

The Choroszy Modelbud Heath Parasols – Kit reviews

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The Heath Parasol

You will probably have read about the history of the Heath aviation company in BT#41. The first Heath Parasol was built in late 1926 and used lower wings from Thomas-Morse S4C scouts, which Heath took from his huge supply of war surplus material! The Super Parasol was designed in 1927 and it was intended for home builders - it was a simple and very light plane, powered by a converted four-cylinder Henderson motorcycle engine. The wing was replaced by a bigger wing with more modern Clark Y airfoil. The Henderson delivered all of 23 hp, enough to give a top speed of around 80 mph. This was of course not record-breaking performance, but enough for the owners to enter it in many of the limited races that were popular during the "Golden Age". Among them was Heath himself, who won one event at the 1929 National Air Races in plane X299E (many planes did not carry the N letter in those days) and one event in the 1930 NAR in plane 10374, race number 5. Hundreds of Parasols were built by enthusiasts and several still fly.



Choroszy Modelbud kit No A176 "Heath Super Parasol Racer Plane (late version)". 1/72 kit, containing some 35 resin parts, a film with 3 clear parts, decals and three A4 pages of history, instructions and drawings.

The interior comprises four parts. The fuselage shell has extremely thin walls with very nice fabric and stringer detail both on the inside and outside and an integral incredibly well detailed hollowed-out rear cockpit bulkhead. The tiny four-cylinder engine is very well done and includes inlet manifold and exhaust pipes. The propeller is very well done. The tail surfaces are very thin and have good fabric detail. The stabiliser is a single full-span part, which should make assembly easier than on the "Baby Bullet". All the struts for the parasol wing (one V-strut for each side and a cabane structure consisting of a rear inverted V-strut and a front tripod) are provided as resin parts - you will have to choose whether to use them or replace them with some stronger material. I guess some kind of jig will be necessary in order to fit the wing correctly. The wing has a centre window, which is represented by a cutout in the one-piece wing and two

printed films for the top and bottom surfaces. The wing itself is another beautiful part, with very realistic fabric detail and thin trailing edges. All rudder horns are provided as resin parts - incredibly small and probably easier to make from scratch from thin plastic card. The landing gear legs each consist of two parts, and I would definitely recommend replacing the main leg with metal wire that can be drilled into the fuselage, since I don't believe that a butt-joined resin part will survive even careful handling.

The decal sheet is simple and only includes the "9459" registration and a couple of small texts for the rudder. The rear part of the black saw-tooth fuselage trim for the mainly yellow plane is supplied in decal form, so the builder has to paint the rest. It's a bit strange that no wing registrations are provided, but perhaps the plane didn't carry any. I haven't seen any photos of this particular plane and I don't know which races it participated in. The decals are sharply printed and look extremely thin.

This is another superb little kit, fully up the standard of the "Baby Bullet" reviewed in BT#41. Both casting and pattern making are of absolute top quality - in fact I can hardly understand how some of the smallest parts were originally made!



Choroszy Modelbud kit No A175 "Heath Super Parasol Racer Plane-Foats (early version)". 1/72 kit, including some 45 resin parts, a film for the windscreen, decals and three A4 pages of history, instructions and drawings.

This kit shares surprisingly few parts with the previous one, even though they depict different models of the same basic design. Both the wings and the fuselage are slightly different, and then there is of course the float undercarriage. Everything I said about the quality of the previous kit is true for this one too - lots of very small and extremely well done parts! The kit includes a beaching trolley, which can be used for a diorama-type display. The decals are for plane 598K, which carried race number 46 as a landplane in the 1929 NAR. This is a very attractive scheme - the fuselage is yellow with black

