1/16" Square balsa strip stock is used for the fuselage and tail surfaces structure.
Nose plug is a lamination of 1/64" plywood and 1/16" balsa

Spinner is made from 7 laminations of 1/8" balsa, 1 layer of 1/32" plywood, and one layer of 1/16" balsa

Peck Thrust Bearing

Comet North American P-51A
Wingspan - 18"

CAD Drawing by Paul Bradley
Sheet 2 of 8
1 1/8" Dihedral under each tip

Tips are made from 1/16" x 1/8" strip stock

1/16" x 1/8" Balsa

Comet North American P-51A
Wingspan - 18"

CAD Drawing by Paul Bradley  Sheet 3 of 8
Dihedral template for rib A

Wing center section is flat.

1/16" x 1/8" Balsa on bottom only

Wing spars are 1/16" square balsa strip stock

1/16" x 1/8" Balsa

1 1/8” Dihedral under each tip

Comet North American P-51A
Wingspan - 18”

CAD Drawing by Paul Bradley   Sheet 4 of 8
Drill hole in the 1/16" x 18" strip to accept the landing gear leg. Slide the leg through the hole and then push the rear bend through rib D. Apply glue along the leg that rests against the rib and strip stock.

Make a left and right landing gear leg from .025" piano wire.
**Comet North American P-51A**

Wingspan - 18”

CAD Drawing by Paul Bradley  Sheet 6 of 8

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**Building Notes**

**Spinner Fabrication**

**Step 1** - Cut 7 1/8” balsa disks to 1/8” more than the spinner base diameter. Cut a 3/4” diameter hole in three of the disks. Cut a 3/16” hole in three of the remaining disks. Glue the three disks with the 3/16” holes to a length of 3/16” dowel and to each other. Glue the solid disk to the front of the assembly. Glue the three disks with the 3/4” holes to each other and then to the assembly.

**Step 2** - After the glue has dried on the assembly place the dowel in an electric drill. Run the drill and with a sanding block reduce the assembly diameter to be equal to the spinner base diameter.

**Step 3** - Make a template from the spinner profile. Using a sanding block and the template shape the spinner while the assembly is being turned with the electric drill.

**Step 4** - Using a dremel tool or something similar, trim off the 3/16” dowel where it exits the opening formed by the bottom three disks.

**Step 5** - Make up the 1/16” and 1/32” plywood disks. Glue them together. Confirm the fit with the main spinner assembly. Do not glue yet. Glue your prop to the plywood/balsa disk assembly. Mark the location of the prop blades on the main spinner assembly. Cut the main spinner assembly to clear the prop blades. When satisfied with the fit the main spinner assembly can be glued to the rear disk after installing the prop shaft.

The nose plug is made from a lamination of 1/64” plywood, and 1/16” balsa disks along with a key block made from 1/16” balsa laminations and a Peck thrust bearing.

Cut this part after the wing is assembled. Use the wing to mark the location of the top spar on each side of the fuselage. Cut slots to allow the top spar to slide inside. Wing ribs A will sit flush against the outside face of these parts.

Install the rear and front sections of the canopy before installing the center section. Remove the portion of the top stringer between formers 9T and 8 before installing the center canopy section.

Trim the top of former 12 to the profile shown after it has been installed.

Cut 7 1/8” balsa disks to 1/8” more than the spinner base diameter. Cut a 3/4” diameter hole in three of the disks. Cut a 3/16” hole in three of the remaining disks. Glue the three disks with the 3/4” holes to each other and then to the assembly.

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**Wingspan - 18”**

**CAD Drawing by Paul Bradley**  Sheet 6 of 8
Nose plug - Make one from 1/8" balsa and one from 1/16" balsa

Spinner - Make 3 from 1/8" balsa and one from 1/16" balsa

Spinner - Make 1 from 1/32" plywood

Spinner - Make 3 from 1/8" balsa

Spinner - Make 1 from 1/8" balsa

Fuselage wing saddle pieces

Tail Wheel Doors

Nose plug key pieces

Comet North American P-51A
Wingspan - 18"

CAD Drawing by Paul Bradley
Sheet 7 of 8