



Historic Wings

1:72 Metal Kit of the



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Bensen B-8M / X-25

History and
Assembly Instructions

History

Bensen Aircraft Corporation are famous for their light autogiros which were supplied both as kits and as complete aircraft. The X-25 was based on the Bensen B-8. The X-25 program started in 1967, when the Discretionary Descent Vehicle (DDV) was conceived. The DDV program was intended to give aircrew who were forced to abandon their aircraft the option of landing somewhere other than in enemy territory. When a small McCulloch engine was added to the basic airframe, the vehicle had the capability of prolonged flight, which meant that the user could leave enemy territory if the range of the DDV was sufficient. Bensen built three X-25 aircraft. The original X-25 did not receive a U S Air Force serial number, the X-25A received serial number 68-10770 and the X-25B became 68-10771

Introduction

This Historic Wings kit is made from etched brass for the main structure, with cast metal detail parts. It is possible to build this model as a civil B-8M aircraft, the X-25A or X-25B. The three versions with their colour schemes are shown on the drawing overleaf.

Brass components can be soldered together, or joined with cyanoacrylate (SuperGlue) or 5-minute epoxy. If you have the skills and equipment we recommend soldering.

To remove parts from the etched fret, you can use a pair of side cutters, or put the fret on a ceramic tile, and press down on each attaching tab with a sharp knife. If you use the 'knife & tile' option, put the attaching tab with the half-etched side of the tab face down. Whichever method is used, it may necessary to remove the burr of the attachment tab with a needle file afterwards.

Where etched parts are joined with two inter-locking slots it may be necessary to enlarge a slot with a needle file. This is because photo-etching is not an exact process, and sometimes the etching is slightly uneven across a sheet.

Parts List

Etched Metal

A - Rotor head	1 off
B - Seat frame	1 off
C - Rotor head disc/control column. . .	1 off
D - Main structure	1 off
E - Horizontal stabilizer.	1 off
F - Cross member	1 off
G - Control column	1 off
H - Rudder pedals	1 off
J - Rotor head brace.	1 off

Cast Metal

Engine.	1 off
Fuel Tank	1 off
Main wheel.	2 off
Propeller	1 off
Nose wheel	1 off
Rotor blade	2 off
Seat cushion	1 off

Miscellaneous

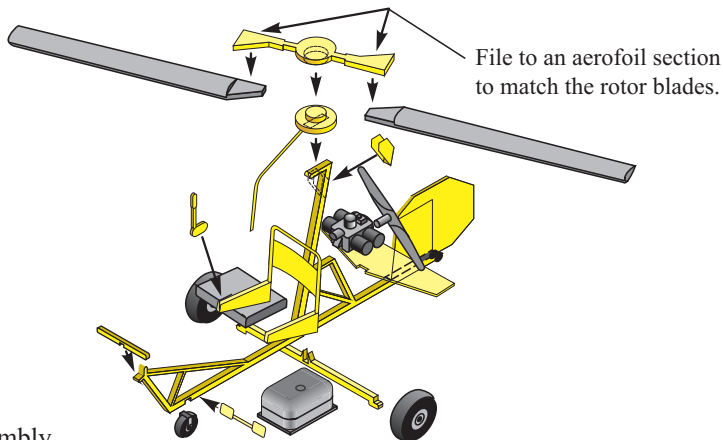
Decals	1 sheet
Instructions	1 set

Note - The decals are printed by ink-jet printer. They ARE sealed, but it is good practice to give them a further coat of clear gloss varnish before using them.

A ASSEMBLY

Note: There were various versions of the control column - one mounted below the seat and the other coming from the rotor head. The variations are detailed on the drawing overleaf.

- 1 Remove the main structure and cross member from the etched fret and enlarge the mating slots in these two parts if necessary. Bond the two parts together.
- 2 Remove the horizontal stabilizer from the etched fret, enlarge the slot at the front of the stabilizer if necessary, and bond the two parts together.

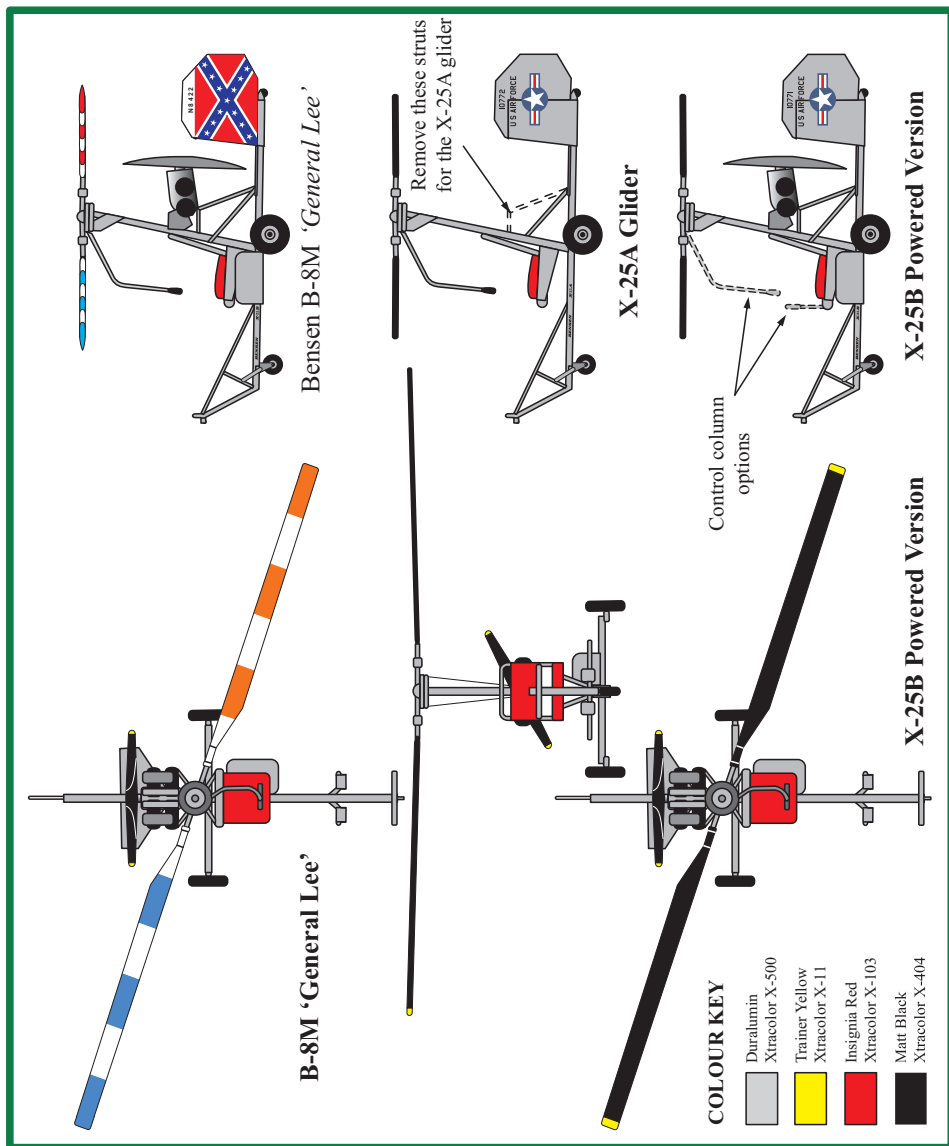


3 Seat Assembly

- (a) Remove the seat frame and control column from the etched fret.
 - (b) Fold the seat frame into a 'U' shape.
 - (c) Bond the seat cushion to the seat frame and the control column into the slot under the seat cushion.
 - (d) Cut a rectangle of paper 8mm x 4.5 mm from these instructions and bond it to the back of the seat frame with a slight sag, to represent the fabric back of the seat.
 - (e) Do not attach the seat assembly to the main structure yet.
- 4 Remove the rotor head disc/control column from the etched fret and trim the tongue of the main structure until it fits into the slot in the rotor head disc. Fold the control column into the shape shown on the 3-view drawing overleaf.
 - 5 Remove the rotor head brace from the etched fret, fold it into a 'U' shape and bond it to the main structure.
 - 6 Bond the rotor head disc/control column and rotor head brace to the top of the main structure.
 - 7 Remove any flash from the engine and propeller. Make sure that the slot underneath the engine fits onto the support on the main structure and bond the engine in position. Bond the propeller to the rear end of the engine.
 - 8 Remove the rudder pedals from the etched fret, enlarge the slot in this part if necessary, and bond it to the main structure.
 - 9 Bond the seat assembly (made in step 3), nose wheel, main wheels and fuel tank to the main structure.
 - 9 Bond the two rotor blades to the rotor head, then fit the rotor head on top of the main structure, with the pin on the structure in the socket in the rotor head.

B PAINTING AND FINISHING

- 1 Paint the aircraft aluminium overall, with the following detail colours:
 - Propeller: matt black with yellow tips. Rotor blades as shown on the drawing.
 - Grip on control column and tyres: matt black
 - Seat cushion and fabric back: reddish brown.
- 5 Apply the decals as shown on the 3-view drawing overleaf.



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The manufacturers reserve the right to alter parts; add to, or delete parts without prior notification in the interests of quality control, production, or product improvement.

This kit is manufactured in the United Kingdom by

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