

They can't stop enjoy flying

Catapult Gliders is a brilliant class to start a flying career with and the class can also give the expert flyer lots of fun. Simple, cheap and quick models to build and flying is spectacular.

Keep things simple

It is possible to keep things simple and the flying safe by adopting a safe setup for the glider and this is of course perfect for a beginner. To get max performance out of your glider the trim must be more extreme. To get this trim, your knowledge about aerodynamics must be deep which also gives any expert flyer a great challenge.

Collaboration between aeromodelling club and school

I have arranged many school championships, company parties and fun contests and I know for a fact that if you put a catapult model in someone's hand and let them try, they just can't stop enjoy flying. And the great thing is that almost all can compete on the same level, it doesn't matter if you are old/young, man/woman, weak/strong.

In my hometown, Norberg, we have had for many years now a great collaboration between our club and the school. The Swedish Sport Federation helps to fund this collaboration and it gives us

Oskar Findahl starts a model at a school championship



a great opportunity to promote flying. Usually we give kids, 12 – 16 years old, the chance fly and build. The course is four occasions and we work two hours each time. At the first three occasions we have theory about aerodynamics, building methods and of course building of the glider. It is great to see the youngsters enjoy working with balsa. The kids nowadays are often used to that everything happens so quickly around them, our course gives them a chance to discover how great it can be to

work with their hands and let the work take some time.



On the fourth occasion we have our school championship. We fly eight flights from a start square 25*25 m. The max flying time is 60 seconds and the five best flights are added to the final score. The person with the highest total score is the winner and gets the name engraved in our perpetual trophy. During the contest we usually try to make breaks to promote our club's other branches. They can try to fly other freeflight classes, radio-control and also see our full scale planes. Our ambition is to get more kids interested in aero sport in general, to show them how great flying is.

To get new people in our sport

If you like to have something extra at a contest, party, meeting or exhibition, build some catapult models and let people visiting your arrangement fly. You will be amazed how well it works to get new people in our sport. If you like some inspiration material, send me an e-mail and I will send back a folder with hints, drawings and addresses so your start of flying catapult models will be easy.

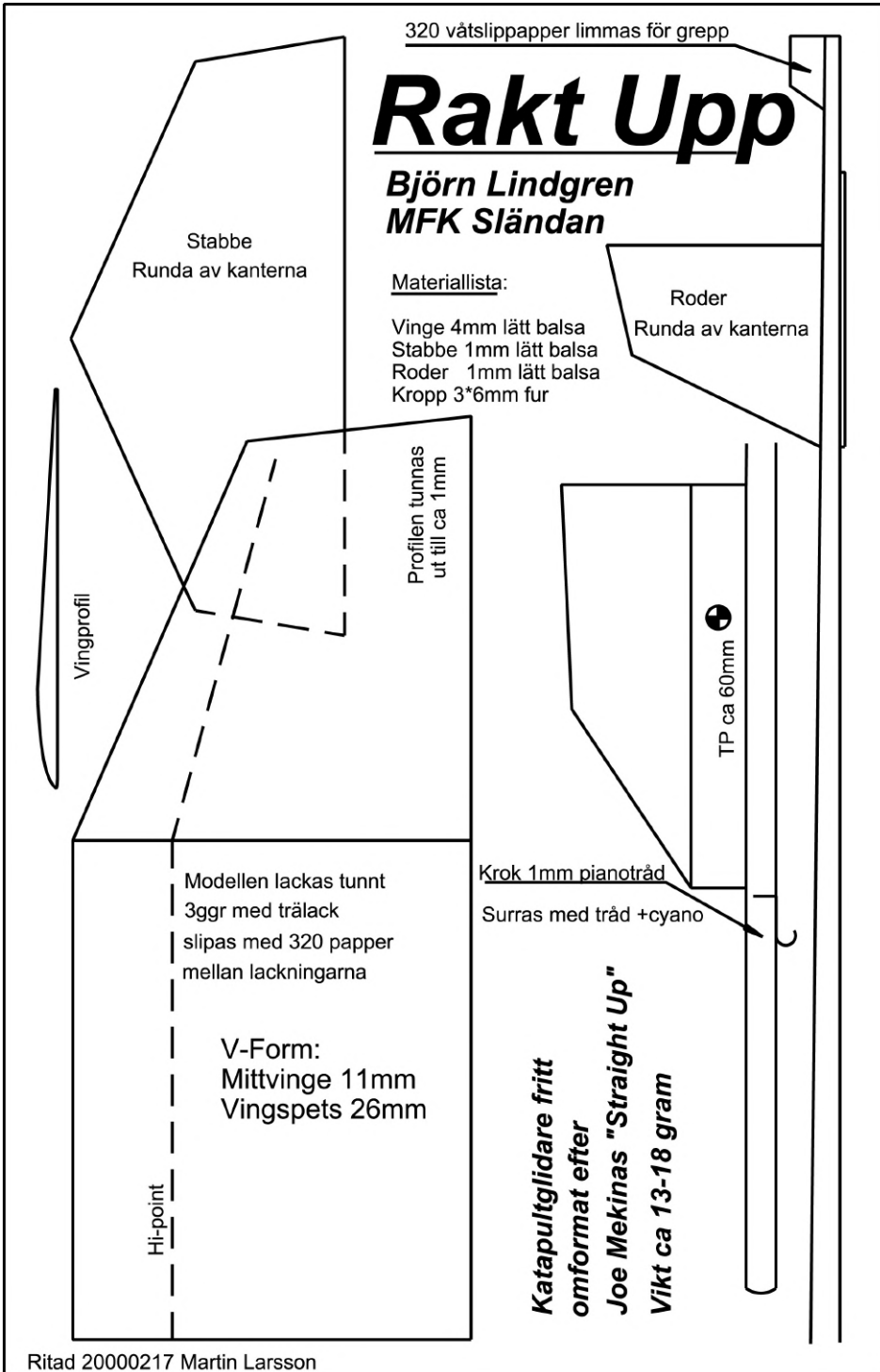


↑ *Catapult models in progress*

← *Finished gliders after the third lesson*

↓ *One group of catapult model fliers from my school*





Catapult models at a company party

Rules for Swedish catapult class

Model: Open

Bungee: Three gram of rubber on a maximum 150 mm long stick.

The flyer must hold both the bungee and the model at the

Launch. For younger kids and people who have problems to stretch the bungee it is possible to put a bungee on a longer stick that is secured to the ground, then the flyer is just holding the model at launch.

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www.fai.org/aeromodelling/ciamflyer

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