What you see the author holding is a bit of control line history that makes a comeback as a simple-to-do trainer.

Tethered Trainer

By Al Wolsky

Controline had just been born when this model was first designed. Here's a modern update for a really vintage design, for some nostalgic fun.

Flying models by control line is back in popularity in a big way. This mode of flying, using two lines for control, was developed and brought to the attention of model builders in the early 1940s by Jim Walker of Portland, Oregon. His 36-inch span Fireball kit had a price tag of $6.95 and was of high quality. Powered by the then popular Ohlson 23 spark ignition engine, this was the "hot" setup to try this new way of flying a model. The new mode did not catch on for some time as almost all models were then being flown free flight.

About the same time the Stanzel brothers of Schulenburg, Texas developed a similar tethered way to control a model, using a single line, and marketed a kit of their design called the Tiger Shark. Their single line system did not prove as popular as the Walker system. During this time the model magazines occasionally featured a control line model as a construction article.

Now one must remember that most modelers had never seen or attempted to fly a model in this way. So a trainer type model was the way to start. Just to get one up and fly was an accomplishment.

The model presented here appeared in a 1944 issue of Air Trails magazine, and was not even given a formal name, only being called Tethered Trainer. The designer was Earl Cuykton. In 1946 the Scientific Model Airplane Co. of Newark, New Jersey first