

LeDoux Balloons

On the following two pages are photos of our two most recent amateur built envelopes. Both are copies of Aerostar cutting patterns. Both envelopes were constructed in our two-car garage using the 16 foot long table described in *BBJ* issue 9.

For general flying we prefer to copy Aerostar cutting patterns. This simplifies construction because all construction details are available in the Aerostar repair manual.

The first photo is *Seweasy*, based on the *RX-7 Rally* cutting pattern. The design is standard except for the load tapes and the top. The load tapes are red in color.

The top is a paravent. One third of the top operates like a parachute. The other part of the perimeter is a hook-and-pile ripout top. Marianne prefers the operating loads and rapid deflation provided by this top. These advantages come at the cost of marginal venting performance.

The basket is our original 1979 Raven *Rally* flat top basket. The burner was upgraded to HPII. It has survived over 800 hours, under three envelopes. Three years ago a major rebuild was performed. The skids were replaced and minor rattan repairs were made. The basket was soda blasted to remove 25 years of "patina."

Marianne prefers the basket to more modern designs. She is short and finds the lower sides beneficial to entry and visibility.

The second balloon is *Isewbar*. The envelope is based on the Aerostar *S-49* cutting pattern with a volume of 54,000 cubic feet. The design is stock except for the red load tapes. The envelope flies over an *Aurora* basket with a laydown 20 gallon tank.



