

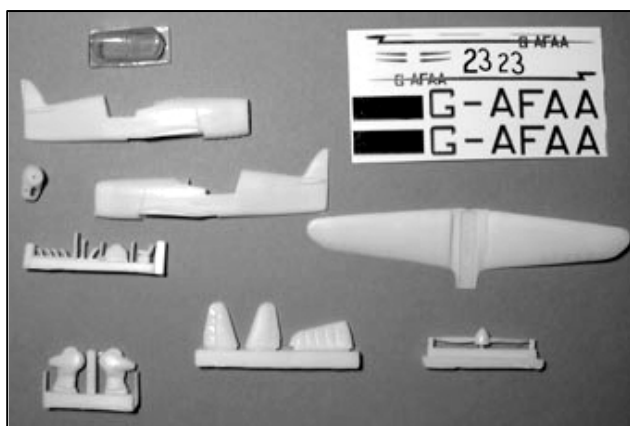
The Dekno 1/72 Percival Mew Gull - Kit review

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Dekno (kit No. AR. 720300) "**Percival P.6 Mew Gull E.3H**". 1/72 kit, containing 19 resin parts, a vacuum-formed windscreen and full decals. Available from Dekno Models, www.deknomodels.com, Apartat Postal 9256, 08012 Barcelona, Catalonia, price EUR 24.00.

The kit depicts Edgar Percival's personal unique "scaled-down" G-AFAA, so it is not usable for building any other of the Mew Gulls. The history of the Mew Gulls was described in BT#39, so I will jump straight into a description of the kit.



The parts layout is entirely conventional, with vertically split fuselage, one-piece wing, separate horizontal tail surfaces that butt-join to the fuselage and a separate rudder. You should note that the rudder was inset (correctly depicted in the kit instruction drawings) so the

joint lines should be filled at top and bottom – and if you are the kind who always deflects control surfaces you are in for some extra work. The wing centre section is too long to fit the opening in the fuselage bottom, so it needs to be shortened at the rear, but better that than leaving a gap to fill!

Production quality is very good, with sharply defined shapes and no bubbles. The trailing edges of the flying surfaces are extremely thin. The fabric detail of the control surfaces is quite pronounced, but will look good with a coat of paint. The decals look thin and sharp. They include the gold pinstripe around the blue lettering and trim. The blue colour looks a bit dark to me, but I haven't seen any colour photos of the plane and blue colours are notoriously difficult to judge in old black-and-white photos, so I will reserve my judgement.

Accuracy

The kit parts scale out a little bit too small, just inside the lines of the drawings everywhere, but it is evenly spread out over the airframe, so it's not really noticeable. The outlines match Harry Robinson's drawings well, with one exception: The wing planform isn't right – the shape of each wing panel looks about right, but it seems like they are fitted with a bit of sweep-back. The leading edge sweeps back too much and the trailing edge sweeps forward too little.

Conclusion

It's a pity about the wings, because otherwise this is another great little kit! However, probably only Mew Gull experts will notice that error, and everybody else will notice the sharp details. This is easily the best 1/72 Mew Gull kit released so far!

References

- **Drawings by Harry Robinson** (in "Aircraft Archive – Famous Racing and Aerobatic Planes", Argus Books, 1989)
- **John Silvester "Percival and Hunting Aircraft"** (Nelson & Saunders, 1877)

Thanks to Dekno Models for the review kit!