GRID® LEAKS

Radio Control World!

Controlled by Howard McEntee

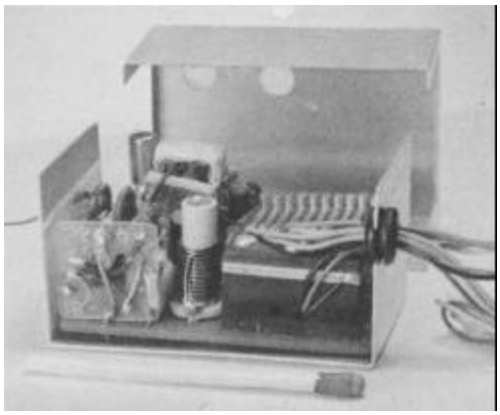
Successful RC Helicopter. We've seen several beautifully-constructed RC model helicopters—but have never any flights, or even any attempts, or even heard of such success by a member of the modeling fraternity. But it *can* be done. Accompanying photo shows a successful model helio which was built to test the then-radical idea of a rigid-bladed rotor, back in 1958. The resulting LC 475 built by Lockheed-California Co., bears a general similarity to the model. Specs for the model were furnished by

Lockheed's development of a rigid rotor system utilized radio-control model.

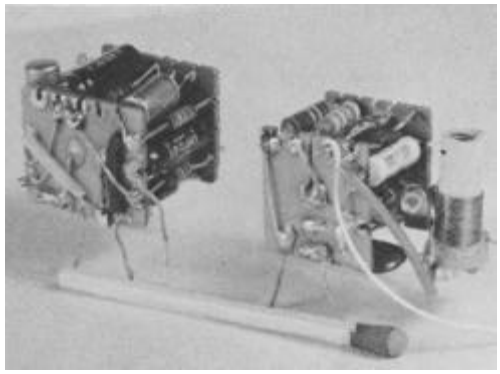
Lockheed's R. W. Prouty. Gross weight is 11 Ib. Main rotor, is a 60" dia. two-blade, with a 2 1/2" constant chord—made of birch, balsa, copper leading edge weight, covered with silk and doped. Power plant, a McCoy 60 with redesigned throttle, produced .8 hp at 8,000 rpm. Rotor driven at 1012 rpm. Tail rotor, 8.6" dia., has four blades, 6700 rpm, made of aluminum. Radio, six channels of a Citizen-Ship eight-channel reed outfit—two for pitch, two for roll, two for throttle. Large ring under rotor (it lies in the plane of the rotor) of the full-sized helio is a "gyro"; similar unit was added to the model after photo had been taken. Model was extensively flown, at Los Ageles' Sepulveda Basin among other places. Lockheed XH-51 turbine-powered helio was further experimental development that started with model depicted, and the concept is now being applied to Army's AAFSS Armed Helicopter. Our thanks to Mr. Prouty, to Irven Culver who originated the rigid-rotor concept at Lockheed, and to Lockheed-California Co. for info and pix.

RC Frequency Matters. As this is written (mid-October), word comes that Bonner has received an OK from the FCC on his 72 mc equipment—the first such approval, incidentally. Presumably by the time you read this, other manufacturers will be in the clear, and hopefully, several makes at the least will be on sale. There has been discussion as to the kind of frequency designation flags to use on 72-mc transmitters, and at this point it appears that some combinations of color and white may be adopted. Colors will very likely follow those now standard on 27 mc: 72.08 mc—brown and white; 72.24— red and white; 70.40—orange and white; 72.96—yellow and white; 75.64—green and white.

It's probable that official spot frequencies will be set up for the 50-mc ham band, where things are getting hectic—mainly because of transmitters with all sorts of oddball frequencies. Upon frequency agreement, marker flags will also have to be designated for this band also. Picking actual spots on 50 is tricky. We must avoid the lower end, since the ham operators congregate heavily there. The very top end is taboo—strong second harmonics of some of the 27-mc RC *(Continued on next page)*



Receiver by Pete Reed was one of the first really compact units. Modular construction, easy service, and component changing.



Below: First tests of Lockheed's rigid-rotor helicopter concept were made in a McCoy .60 powered model operated by 8-channel Citizen-Ship reed set.