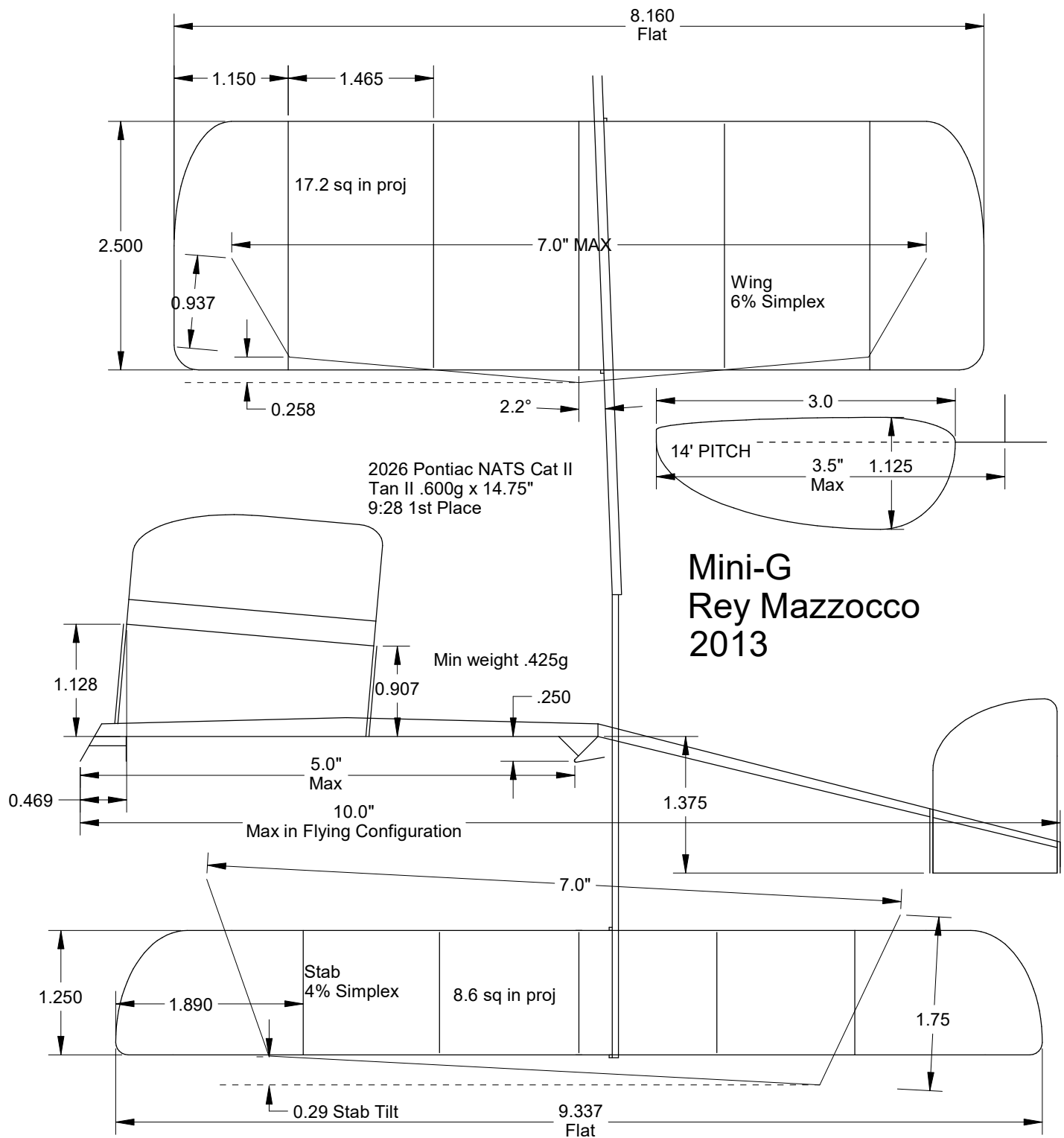




NATS Winning Mini-Stick “Mini-G”

By: Rey Mazzocco

This airplane is a very consistent performer for me. It has won the NATS twice and several other events since it was born in 2013. I have built 3 or 4 and all have flown the same. One version used an old F1D tapered and rolled tailboom as the fuselage and I didn't see any performance difference so have currently resorted to the simpler solid wood motorstick and tailboom. With the generous 425mg minimum weight there is no need for 3 lb wood. The wing and stab spars are 6lb and the fuselage and tailboom are 5lb. The prop spar is very hard balsa with .010" thick 5lb blades (originals were sanded down from .015 to .010 because I didn't have any balsa that thin). The surfaces are covered with OS film. I haven't used the new OS7 film so I don't know what adjustments would need to be made if you are using it. I suspect not much since there is very little covering needed on this size plane.

At this years Pontiac NATS, I put up a short test flight to make sure everything was still good then wound again for what I thought would get me close to the ceiling. It bumped one of the ceiling beams 2x and landed with 10:03 on the watch. Decided to put up a safe official so backed off a little torque for a no-touch 9:28. I put it away and waited to see if anyone could beat that time and it held up for 1st place.

For those wondering about the name – It was 2013 and I had just started flying indoor. One of the first successful airplanes I built was Bill Gowen's A-6 which features a drooped tailboom and also a skewed wing instead of side thrust. The Mini-G is the first indoor airplane I designed myself and is a tribute to Bill Gowen's willingness to share his knowledge with me.