Aircraft In Miniature Limited

Historic Wings

1:72 Metal Kit of the

1909
Bleriot XI 'La Manche'

History, Notes and
Assembly Instructions

History

Louis Blériot (1 July 1872 – 2 August 1936) was a French aviator, inventor and engineer. In 1909 he completed the first flight across a large body of water in a heavier-than-air craft, when he crossed the English Channel. For this achievement, he received a prize of £1000 (5,000 US dollars). He also is credited as the first person to make a working monoplane.

Blériot was a pioneer of the sport of air racing..

Introduction

This Historic Wings kit is made from etched brass for the main structure, with cast metal detail parts. The flying surfaces can be covered with the Litespan film supplied, although many modellers may prefer to leave the structure uncovered to show the details.

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 or similar hard flat surface, 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 downwards. Whichever method is used, it may necessary to remove the burr of the attachment tab with a needle file afterwards.

CAUTION - MAKE SURE THE ORIENTATION OF THE WING IS CORRECT BEFORE YOU TWIST EACH RIB.

The wings are etched with integral ribs. Hold the leading in a vice or clamp, and then hold each rib in turn with a pair of fine flat-nosed pliers, and twist that rib through 90 degrees while you hold the trailing edge with another pair of flat nose pliers at the same time. This is to stop the wing structure curling as the ribs are turned. When all the ribs have been turned, make sure that the wing is straight and true.

If the model is to be covered with Litespan film:

(1) Cut a piece of the film which is larger than the panel.
(2) Apply a continuous layer of cyanoacrylate adhesive (superglue) to the structures where the film will be attached.
(3) Attach the edge of the piece of film to one long edge of the bay and press it down so that it is smooth, and without creases.
(4) When the superglue has attached the film securely, apply more superglue to the other three sides of that bay.
(5) Pull the film smooth and attach the other three sides of the panel of film, so that it is smooth and not slack.
(6) When the film is securely attache d, use a sharp blade to trim off the excess film.
(7) Do this procedure again for all the other panels to be covered.

Parts List

Cast Metal

Form tool - female - large . . . . . 1 off
Form tool - male - large . . . . . 1 off
Form tool - female - large . . . . . 1 off
Form tool - male - small . . . . . 1 off
Engine . . . . . 1 off
Figure - pilot (Louis Bleriot) . . . . 1 off
Flotation bag . . . . . 1 off
Fuel tank . . . . . 1 off
Landing gear structure (main) . . . 1 off
Propeller . . . . . 1 off
Tyre - large . . . . . 2 off
Tyre - small . . . . . 1 off

Etched metal

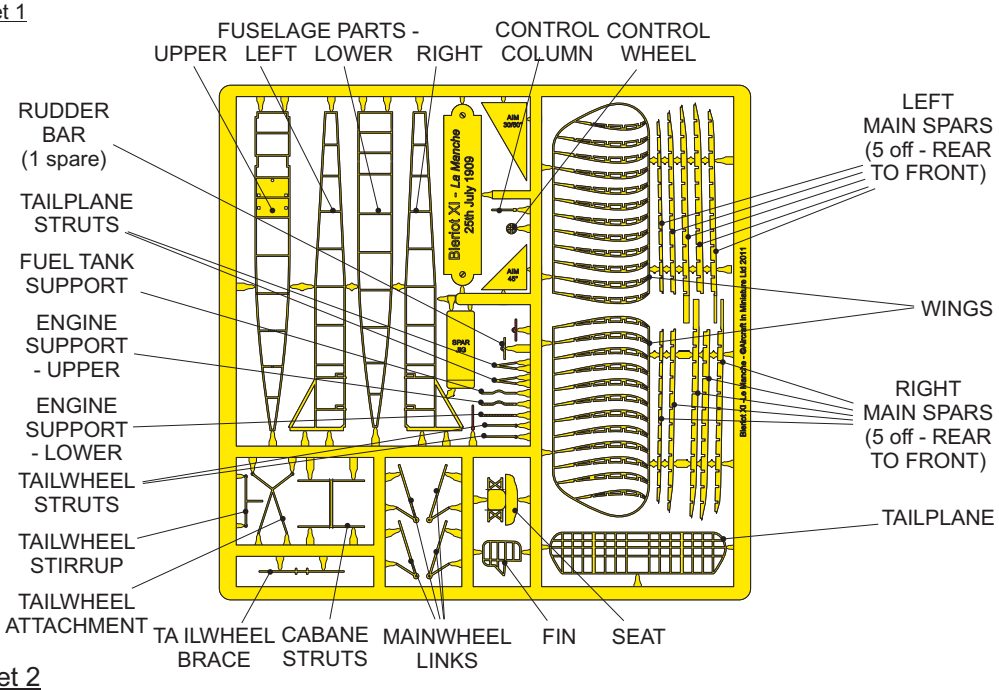
Fret 1 - brass . . . . . 1 off
Fret 2 - nickel silver . . . . . 1 off

Miscellaneous

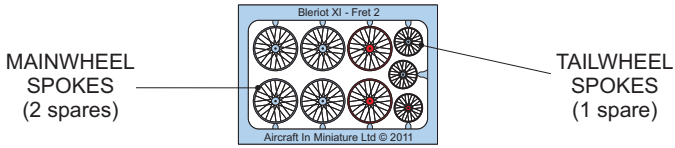
Cream Litespan film . . . . . 1 sheet
Instructions . . . . . 1 set
Stainless steel wire . . . . . 1 length

PARTS SHOWN IN RED ARE SPARES, OR ARE NOT USED IN THIS KIT

Fret 1



Fret 2



1 ASSEMBLE THE SPOKED WHEELS

A Remove the six spoke discs from the fret and remove any burrs from the attachment tabs.

B Form each spoke disc.

(1) Put each disc into the cavity in the female form tool.

(2) Put the male form tool into the cavity and press the disc into a cone..

(3) Remove the form tool from the vice and remove the formed disc of spokes.

(4) Do steps 1 B (1) thru 1 B (3) again for each of the other spoke discs.

C Assemble the wheels.

(1) Paint the appropriate tyre areas of the cast metal tyres matt black. Do not paint the recesses where the spoke discs will be attached.

(2) Apply your preferred adhesive in the recess on one side of a cast metal tyre, then attach the conical spoke discs.

(3) When the adhesive is dry/cured, turn the wheel assembly over and attach the second spoked disc to the other side. Leave this adhesive to dry/cure.

(4) Do steps 1 D (2) and 1 D (3) again for the other wheels.

2 WING ASSEMBLIES

A Remove the left and right wings, the five spars and the five right spars from the fret, then remove all burrs from the attachment tags.

B Twist all the ribs on each wing through 90°.

C Engage the slots in the five spars in the slots in the ribs of each wing (see Figure 1). Make sure that they are symmetrical, then bond the wing spars in place.

D If required, cover each wing with Litespan film.

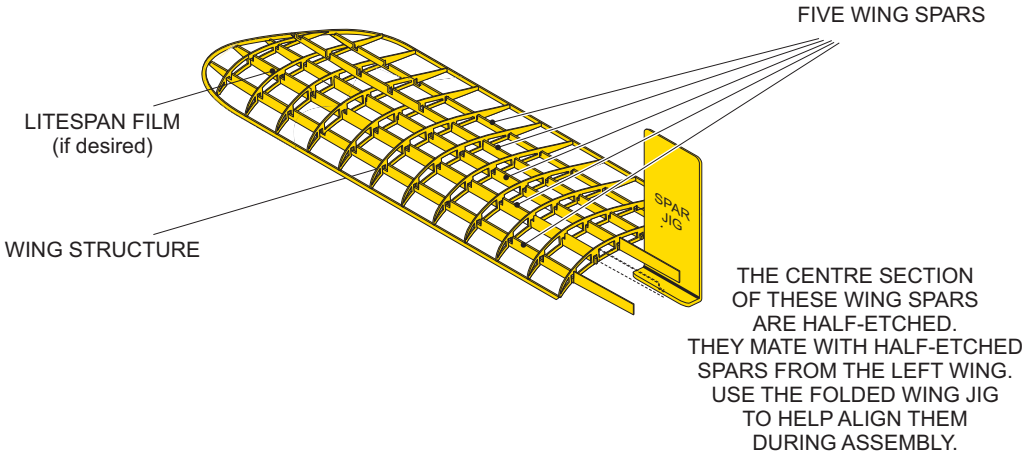


Figure 1

3 FUSELAGE ASSEMBLY

A Remove the control wheel, control column, rudder bar and seat from the fret, then remove all burrs from the attachment tags.

B Fold the back and legs of the seat as shown (see Figure 2). Paint the seat to resemble leather and the legs as wood.

C Slide the rudder bar on to the control column and attach it, then attach the control wheel. Paint the control wheel black and the control column and rudder bar silver.

D Paint the lower fuselage to resemble wood, then attach the control column and seat to it.

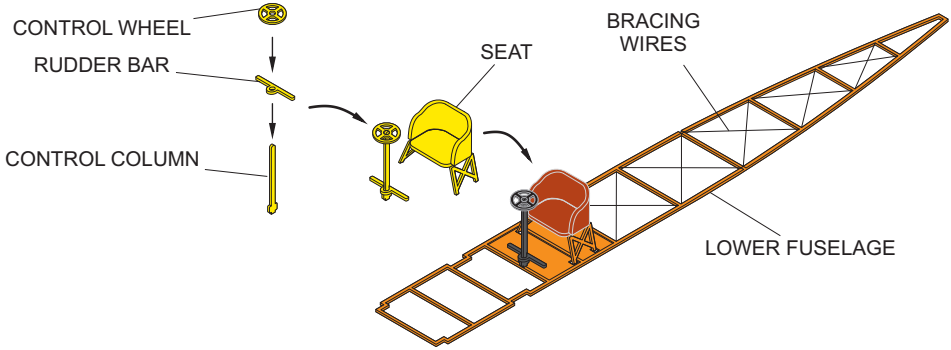


Figure 2

E Remove the four fuseage parts and the cabane struts from the fret, then remove all burrs from the attachment tags.

F Attach bracing wires to each fuselage section if required.
Note - we find that black monofilament gives a good representation of these bracing wires (not supplied in the kit).

G Attach the fuselage sides to the lower fuselage (see Figure 3) - they fit on top of the lower fuselage, to give the correct fuselage width.

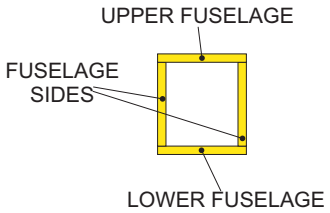


Figure 3

H Attach the engine to the engine bearers, and the upper and lower engine supports to the front of the engine (see Figure 4).

I Attach the fuel tank support to the fuel tank.

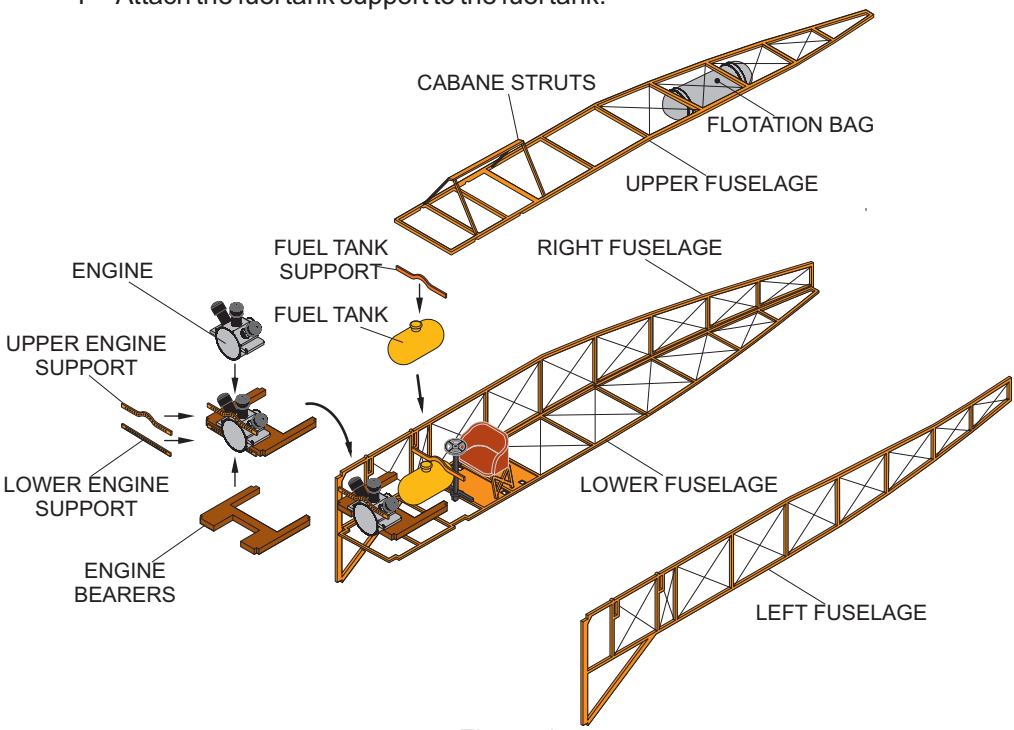


Figure 4

J Attach the engine assembly and the fuel tank assembly to the fuselage sides.

K Attach the flotation bag to the underside of the upper fuselage.
L Attach the upper fuselage to the fuselage sides.
M Attach the cabane struts to the upper fuselage.
N If required, cover the forward fuselage with Litespan film.

4 LANDING GEAR ASSEMBLY AND PROPELLER ATTACHMENT

A Remove the mainwheel links, tailwheel attachment, tailwheel brace, tailwheel stirrup and tailwheel struts from the fret, then remove all burrs from the attachment tags.

B Attach two mainwheel links to each vertical strut of the main landing gear structure, then put a wire axle through these links and a mainwhee (see Figure 5)l.

C Attach the main main landing gear structure to the front of the fuselage assembly.

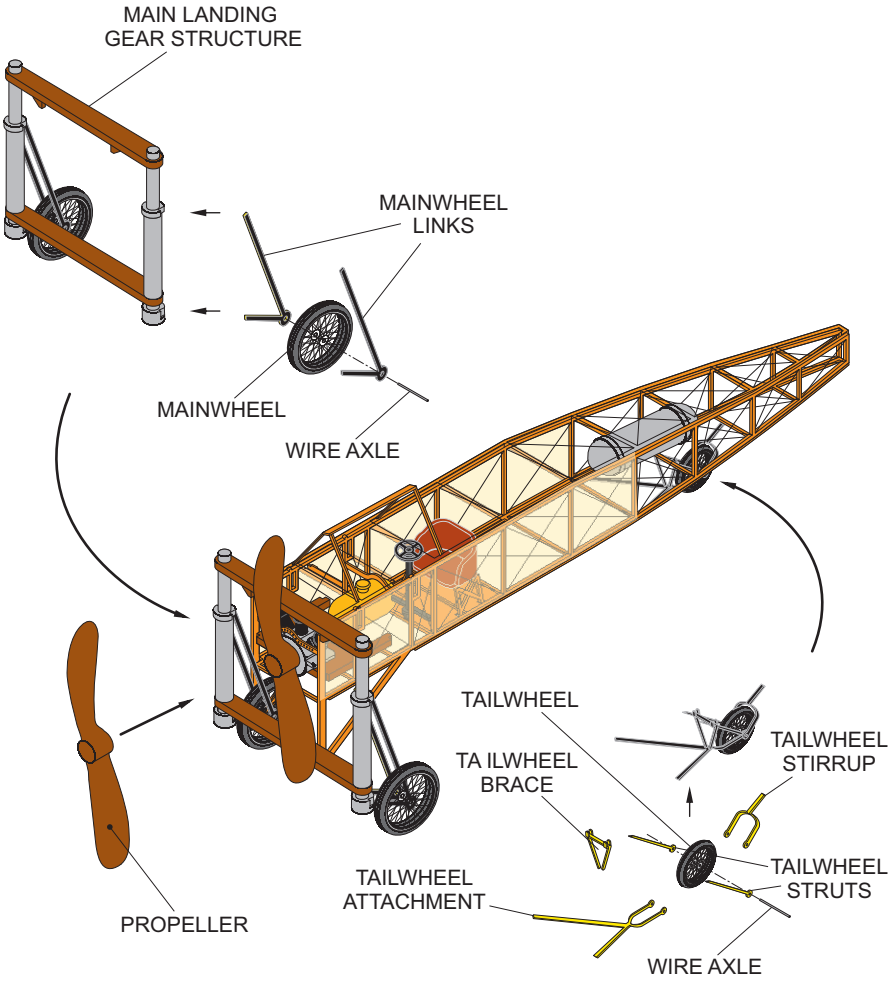


Figure 5

4 EMPENNAGE AND CANARD ASSEMBLIES

A Remove the fin and tailplane from the fret and remove any burrs from the parts.

B If the model is to be covered, apply the Litespan film to each side of the fin and tailplane.

C Attach the tailplane below the fuselage.

E Attach the fin to the top of the fuselage.

5 FINAL ASSEMBLY

A Attach the wings.

(1) Make sure that the slots are clear in the sides of the fuselage if it is covered with the Litespan film.

(2) Remove the wing jig from the fret and remove any burrs from the parts.

(3) Fold the wing jig (see Figure 1).

(4) Slide the stubs of the two spars on each wing into the slots in the fuselage. Use the wing jig to align the stubs of the spars and bond them together.

B Use a hair drier or similar to tauten the Litespan film, if it is used.

C Attach the rigging between the cabane struts and the wings.

NOTES

OUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE SOMETIMES REVISED AS A RESULT OF FEEDBACK FROM OTHER MODELLERS. THE LATEST VERSIONS OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE AT www.aim72.co.uk

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

Aircraft In Miniature Limited

19, Watling Street, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 6JJ, England

Email: info@aim72.co.uk - Web site: www.aim72.co.uk