

On the 'Wing... #125

Henry Hester's Stealth Sloper

Henry's Stealth sloper is based on the F-117, and is a study in determination. We first heard about this model from Henry, when he sent some photos of the underlying balsa structure to us via e-mail. A few days later we received pictures of the finished aircraft. The included three-view is the result of some great camera work.

The model is finished in flat black using dope and silkspan over balsa sheeting. This turned out to be a lot of work, but the photos show a beautiful model, indicating it was all worth the effort.

The model is controlled through a Radiant 6 radio system with five servos. The V-tail is non-moveable. Initially, it was set up using spoileron and flap functions, with a separate elevator. The elevator design incorporates a slot which is supposed to bring air from below the rear of the fuselage over the elevator surface, but in practice, this did not work well.

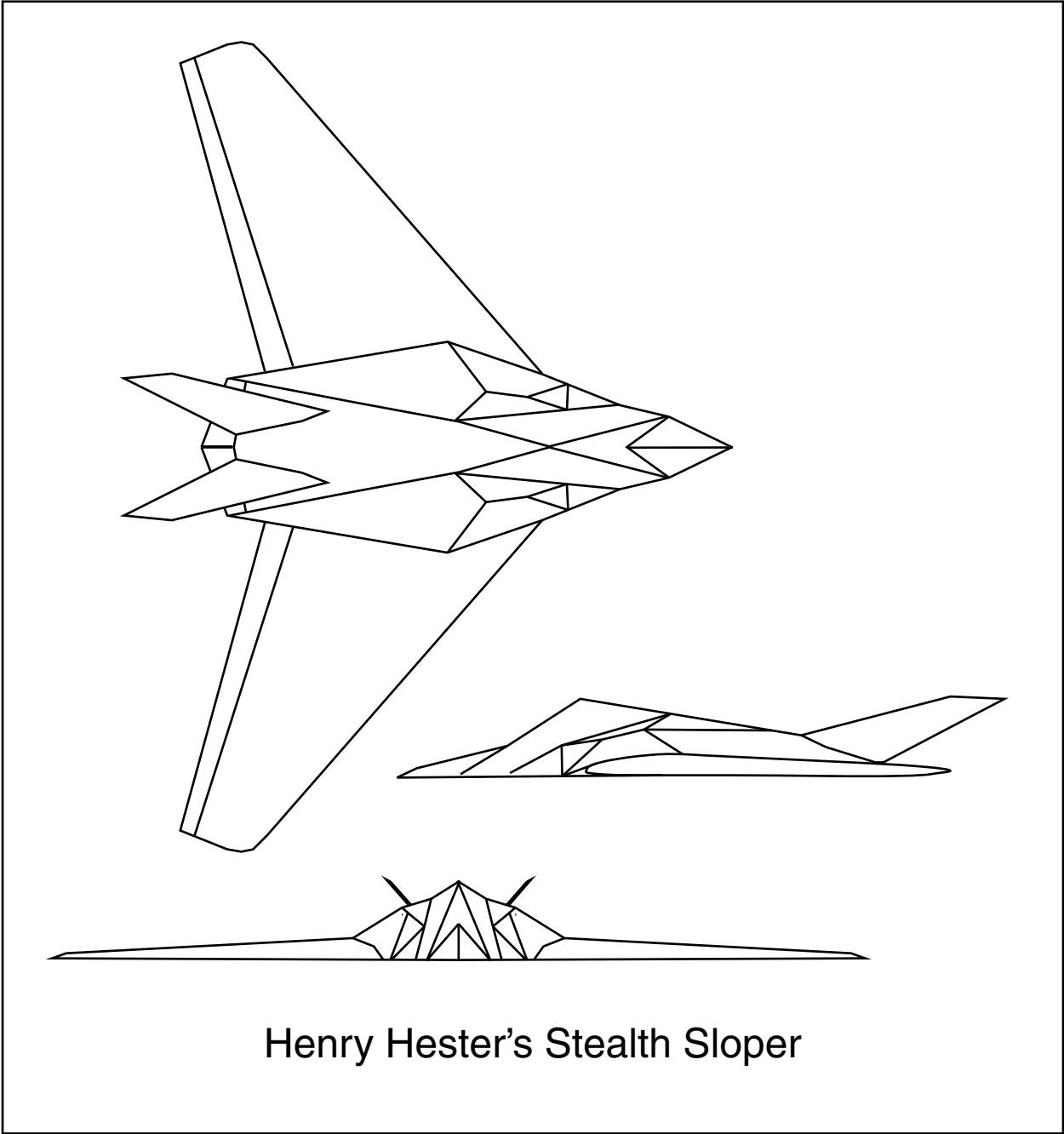
Because the airfoil is pretty much a flat-bottomed section, it needs a lot of reflex in the trailing edge — about a half inch.

Henry flies with the Inland Slope Rebels. Fellow members Brian Laird and Carl Moss were very instrumental in getting this 'ship into the air. Several hand tosses at a gentle slope indicated the need for more weight in the nose and more reflex in the ailerons. Elevator authority was poor, and it was decided to use elevon function instead of aileron and elevator. When this decision was made, Henry disconnected the elevator servo and made the necessary transmitter changes.

Up on a steeper grade, the model was launched into the wind and promptly looped. With Brian at the transmitter and Carl throwing, the model was thrown once more. This time it flew slightly left and out from the hill about 150 yards. Brian then banked it up into a climbing right turn. At that point cheers resounded from everyone present. Half a dozen turns later, Brian landed it below the crest of the hill due to insufficient lift on the slope. The entire flight was caught on video!

Henry's model has a span of 60 inches, weighs four pounds 12 ounces, and has 1050 square inches of wing area. The wing loading is 10.4 ounces per square foot, which is fairly light for a slope plane.

A final note. The model is set up with tricycle landing gear which is both retractable and steerable, so we must ask, "What plans lie in store for it now?"



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