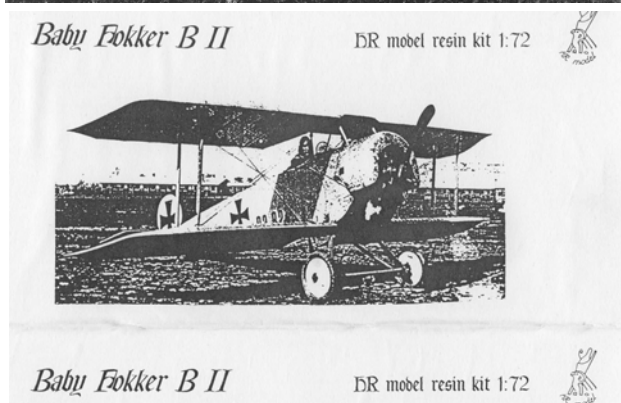
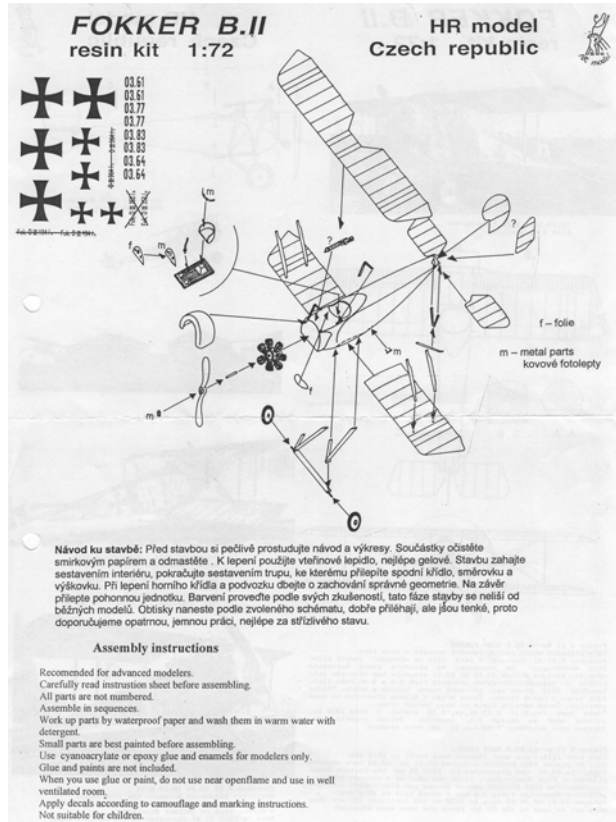


Fokker M.17E HR Model resin kit

Biplane fighter

Scale 1:72

The Fokker M.17E is a single bay version of the D.II fighter. It was also called the Baby Fokker and had the Austrian army designation B.II. It served there as a fighter and as an unarmed training and reconnaissance airplane. In its armed version it was equipped with a Bergmann LMG 15 nA and a Swartzlose machine gun.



The kit includes resin parts, a small set of metal etched parts (seat belt, cockpit stairs, propeller hub and the erroneous HR Model version of the Fokker WW I instrument panel), a clear plastic sheet printed with the windshield and the instrument dials, a decal sheet with a choice of serial numbers and an instruction sheet. The instruction sheet contains several photographs of the single bay D.II, a three-view drawing, which even specifies some fuselage and wing cross-sections. Painting instructions are not included.

Grosz (ref.1) is the only author to give the dimensions of the M.17E. Weyl (ref. 2) presents a three-view drawing, as well as Engels (ref. 3). Engels gives only dimensions of the first prototype M.17.

	Ref.	1:72	model
Span (upper wing)	7.20 m	100.0 mm	97.2 mm
Length	6.20 m	86.1 mm	86.8 mm
Height	2.71 m	37.6 mm	31.0 mm
Engine	Oberursel U 0, 80 hp		
Crew	1		
Armament	1 machine gun LMG 08/15		

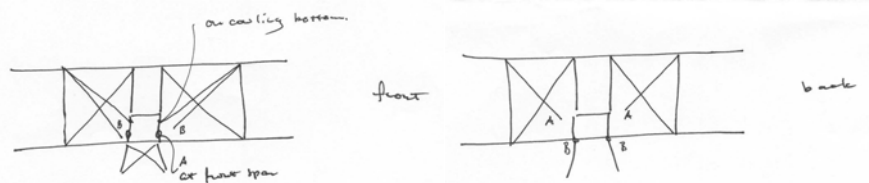
The scale of the model is correct, except for the height which is slightly too small.

Building the model

The resin parts of the model are rather crude; especially the wings, wing struts and landing gear struts are too thick. The fuselage and engine are acceptably modelled. The parts are well formed and easy to clean (no big achievement, when the dimensions are so ample). The model is easy to build.

I have chosen the registration 03.83, and have assumed that the finishing of the aircraft has been identical to the 03.82, of which I have a decent quality picture, reproduced at the top of this page. So I have painted the M.17E natural linen with a white rudder.

I have constructed the model according to the instructions and have not made any modifications. Undercarriage and wing bracing and warping cables have been made of 0.08 mm fishing line, and the cable routing has been copied carefully from pictures. Cables have threaded through 0.3 mm holes, drilled at the correct locations. Exception is the hole where the warping control cables enter the fuselage; that hole has been enlarged to 0.6 mm to show a realistic appearance (see the first and third picture of the complete model).



Below some pictures of the finished model. Although the overall impression is acceptable, the pictures show, that the undercarriage and wing struts, and even the wing itself are rather crudely modelled. It is advisable to replace at least wing and undercarriage struts by custom made versions made from plastic streamlined strips and rod material.





References

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