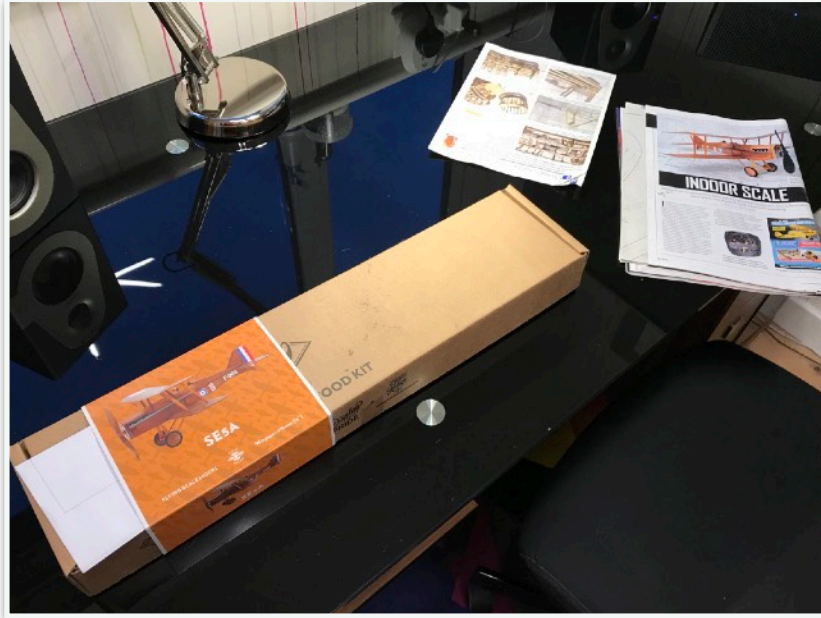


VMC SE5a Build, part 1

Yep, I know that the Hornet is unfinished. Eventually I packed it away, deciding that I needed something simpler, plus a bit more experience with tissue covering.



This Vintage Model Company SE5a, from the Flying Scale Model series, is just 41cm span. It has advantages beyond the usual benefits of a VMC kit: simple conversion to rc power and control, plus several build and conversion articles by Danny Fenton in RCM&E.

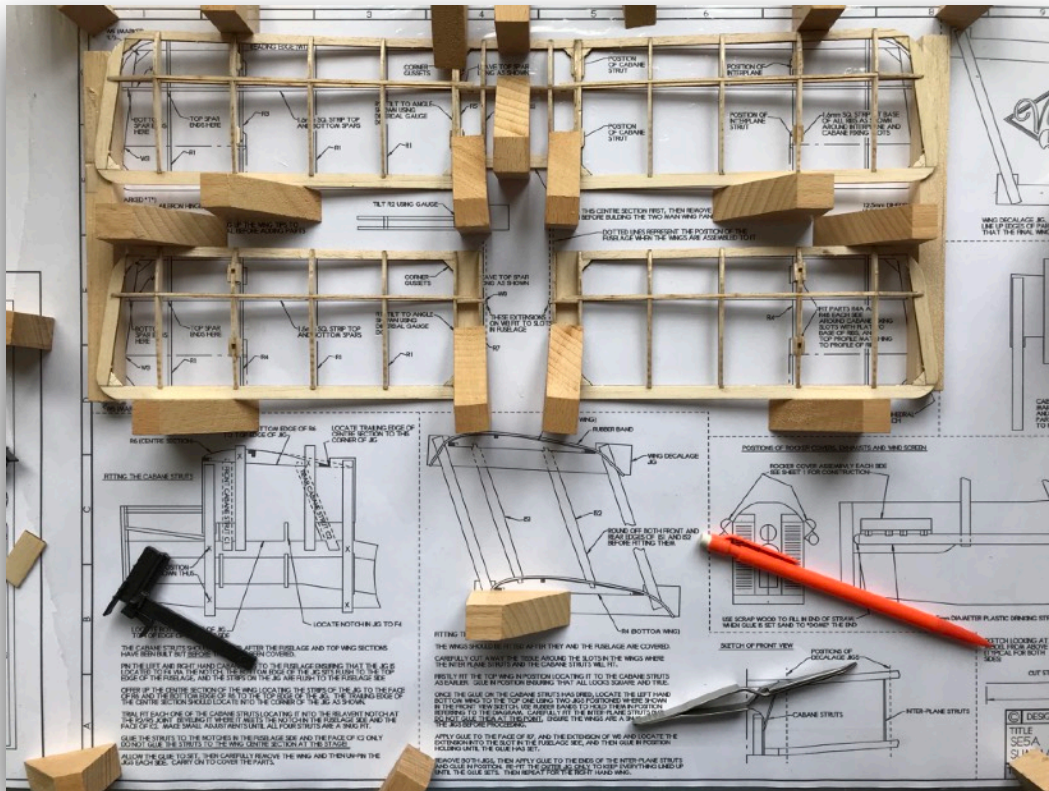
It comes packaged as F904 from the Shuttleworth Collection with brown covering, glue, decals and free flight power. But be warned if you're looking for a gift for your grandchild - being a biplane its more complicated than, say, the Hurricane from the same series and the comprehensive build instructions are not perfect.

Hopefully I can learn a bit more about tissue covering and get a great indoor flyer out of it too. I intend to finish it in the garish Billy Bishop A8936 livery for the practice.



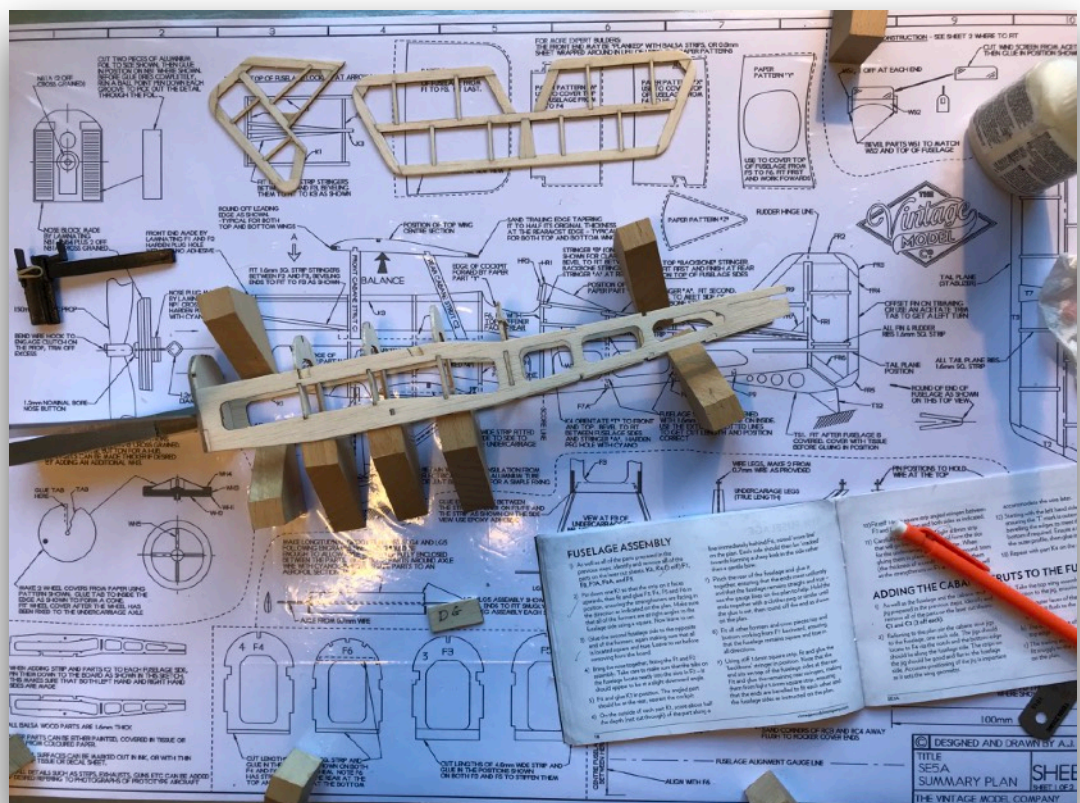
Image courtesy of MicroAces

Using my usual magnetic building board it took little time to build the two sets of wings.

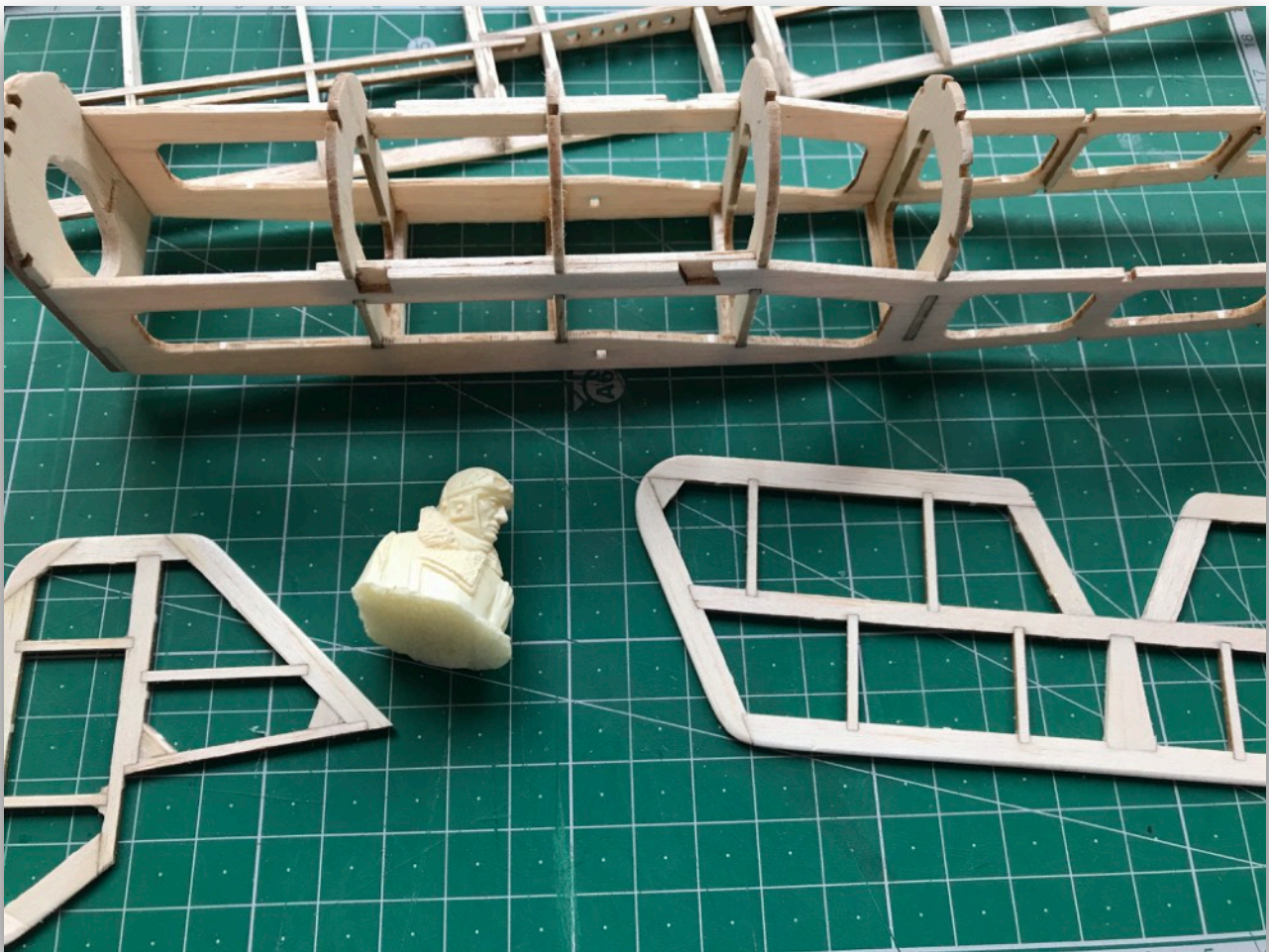


And the body and decalage swiftly followed.

Sorry about the colouring of the photo - winter afternoons.



Rapid progress towards a set of serviceable parts.



Which inspired me to search out a 1/20th scale WW1 pilot by Dave Banks. It seems that Sams Models sales are now undertaken via VMC.

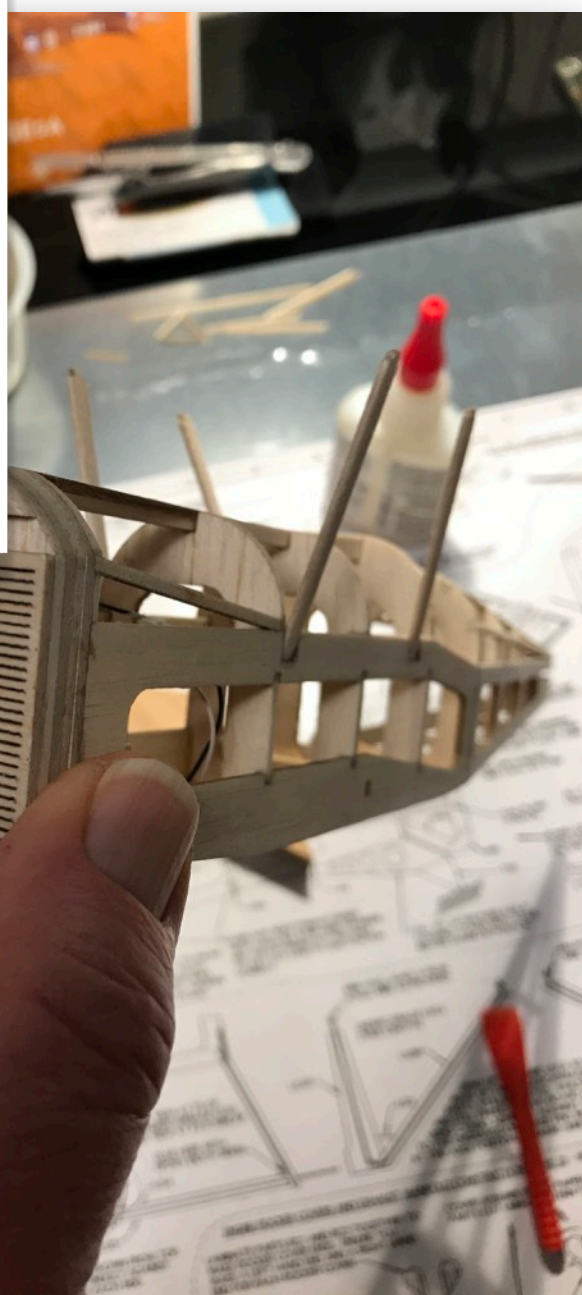
If I add a fair moustache this guy will look scarily like my own father!



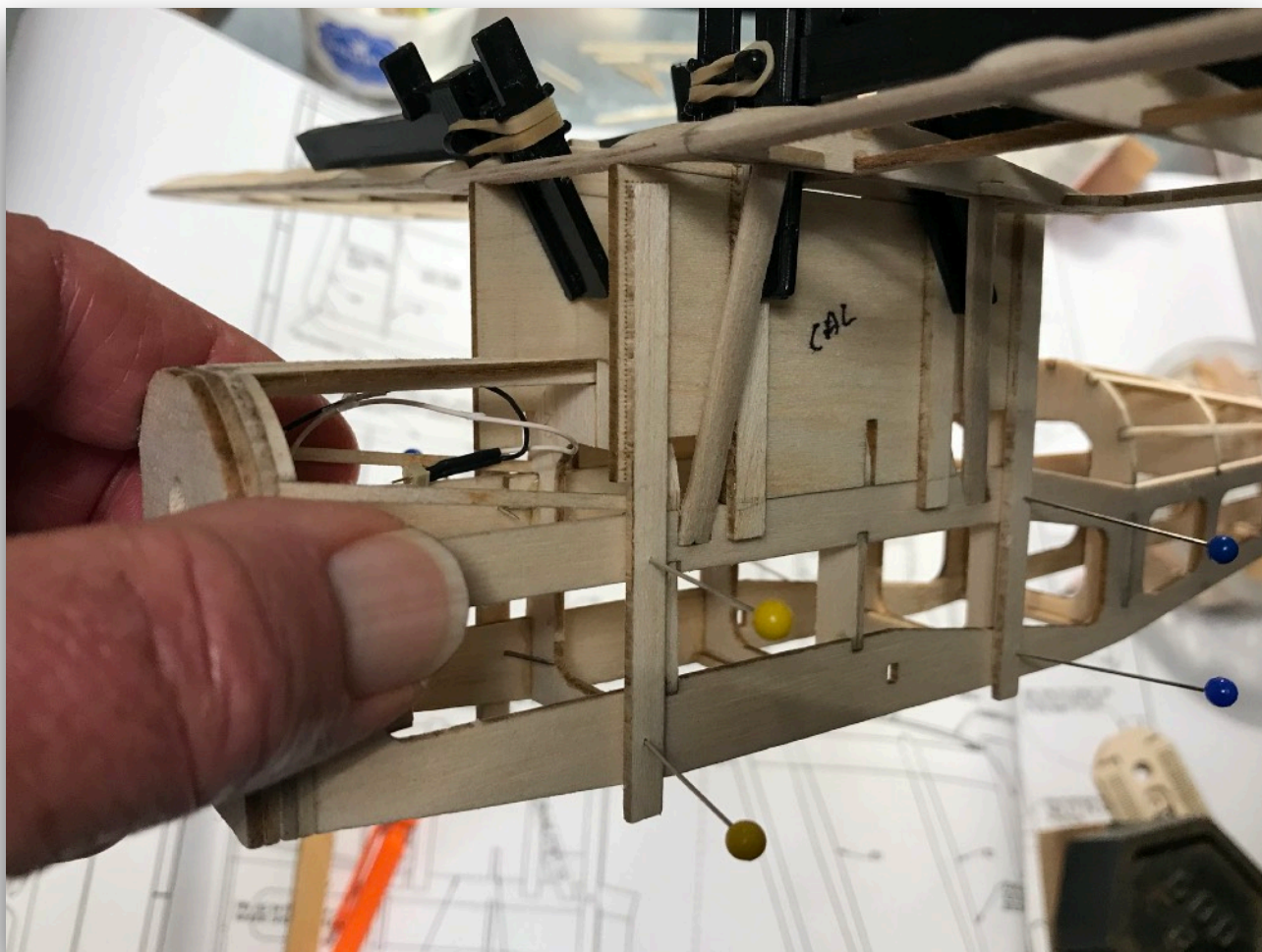
I was expecting to use the power and Rx out of a redundant Aries indoor biplane; but the weight of the wooden sheets and wire components in this kit is 41g - so, brushed power and Rx are old Parkzone T-28 parts, following Danny Fenton's lead.



But, unlike Danny, who presumably wants to switch between FF and RC, I have installed my motor on the firewall. The radiator is still attached magnetically, but doesn't solve prop attachment!



Love the cabane jig included in the kit. Bipes made easy! They also provide an interplane strut alignment jig.

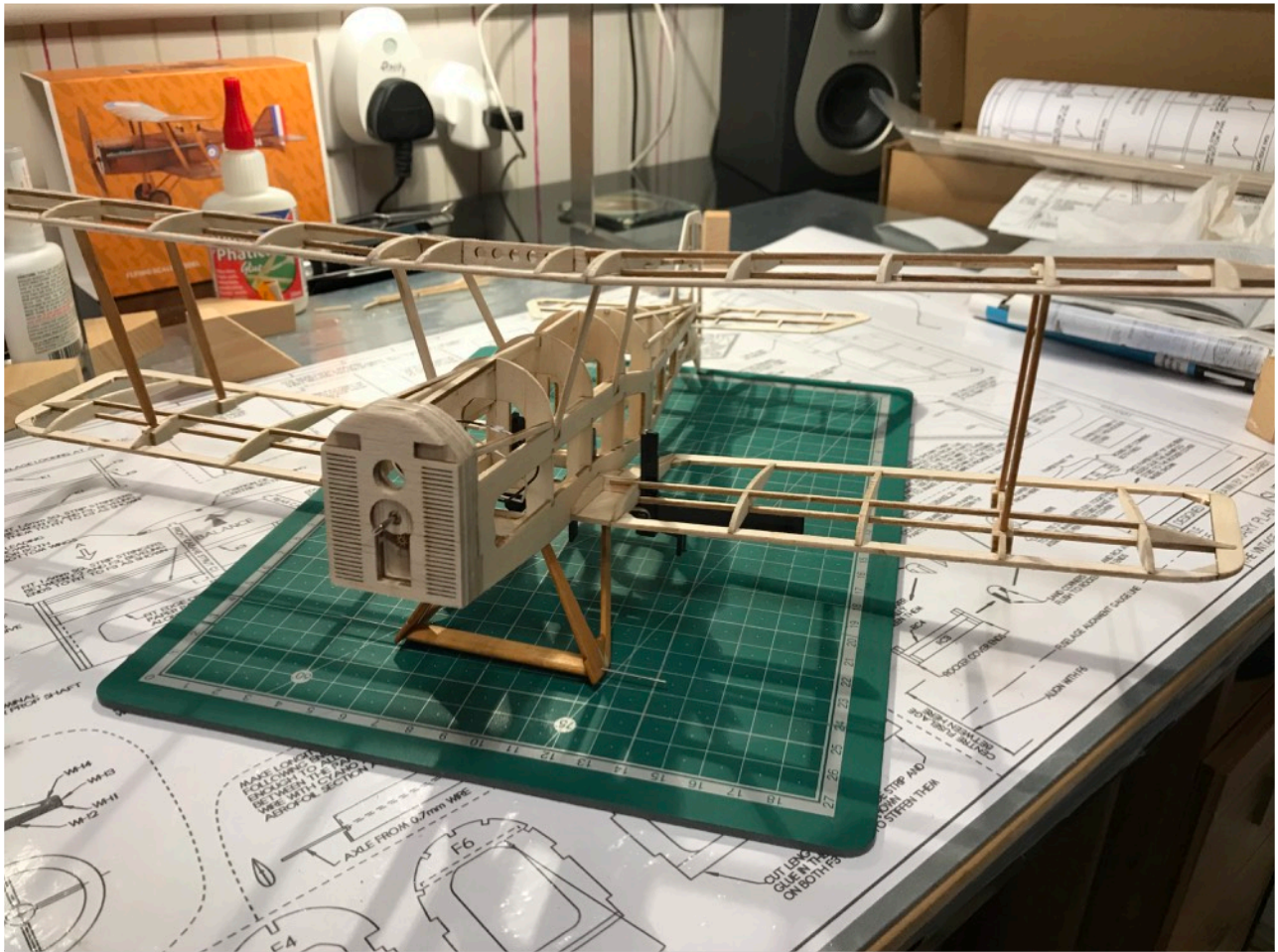


Meanwhile, A bit of tea to simulate pine.



And, the story so far, the compulsory gravity defying collection of parts.

It looks odd. The bonnet, from the headrest forward, will be paper and gets added during covering.



Moving tail surfaces, controls and covering to come.