

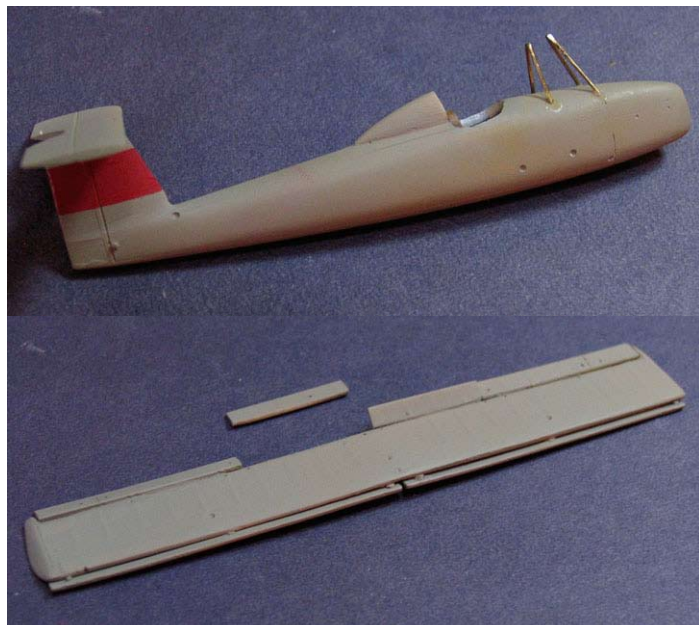
Adventures in Plastic Surgery: Winter LF-1 Zaunkönig

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THE LF-1 Zaunkönig (= “Wren”) was a study in low-speed aerodynamics and lightweight construction, built in the late 1930s at the Braunschweig Institute of Technology in Germany. The plane was designed by professor Hermann Winter who, prior to becoming a faculty member of the university, had been one of the lead designers at Fieseler. Zaunkönig’s claim to fame (or more like infamy) is that Colonel Heinz Bär, 8th highest scoring German WW II ace with 220 victories (or 221—sources differ) died while flying the prototype Zaunkönig in 1957. Reportedly he was attempting aerobatics.

The LF Models’ 1/72 scale resin kit is a decent reproduction of the Zaunkönig. All the major parts (fuselage, wing, tailplane) are accurate and require no modification. The kit was generally easy to build, but most resin detail parts are completely unusable. Decals, made by Tally-Ho, are good and are provided for the first prototype both in German and post-war British colors. I did have a little bit of trouble with silvering until I switched to MicroSol from MicroSet.



As for actually completing the model, I made the center wing struts from brass wire (for strength), and the landing gear was scratch-built using plastic strips, as were all other wing and tailplane struts

as well as the tail skid. Attaching the wing to the fuselage—with the center struts already attached to the fuselage—was easy due to the T-tail. I used Model Master acrylic RLM 02 for the overall paint scheme, and Model Master enamels for everything else.



I think I now have to build an Fi 156 Storch as a companion for the Zaunkönig.

