



# CRICRI: THE TINY TWIN FROM FRANCE

**The 160-Pound Cricket MC12 Becomes An Aerobatic Airshow Stopper**

**WHEN TWO CRICRI** aircraft landed after their first team flight at the 1981 Oshkosh show it was almost as though the Pied Piper had walked through the crowd. The tiny planes were completely surrounded by enthusiastic EAA members with a curiosity that was maintained throughout the entire show.

CriCri is the French Cricket MC12, the world's smallest twin-engine airplane at 16 feet, 160 pounds. Powered with two 12-hp Swedish snowmobile Valmet engines, the tiny twin has a cruise of 127 mph and a redline of 160 mph. The wing is under 13 feet long and has an area less than that of the horizontal tail of a Rally, just 34 sq.ft. Full-span "Junker-type" flap/ailerons are hinged below the trailing edge of

the wing and will produce a rate of roll of 180 degrees per second.

The Cricket is fully aerobatic, stressed to +9 and -4.5 G's. The hundreds of thousands of people who attended this year's Oshkosh show saw team aerobatics with these tiny twins by two French test pilots who call themselves "Les Porthos" after one of the Three Musketeers. Actually, "Les Porthos" are Claude Lelaie and Denis Legrand, civilian test pilots for the French Flight Test Center who perform in some 40 European air shows annually with the CAP 20 and 21 aircraft.

The Cricket was designed by Michel Colomban who accompanied the two models of the aircraft to Oshkosh. The prototype was first flown in 1973, and

during the intervening years the design was refined, and drawings and manuals were prepared.

The tiny twin will be available to U.S. homebuilders through the Canadian Zenair group very early in 1982. The price for the kit with all materials, all fittings complete, engines and props is estimated at about \$6,000. Zenair President Chris Heintz worked with the Cricket team at Oshkosh and finalized plans for producing the kit in Canada. Only engines, props, canopy and landing gear will come from France.

The Cricket is designed to be disassembled in three to five minutes. Aileron/flaps are connected with a ball joint that precludes rerigging every time the wings come off. The "Junker-