

Construction Notes for kit D10LC Wright Flyer I

It was a pleasure to build your model of the Wright Flyer. It was a challenge due to the small and fragile parts, but a great satisfaction when done. The materials were complete and the plans and instructions good.

Construction time was 20-25 hours, not including the research. Since I wanted it to be as close to the December 1903 flyer as possible, I used the Wright Experience on the internet for details.

A display model which can be carried around was desired, weight was not important, so some revisions were made. A spruce spar, one piece leading edge, and use of 1/16 square balsa instead of thread were the main changes. All were shaped to the correct airfoil. The trailing edge balsa was bent after heating in a damp towel in a microwave oven.

I used fittings for a prone pilot position. The control surfaces all move, except I did not attempt wing warping. (I thought about it.) I drilled small holes in the wing struts before assembly to make threading the braces easier. The wing assembly was built complete, including engine, pilot position, braces etc. before mounting on the fuselage. It is very important that the fuselage be square and straight, as well as the wing assembly so it all goes together without any stress or bending.

My RC club was very impressed, and I won model of the month award.

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Thanks,
Paul Fleming