

## *Red Pegasus 1/48 "Beguine" radiator pods - Review*

*Anders Bruun*

As you know, SIG Member **Keith Davidson's Red Pegasus Decals** took over the manufacturing rights of **Scott Germain's Warbird Aero Press** decals and conversion parts. The radiator pods for the ill-fated #7 "Beguine" P-51C, in which Bill Odom was killed during the 1949 Thompson Trophy race have been slightly revised, and Keith sent me a set.



As can be seen from the "photo" above (I didn't have time to take any actual photos, so I just put the parts on the scanner...) they are split in front and rear parts in order to make it possible to depict the inlets and outlets. The parts are attached to heavy pouring blocks that must be sawn off.

There are quite a lot of little dimples in the surfaces, which must be filled and sanded before painting – on my examples the dimples covered almost half the surfaces.

I don't know the dimensions of the original pods, but the shape looks pretty good, and certainly better than those of the **Lone Star Models** conversion kit. They perhaps look a bit slim, and the rear ends might be a bit too rounded, but nothing major. The inlets and outlets are deep and the inlet splitter plate is well shaped. The cut-off kit wing tips are to be fitted into recesses in the pods, so to compensate remember to clip the wings a little less than required. I haven't cut off a kit wing to test how well it fits, but probably some filler will be needed.

Together with the Red Pegasus decals, which might well be available when you read this, an un-cuffed propeller and a good amount of plastic card and filler to cover the hole in the fuselage left when the standard scoop has been cut away it will be possible to build good "Beguine". I definitely prefer these parts over the more expensive Lone Star Models version.

...and if you want my opinion the wing tips of "Beguine" were not asymmetric – it would have required an awful lot of engineering to achieve very small advantages. There is no proof that it was ever done, only hearsay. Just stick your pods on at the spar ends where almost all P-51 wing clips are made, at the panel line at the outer stiffener in front of the aileron!



***This photo (by Aaron King) was generously provided by Scott Germain of Warbird Aero Press. There are many more photos like these on his "Kings of Speed" photo CDs – and on the CD you will get this photo in colour! Check his website: [www.warbirdaeropress.com](http://www.warbirdaeropress.com)!***