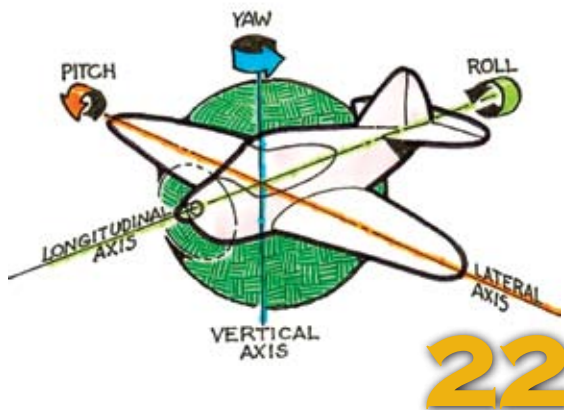


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COVERS

FRONT COVER Robert Baker's Aeronca Champ is the very same one in which he had his first airplane ride at age 10. Baker bought it years later, and has owned and flown it since 1979. Starting in 1991, 14 years would be spent on restoring the plane in what became a true family project. Read more about it in Sparky Barnes Sargent's story beginning on page 5.

BACK COVER: After retrieving his bag from the mailplane, Santa does his best to sell a pair of little girls on the idea of accepting a train car in this posed photo for National Air Transport. Taken at the Cleveland airport during the late 1920s, Santa is standing next to one of NAT's Douglas M-2 mailplanes. This photo documenting early NAT history is one of a number of photographs that are a part of the Gropitch collection in the EAA Archives. Ralph Gropitch was a long-time aircraft dispatcher for NAT and its successor, United Airlines.