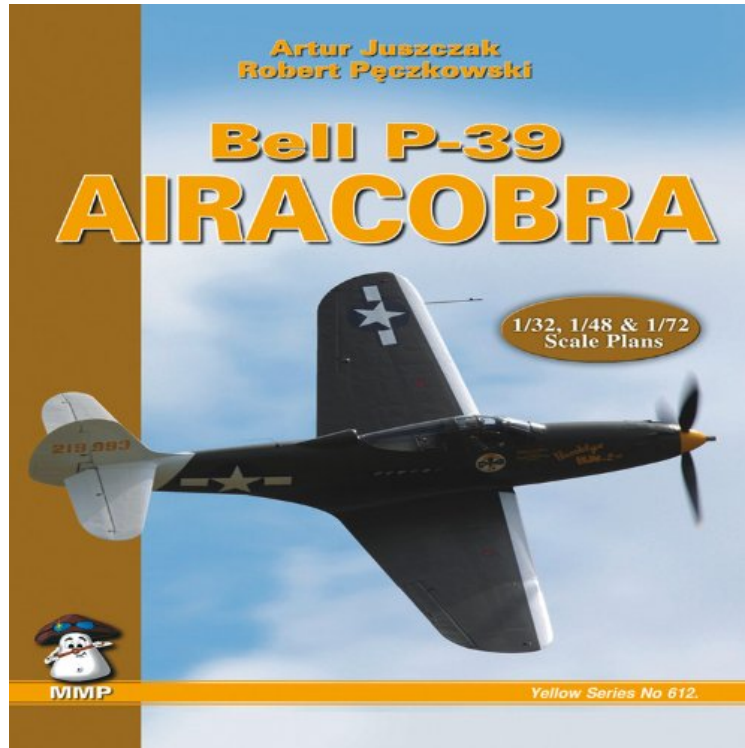



[Free download] Bell P-39 Airacobra (Orange Series)

Bell P-39 Airacobra (Orange Series)

Robert Peczkowski

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Robert Peczkowski : Bell P-39 Airacobra (Orange Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bell P-39 Airacobra (Orange Series):

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Printing flaw spoils upgrade By Jim Davis This book is an update revision of the original Yellow Series (No 6106) book on the P-39. Like the other MMP Yellow Series books (this is No 6129) this is a square bound, 5-1/2" x 9-1/4" (European B5 size) card cover. There are 160 pages, up from the 128 pages of the previous MMP edition. It is divided into three sections, a text section up to page 64, a close up photographs/technical manual illustrations section to page 134, and a color profile section to the end. The first two sections, while mostly retaining the contents of the original book have some nice additions. There is an unbound foldout sheet with drawings of the P-30F and P-39Q in 1/48th scale and the latter in 1/32nd scale. As always, make sure the foldout is part of the package when buying second hand. There are some nice additional perspective drawings of the nose detailing differences between the models. There is a very detailed Technical Description added running 11 pages. In the subtraction category the list of Soviet P-39 aces is truncated to one page. The second section has some more technical manual illustrations. The third section is the real letdown. There has been a printing glitch somewhere along the line. The profiles largely, but not entirely, duplicate those in the first edition but some of the colors are badly off. The Olive drab has become almost black. The sand or tan colors of the desert camouflage has become greenish and the azure blue undersides a light gray. This has the look of the wrong information being provided the printer or the printer being given the wrong information rather than a "low toner" type of problem that has affected only some copies because other colors like the blue, red, white, and yellows are completely unaffected. I would appreciate hearing from

others if their copies show the same effects. Because of the above, I can't recommend the book unless the color profiles are of no real interest to you. If you have the previous edition this might not matter a great deal and you'll have to judge for yourself if the additions in the other sections are worthwhile. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More than you ever wanted to know about the P-39

By John Matlock

The P-39 was designed in response to a specification issued by the US Army Air Corp. At the time there was a great deal of interest in having an interceptor/destroyer aircraft armed with large caliber weapons and for these weapons to be in the front of the plane, not out on the wings. Bell Aircraft responded with the XFM-1 - which was a failure because it attempted to do too many things for one aircraft to perform. Following a revised specification, Bell then came out with what became the P-39. The P-39 used the then-new 37 mm Oldsmobile cannon that was designed by John Browning and built by Colt. Why it is the Oldsmobile cannon is beyond me. 37 mm was a quite common cannon size at that time, I am told that this is because the Hague Convention does not allow exploding ammunition to be used in with shells that weigh less than one pound, and that 37 mm (1.46 inch) is the bore size you get when you design a one pound exploding shell - although I have read that the exploding shell for the P-39 weighed just 0.88 pounds. Some versions of the P-39 used a 20 mm gun rather than the 37 mm, you can identify them because they have a much longer barrel. The book, typical from MMP publishing has a wealth of information. Complete details of the various models of the P-39 (and there were lots of variants), drawings, specifications, and maybe a hundred (I did not count them) photographs covering all parts of planes currently in museums.

Designed as an interceptor, when the Bell P-39 Airacobra appeared in 1941 it was acclaimed as one of the most advanced combat planes of the time. Elegantly designed and innovatively engineered (it featured the engine mid-aircraft like a racing car), it experienced mixed operational fortunes but was especially successful in the Soviet Air Force. This book is a full technical history of this important but neglected fighter of World War Two. It presents scale plans of all versions, many detailed photographs of surviving aircraft, full color illustrations of the aircraft in the different liveries of its many users: USAAF, RAF, Soviet, French, Italian and others, in total more than 50 color profiles.