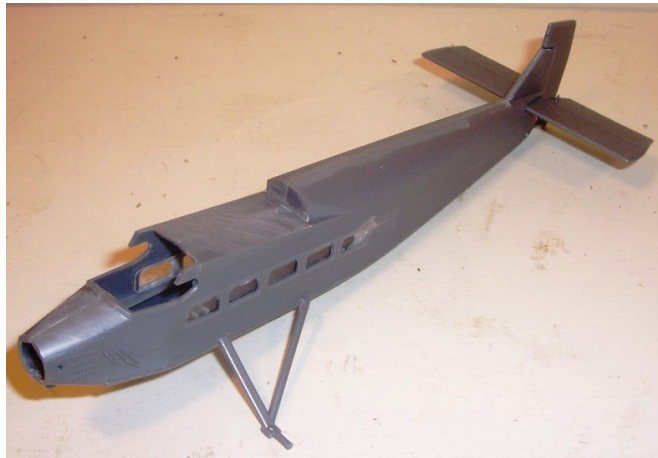


Revell's Ford Tri-Motor Kit Review by Chris Bryan



Revell's Ford Tri-Motor kit is oftentimes overlooked . . . but it is a diamond in the rough on multiple levels. Some would emphasize the "rough" and say that the very fact that it's an older kit it means it sacrifices the detail of more modern releases. However, the real value in this aircraft kit is the beautiful raised and recessed panel lines and the striking detail and overall configuration of the entire bird. Another factor in its favor is that this kit can be easily done as a one-weekend project. Because of its ease in building, it would be a wonderful way to introduce a young person to modeling and a great skill builder for basic modeling skills.



The only difficulty I had with my sample was in assembling the bottom section of the fuselage, which did require clamping all along each side. Once the fuselage was built, though, the wings fell together in three pieces with minimal cleanup. Next was the installation of the tail and stabilizers--once again, no problems. The landing struts were a bit tricky but with a little patience they also fall nicely into place. For landing gear you have the option of wheels or snow ski's; I went with the skis, as I thought it added a little more character to the build. Another variation I created was to block in the windows to represent a cargo aircraft instead of a passenger transport.



The markings supplied with the kit give the builder multiple options for company logos, and they apply without a hitch. I would suggest this kit to anyone, especially those who are interested in the early years of aviation or who just want a cool little aircraft in their collection. Or maybe--as a gift this year?--you just want to pass the joy of modeling on to a child.

