

The LF Models Monocoupe 90 – Kit review

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LF Models kit No. 7236 “**Monocoupe 90**”. 1/72 kit, comprising 24 resin parts, a two-piece vacform canopy, a sheet of clear acetate and a piece of metal wire. Decals included. Produced by **LF Models, Gagarinova 10, 787 01 Šumperk, Czech Republic** (Internet: <http://www.lfmodels.cz>, E-mail: fofi@post.cz, Phone/fax: +420 649 221282)

Strictly speaking, the high-wing two-seat Monocoupe is of course not an R&R plane, especially not the relatively low-powered Velie- or Lambert-engined “90” versions, but many Monocoupes of different versions were used for air racing during the Golden Age. The most famous example is probably Johnny Livingstone’s clipped-wing 110 Special NR501W #14, which is claimed to have been the most successful racing plane of the era in terms of the number of race wins.

The fuselage is vertically split and contains a seven-piece interior. The side windows have to be cut from the acetate supplied, or made from Kristal-Kleer or some similar product. The windscreen and the roof window are



supplied as vacformed parts. The fitting of the different clear parts will be the key to success with this kit. The one-piece wing fits on top of the fuselage. A good five-cylinder engine is supplied, but little of it will be visible inside the unusual apertured full-front cowling. The propeller is beautifully cast, and the landing gear with its wheel spats is also very good. The wing struts look a bit fragile, but they will not have any structural function, so they will probably not cause any problems. The builder might want to replace some of the smaller parts, such as the tail skid, the pitot and the exhausts, and the struts between the fuselage and the stabilisers, which are not mentioned in the instructions, have to be added.

Many of the things that I have said about the previous two kits apply also to this kit: The surface detail is very good and the parts are well engineered and produced and only need a reasonable amount of cleaning-up. The decal sheet covers two Legión Cónдор “90 De Luxe” versions from the Spanish Civil War – this seems a strange choice to me, considering the high number of attractive civil planes flown by famous people, but at least they are not camouflaged...

The shapes and dimensions look right to me – but considering the high number of different versions that were produced and the high number of planes that were modified references will need to be checked carefully. I am pretty sure the wing rib spacing is too close, but my references do not agree on it. According to “Aviación Mundial en España” it is correct, but according to other references there are six or seven ribs too many in each wing.

Conclusion

Another great little kit, with huge conversion potential. It will be tricky to fit all the clear parts, but the rest of the kit will probably not present any problems.

A big thanks to LF Models for the review kit!