

CIAM Flyer 3-2023



No future without a look to the past

Building and flying old Scale Model Gliders

The history of aviation reveals a wealth of old aircraft. Even experts and insiders have difficulty keeping track of them all, which is why we deal only with the predecessors of

today's magnificent gliders here.

An astonishing number of gliders were designed and built as early as the 1930s, and in particular after the Second World War.

Replica models

As these gliders were exclusively built from wood, more and more aeromodellers are building and flying replicas which are built to scale and, of course, also from wood. Fans of model veteran gliders organise meets with a variety of self-built models. These events are dominated by flying and expert discussions and show that even 100 years ago, without a doubt, designers already had a wealth of skills and knowledge. This is demonstrated by details still found today and many model vintage glider enthusiasts take great pride in reproducing their creation's original down to the smallest detail.

A future out of a museum

Aeromodellers find design details in museums, in a huge amount of literature, copies of old design drawings and photographs, and complement their construction designs with own photos and sketches.



Experts in the restoration of man-carrying gliders,



Complete overhaul of a man carrying glider

although few and far between, are another important source of information when building old-timer models. It is fascinating to see how closely man-carrying aeroplanes and models resemble each other in this case – often, but not always, the only difference is in size. Various collections and archives also provide an almost infinite pool of old blueprints and descriptions.

Build kits make for an easier start

In recent years, various model aircraft manufacturers have been offering beautiful wooden kits for model vintage gliders. The degree of completion of these varies from simple sets of cut frames and ribs to partially or fully assembled models.

Combined kits with laminated fuselages can be a useful intermediate solution, true vintage enthusiasts, however, will consider these to be a breach of style. CAD design is ideal for producing components of models in multiple sizes. In this case, the old rule that larger models are more stable and smooth to fly, can help with the selection of a size. Good luck.



Building vintage model gliders completely from wood



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