



Recently opened in Peterborough, KB Enterprises at 25 St. Martins Street, Millfield, caters only for R/C and general aeromodelling.

WHAT'S NEW?

.60 Cobra

Radio controlled model helicopters first appeared as large .60 powered scale types. Over the years smaller, more functional models turned up designed for less powerful engines.

This increased the popularity of the hobby and now the wheel has turned full circle with the introduction of many .60 powered, very near to scale, civil and military helicopters. One of the latter, a *Bell AH. 1S Cobra* from **Hirobo** of Japan

has been sent to us by the importers, **Dave Nieman Models** of 34 Watford Road, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex.

Hirobo's TOW Cobra (TOW refers to the anti-tank missiles carried by the prototype) has a rotor span of 59.6 inches and a fuselage length of 58.5 inches. Designed flying weight is 11.4 lbs. and the scale is 1/9.2. Although four function radio is recommended (hardly surprising) the throttle and collective pitch may be operated by one servo; or by two using a 'Y'-lead.

Most of the machinery is attractively packaged in one box while the body and scale fittings appear in a second box. The manner in which this is done implies that many, if not all, the mechanics are common to the *Iroquois*, *Gazelle* and *Jet Ranger*. Pressure cast components are extensively used, the main transmission box and rotor head being only two items formed in this way. All the transmission gearing is machined from metal and each shaft is ball raced, as is the clutch and tail rotor drive. The tail rotor gearbox is supplied already assembled less the pitch control linkages.

The body is an unpigmented glass cloth moulding with a great deal of finely executed surface detail. Two bulkheads and the basic mechanism bearers are already resin bonded into place. Both the hatches, stub wings and the tail pylon moulding fit well. Vacuum formed mouldings form the chin turret and radar housing, cockpit



interior and a beautifully clear canopy. Other detail parts include two crew figures, plus the multi-barrelled gun, it is a form of modern Gatling, eight TOW missile tubes and two rocket packs. A bag full of pre-cut parts for radio and tank installation, clunk tank, silencer and transfers for the Japanese version complete the kit.

A really fantastic scale helicopter, and a kit that would give a builder a feeling of confidence as soon as the first components started clicking together. Retail at £315 from **Dave Nieman Models**.

