ONE OF THE MOST unusual designs in the history of aircraft is the pancake wing, a weird-looking bird which actually has a number of features to recommend it.

A circular wing presents little drag at low angles of attack, making it fine for high-speed cruising. At high angles of attack the wing develops a great amount of lift and drag, perfect characteristics for low-speed landings. The sharply curved leading edge is an effective substitute for stabilizing dihedral angle.

As an extra feature on this model, "eyebrow" slots have been added to permit climbing at steep angles without stalling. Construction begins with the fuselage.

Cut out the two sides and cement them together along the top edges, starting at the tail end and working as far forward as the strut. Insert the bulkheads and the wing strut, then add the cabin roof cut from 1/8-in. balsa sheet mounted cross-grain. Note that the firewall must be shaped to fit the contour at the top.

When the cement is dry, install the elevator and cover the bottom of the fuselage with balsa sheet laid cross-grain. Slip the rudder into place and capstrip the top fuselage joint with a strip of 1/8-in. balsa sanded to the proper contour.

Make up the wing outline from two layers of scrap 1/8-in. balsa sheet. The joints in the bottom layer may be located at ran-