

XS-models 1/32 Mace R-2 Shark – Kit review

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When I saw the XS-models line I was excited to see a few Formula 1 designs listed. A note to Andreas Krause revealed one was ready for sale now, so I ordered it immediately. This neat little Formula 1 racer was designed, built and flown by WWII ace Harvey Mace and competed in the 1969 and 70 Reno Air Races. He sold it to USAF test pilot Bill Skliar, who campaigned it for many years until his death in the airplane testing a new wing.

The kit is in a neat little box, the top opens so all of the parts can be held inside easily while building, and that is good as some of them are very small and there are a lot of them. The multi media kit is light tan, almost white, resin, vacuform canopies and photo etch with an acetate instrument panel backing. Casting is good with no pinholes or sinkholes of notice but a fair amount of flash. The stab is one piece and slides into a slot. The prop and spinner are moulded together and the wheel pants are one-piece with the wheels moulded into them. The wings come in halves, they slide into the fuselage and are keyed front and back so they connect in the middle of the fuselage and there is a large mating surface to glue to the outer side of the fuselage too. It looks pretty strong and provides room for the cockpit seat.

The cockpit is a very busy place with three photo etch bulkheads, instrument panel, stick, rudder pedals, seat belt harness and resin seat. This is covered by a vacuform canopy which can be mounted to a resin turtledeck or one can use the second one, which has the turtledeck and canopy moulded as one clear vacuform unit.

The landing gear legs are photo etch and fold double to make a square section shape. The instructions

say to lather this up with primer and shape in an airfoil section. They should be strong, but only as strong as the precision the modeller uses for the mounting slots that must be cut where marked into the bottom wing surface.

The instructions are in German and English, and very understandable. The colour four-view is very commendable along with the colour sequential construction views. The kit includes three decal sheets with white printed underlay of the yellow numerals, which are outlined in white, and a small sheet of shark's mouth, eyes and rescue indicator. This is a very well thought out plan as the colour of the model is overall 1969 GM Dark Metallic Gray, like a Corvette Stingray.

Andreas has packed a lot of model into this box and it's very detailed compared to its overall size. It is expensive, but I think its value is matched by the price as it's a good looking replica of the Mace Shark.

I hope Andreas comes out with his Rivets Formula 1 soon, it will be a great companion for the sinister looking Shark.

References

- **Reed Kinert "Racing Planes and Air Races, Volume VII"** (Aero Publishers, 1971) – drawings by Russ A. Brown
- **"Aircraft Archive – Famous Racing and Aerobatic Planes"** (Argus Books, 1989) – drawings by A. A. P. Lloyd
- **Robert S. Hirsch "Goodyear & Formula One Air Racing 1967-1995, Volume Two"** (Wind Canyon Publishing, 1998)

