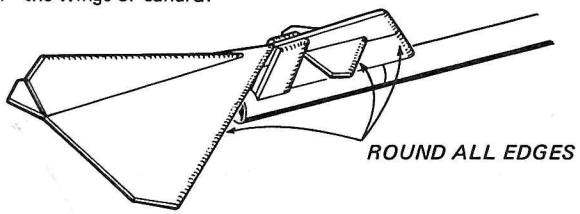
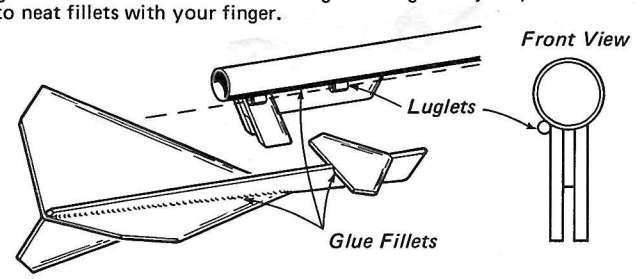
16 Glue the rudder in place, taking care to position it with its grain along its leading edge.



17 When dry enough to handle, hook the glider onto its mount. Use very fine sandpaper to gently round all exposed balsa edges. DO NOT try to "airfoil" the wings or canard!



18 Glue the launch luglets in place near the mount making sure they are in line with each other. EVERY glue joint must be reinforced to withstand flight stresses. Run a fine bead of glue along each joint, and smooth into neat fillets with your finger.



PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS

19 Many rocketeers who build and fly boost gliders feel that gliders should not be painted at all. The theory is that paint adds too much weight. It's true that many heavy coats of paint may detract from your glider's performance . . . BUT, properly applied paint can actually improve performance. A thin, smooth coat of paint:

A. Adds some strength to the fragile structure.
B. Provides for smoother aerodynamic flow over the wood surface.
C. Aids in seeing the glider at great altitudes.

RECOMMENDED GLIDER PAINTING

Sand all wood surfaces with very fine paper (300-400 grit) to remove loose fibres.

Apply a coat of clear model airplane dope to the entire wood surface.

Allow to dry. Sand the wood once more.

Apply a dark color on the underside, to aid visibility. Use a light mist coat of spray dope, or use a waterproof "Magic Marker".

This technique adds so little weight, that it's almost impossible to measure it . . . but it greatly improves performance.

RECOMMENDED POD PAINTING

NOTE: Choose a light color (such as white, yellow or silver) so the "decals" will show up well against the paint.

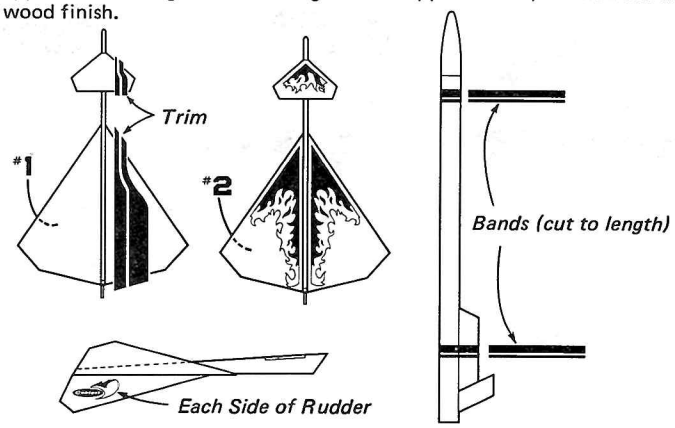
Apply light coats of spray enamel or dope until all surfaces are smooth and shiny.

This technique will of course add weight to the pod, but that is not a drawback. This weight helps bring the pod up to "optimum weight" for maximum altitude.

20 The pressure-sensitive "decals" are ideal for the Mini-Dactyl. They adhere to raw (or partially finished) balsa much better than standard water-type decals, and their weight is negligible. They are a little transparent, and should be applied only against light colors.

Use scissors or a modeling knife to cut each piece out of the sheet. Cut just barely inside the dotted lines. The white background of your "decals" will be clear (like scotch tape) when you apply them to your model.

21 WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY BEFORE APPLYING DECALS, or your fingerprints will get the decal glue dirty, and hurt your rocket's appearance. The glider "decals" go on the upper surface, on the natural wood finish.



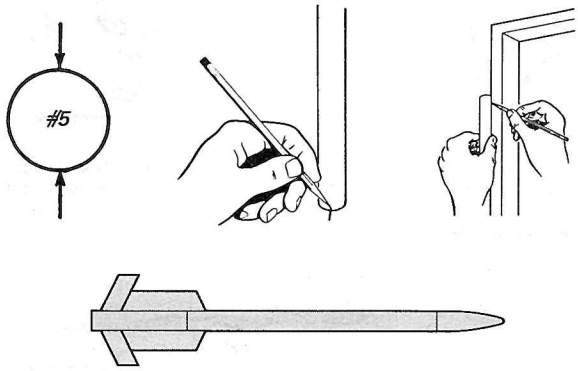
Your MINI-DACTYL is now complete. Read the FLIGHT TRIMMING and LAUNCHING INSTRUCTIONS before trying to fly it.

ALTERNATE ASSEMBLY TIPS

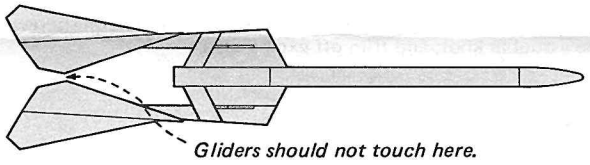
Tips for building the alternate, more challenging version of this ket are shown below. Please read the main assembly instructions first, if you decide to build this alternate version. The steps shown below are only tips, to be used along with the regular building techniques shown on the other side.

This version will not fly as high as the single-glider style, but the simultaneous ejection of TWO gliders can be a real crowd pleaser.

Draw two guide lines on the body, for gluing the mounts opposite each other.



Be sure the two gliders do not touch each other at the wing tips.



FLIGHT TRIMMING

How well your glider flies depends largely on how well you balance (or trim) it before launch. You trim by hand launching your glider, watching it carefully, and correcting for excess turning, diving or stalling.

A. Tamp a little clay onto the nose of the glider.

B. Find a clear area, (hopefully with soft grass) to hand launch your glider. Toss your glider lightly into the wind. If the glider stalls, add a little clay. If it dives, remove a little clay.



