

# Books by Jim Norfolk - Review

by Peter M. Mann

Four slim books, written and self-published by Jim Norfolk of Saint John, NB, offer some useful information for both the beginner and experienced builder/flyer. The books also include some interesting full-size plans for rubber-powered models.

*Laying Out The Drawing* is "intended to show model builders how to plan the work necessary to design and draft a model plan", and it does just that. Norfolk starts with deciding what to design, its size and the performance expected. From there he takes

you step-by-step to laying out and finishing the drawing – either by hand or using a CAD program. The example he uses is the Curtiss P-40Q (included in the fold-out full size plan). This book would be useful for someone who wants some guidance instruction in drawing a plan. *LAYING OUT THE DRAWING* by Jim Norfolk, Saint John, N.B., 2000. 50 + 4 pp., 7" x 8½", illus., fold-out full size plan. \$11.00 + \$2.50 s&h.

The title of the book *Thunder and Lightning* is from the names of the aircraft presented within the covers. There are three "Thunder" aircraft — P47 Thunderbolt (20" span), Macchi 202 Foglore Thunderbolt

(21" span), Mitsubishi J2M Raiden Thunderbolt (18" span), and three "Lightning" aircraft — P 38 Lightning (25" span), Kawanishi N1J Shiden Violet Lightning (16" span), English Electric Lightning (16" span). A photo and specifications are provided for each aircraft.

The book starts with basic scaling techniques followed by construction information, including building a fuselage by the 'box and former' method, the 'half-shell' method and the 'complete shell' method. All three techniques are described in one or more of the models in the book. Wing and

tail construction is illustrated and discussed, and there are some tips on final assembly. Norfolk concludes by indicating alterations to make the models semi-scale or to improve their performance. *THUNDER AND LIGHTNING* by Jim Norfolk, Saint John, N.B., 1999. 4 + 38 pp., 8½" x 11", illus., 6 fold-out full size plans. \$29.95 + \$5.00 s&h.

The Curtiss aircraft that are detailed in *Modelling the Rare Curtiss Fighters* are the P-36, P-37, P-40, XP-42, XP-46, XP-53 and the XP-60. The book begins with a discussion of Don Berliner and the Curtiss Wright Corporation, goes into the development of their fighters starting with the Model 75 (which became the P-36), and progressing through to the

XP-60D. The evolution of the Curtiss is illustrated by photos of the planes. Norfolk provides information needed to design the models and to choose the proper scale. He includes instructions on drawing a plan, much as he did in his first book *Laying Out The Drawing*. His construction section is similar to that section in his *Thunder and Lightning* as is the chapter on Flying Your Model. The seven fold-out pages are the most interesting, for here Norfolk has presented the basic fuselage and wings which can then be modified to produce plans for each of the various Curtiss models.

It is an interesting concept and seems to work. He states that the P-40Q, the P-36 and the XP-53 have been flight tested and that "they work fabulously!!" I think it is

worth checking out. *MODELLING THE RARE CURTISS FIGHTERS* by Jim Norfolk, Saint John, N.B., 2000. 7 + 48 pp., 8½" x 11", 7 fold-out full size plans. \$29.95 + \$5.00 s&h.

Norfolk's last book, *Weird Airplanes*, first discusses "How Weird is Weird" and mentions some experiments he has conducted with a twin engine 'flying saucer', and followed by a short section on aerodynamics and a longer discussion of the many aircraft configurations consider 'weird'.



Plans, background information and construction instructions are provided for the Grumman F5F Skyrocket, the F4D Skyray, the Curtiss XP-55 Ascender (Earl Stahl's model plans reduced to 18 inch span), the *Bat Plane* (a fantasy model of Batman's plane), the *Things to Come* single-seater (an adaptation of the single-seater flying wing flown by Raymond Massey in the 1937 English film "Things to Come"), and an *X Plane* which Norfolk states is "literally out of the air". This book could provide you with some very interesting models to tinker with, and is worth looking into. *WEIRD AIRPLANES* by Jim Norfolk. Privately printed, Saint John, N. B. 2001. 4 + 68 pp., 8½" x 11", 6 fold-out full size plans, plastic ring binding, laminated front cover. \$29.95 + \$5.00 s&h.

Jim Norfolk is a member of the Saint John Model Flying Club and the Flying Aces Club. He has been modeling for 45 years, enjoys a challenge, and likes to make his own designs. For more on his books and what he's building, Norfolk's web site is <http://qmilj.tripod.ca/index.html>. ➤



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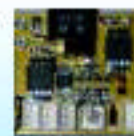
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\$335.00  
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1903 Wright Flyer

Wingspan 40.5"  
Wing Area 540 sq. in.  
R/C weight 12.5 oz.  
3-ch R/C 8oz/1hr/1Elev

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