SPACE-AGE TOY

WARNER BENSON





FIRST STEP in assembling the model missile is to lay out the parts on the table, and check against the instructions. Construction is simple, parts are few, only glue and paint required. Lamp card is needed for firing.



FINS ARE CEMENTED to rocket body, as is launching lug and long rubber band that acts as shack absorber for ejected parachute. Launching stand is assembled, deflection plate nailed to it, parachute tied to rubber band.

CHILDREN'S TOYS reflect the age in which they live. Not too many years ago youngsters built model airplanes to emulate the daring men that flew in the skies overhead. Today we are in the age of missiles, and man is reaching into space with fiery projectiles. To keep pace, toys must reach the sky, at least, and be propelled by rocket fuel. This can mean trouble if youngsters make homemade rockets and try to power them with concoctions of gunpowder and other explosives. Even adults do not have the scientific know-how to safely handle such dangerous toys. But now there is an answer. A safe one.

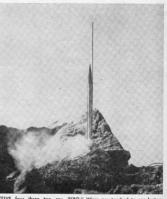
The toy is called a Rock-A-Chute, and it's a scale-model of the type of missile used to explore space. It is propelled by a rocket motor of solid fuel and is so designed that at the top of its trajectory it releases its nose cone and ejects a parachute that drops the unit safely back to earth. The nose cone is soft rubber, for safety in handling, and the solid-fuel engine cannot be fired except by a 6- or 12-voll battery.

To be absolutely sure of this spaceage toy, a kit was obtained, a 13year-old boy assembled it and the completed rocket was fired under adult supervision. An automobile battery was used for the firing. The car was driven onto a large, open field leads were run from the battery and the rocket was fired. There was no flame, no problem, no worrisome incidents. Dad had as much fun as the youngster.

The Arcon Rock-A-Chute kit consists of only a few parts, and no trouble was encountered by the youngster in assembling the model rocket. All stress points at the fins and along the launching lug were given double coats of fast-drying cement. The launching stand, consisting of two strips of wood and a telescoping wire, went together easily. In the original



ROCKET STANDS POISED on barren rock, wires clipped to mater igniter and lead off to battery of car. Last-minute check is made to be sure lounching area is cleared of all personnel. Launching will be authentic, and safe.



"FIVE, four, three, two, one, ZERO." Wires are touched to car battery a paff of smoke flarus from the toil of the missile and it trembles momen tarily on the launcher, oager to leap up into the welcoming blue sky.

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this photograph is the short jet of power coming directly from the rocket engine in the climbing missile.

kit a plastic collar is cemented inside the rocket body, against which the solid-fuel engine is fitted. On the first firing, the motor ejected instead of the nose cone being fired free. Checking with the manufacturer we slipped a rubber band around the motor and it then stayed in the rocket body and fired off the nose cone so the parachute came free and lowered the unit to the earth. Rubber bands now are used instead of the plastic collar. A piece of lamp cord 15 ft. long, fitted with alligator clips, is required. The clips fit on the igniter wires that are taped to the end of the motor. The opposite ends of the wires are wrapped on nails. When everyone is clear of the rocket, a 5-sec. countdown is made, the nails

are touched to the battery terminals and the rocket puffs smoke for a fraction of a second, then leaps skyward. At the top of the flight the nose cone pops loose, the parachute ejects and the assembly floats to earth as shown in the photograph above.

H you can remember the thrill of the first flight of a model airplane you built, you will know what it is like to see the tiny, slender rocket rushing up on a column of smoke. Extra-power motors are available for the rocket, for high altitude flights, as are scale-model launching towas. If you want to introduce your son to the space age the safe way, and have fun yourself, this model rocket is the answer. △ △