

# Air Trails Model Annual ~ 1943

By Frank Ehling

This is a spectacular way of "throwing" a soaring glider to terrific heights.

THIS is the first time to our knowledge that the crossbow has been used to launch gliders. The altitude you can attain by this method is worth the added trouble.

The gun is made from pine. TWO strips are cemented on top to act as runner for glider, the body of which fits into the slot between the strips. Cut notches in strips to hold bowstring. Finish gun with black paint to protect the wood. The bow is of ash or other wood of same bending quality. Cut the bow to shape as shown on the plan, then proceed to carve the cross section. When nearly done, it can be finished off with sandpaper till as smooth as possible. Next it is given several coats of clear (lope, sanding in between each coat, till the bow is as smooth as glass. Fasten bowstring in notches at end of bow and wax string. Attach bow to gun with five coats of cement. Check for alignment. The bow has a bend of about four inches.

Glider must have the stabilizer on top of the body to clear the launching groove. A notch for the bowstring is cut in the body of the glider about one third back from the nose. To launch the glider after drawing bow, lift bowstring out of notch by raising the left thumb.

You can also use the crossbow to do some balloon busting. A pin placed in the nose with one in each wing tip will give you a good chance to bust the balloon.

Below—This is how your crossbow should look. Aim it like a gun, pull string, zowie!

# The Crossbow Launch

