

EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2021 – Appendix



P-30 Kits

By Mike Jester

P-30 is an excellent entry level event for the beginner. It is also challenging for experienced fliers. Since the late 1970's many different P-30 models have been designed that have flown very successfully. Quite a few excellent P-30 plans have been published and are readily available. For example, plans are available from NFFS for Don Bartick's Hightail P-30 that looks cool and flies great. Lots of P-30 models have been kitted. In my opinion it is worth the money to purchase a P-30 kit. They almost always come with a full-size plan and these days, laser-cut balsa wood parts. Building from a kit saves a great deal of time, and also usually produces a more precise model than one that is scratch-built. Of course, experts can scratch build with great accuracy. As far as I am able to determine, there are currently twenty different P-30 kits that are available for purchase. Here is an alphabetical list of these kits by model name, along with a picture, the name of the designer (if known), the name of the seller, and some brief comments by the author of this article.

Air Shark MK II by Stan Buddenbohm - Starlink-Flitetech



This is a proven consistent winner designed and flown by an expert for three decades. Note the carbon fiber composite main spar in the wing.

Almost P-30 - Peck-Polymers (also known as Wind-it-Up Enterprises)



This basic 28-inch wingspan model was formerly sold by Peck-Polymers for many years under the name One Nite 28. It doesn't accommodate a blast tube with a conventional outside diameter.

Boomer MK III by Clint Brooks - CB Model Designs



This impeccably engineered kit was designed by another master of the P-30 event.

Dragonfly - Dave Platt - BMJR Models



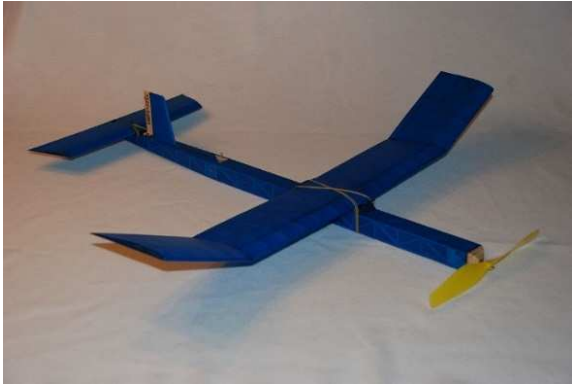
This P-30 has the classic appearance of an Old Time Rubber stick model. It has a parasol mounted wing with elliptical shaped tips.

Echo - Ken Grubbs - J & H Aerospace



This design is unusual for a P-30 in that it has a high wing cabin configuration and landing gear. It placed first in the Junior P-30 event at the 2021 AMA Nats.

Fantastic - Free Flight Supplies



This is a kit manufactured in Turkey. The design includes an innovative auto-rudder. From what I have heard, the auto-rudder design can be troublesome and is not necessary to achieve an excellent flight pattern.

Kiwi - BMJR Models



This is a simple beginner's P-30 design from a supplier of well-made kits.

Majestyk by Thomas Greenhalge - Retro RC



This popular stylish box fuselage design has been around for years and has had much success. It used to be sold by Campbell's Custom Kits.

Pee-Wee – Ikara



This is a relatively modern design from Europe. Note the tapered rolled tube fuselage.

Pirate by Andrey Burdov - Starlink-Flitetech



This high-tech, high performance Russian design comes ARF and is seen at a lot of P-30 contests. It is durable and almost always flies well regardless of the owner's level of experience.

Polecat MK X by Don DeLoach (rib kits sold by Don)



This perennial winner at the AMA Nats has a D-box under-cambered wing with carbon fiber reinforcements.

Saturno - Alexandre Cruz - J & H Aerospace



This P-30 design from South America has achieved many contest victories. The wing has a very thin undercambered airfoil. Note the unusual fin location beneath the stab.

Speckled by George Perryman - BMJR Models



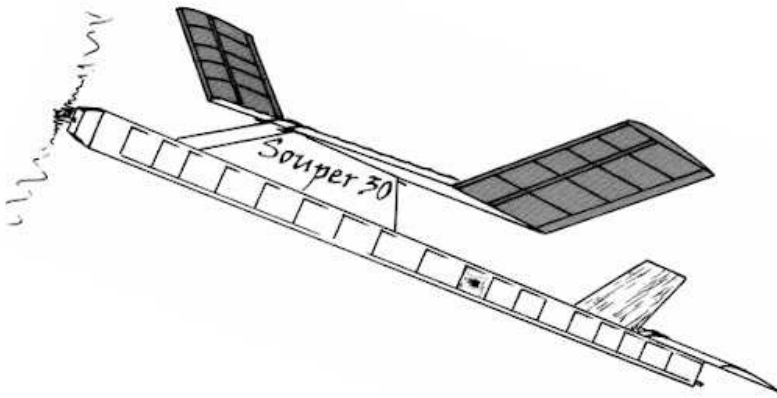
This challenging-to-construct beautiful swept wing model is supposedly a great performer. I have never seen in an example of this P-30 design in person.

Square Eagle by Phil Hartman - Volare Products



Thousands of Square Eagle kits have been sold since the late 1970s. I won the very first P-30 contest that I entered flying my Square Eagle at Otay Mesa.

Souper 30 - Retro RC



This sturdy slab-sided model has an over-sized wing pylon and is likely to be on the heavy side. It used to be sold by Campbell's Custom Kits.

Super - Y by Clint Brooks - CB Model Designs



This is another impeccably engineered kit that produces a great flying P-30 with the look of an Old Time Rubber stick model. In my opinion, the quality of the kits and the building instructions from CB Model Designs are unsurpassed by any kit manufacturer.

Sweet - by Spencer Willis - Free Flight Supplies



A stick and tissue P-30 model with a rolled tubular fuselage supplied with the kit. This design appears similar to the Pee-Wee and Polecat in overall configuration.

Tail Firster - BMJR Models



This bizarre looking canard pusher is tricky to trim and launch but accomplished flyers have had success with it in competition. Brian Sutton won the April 28, 2021 P-30 contest put on by SCAMPS flying this model.

Three Nite by Mike Jester - Volare Products



The author's own P-30 design was first introduced in 2021. It is the easiest and quickest P-30 to construct due to its unique configuration that includes a flat wing with tip plates. I won the 2021 John Oldenkamp Memorial P-30 contest (in the third round of the fly off) flying my red and yellow tissue covered Three Nite P-30. The one shown above was lost OOS on a trim flight and was not recovered.

Ugly - BMJR Models



With its cool scalloped trailing edges and cross pattée decals on the wing and fin, this P-30 design is reminiscent of the gas-powered Ugly Stick models marketed by Seagull Models for many decades. I have never seen an Ugly P-30 model at any flying field. It would be fun to build one and bring out some smiles.

The large number and variety of P-30 kits that are currently for sale are testaments to the popularity of the P-30 event. In my experience, regardless of its design, any P-30, that is built to a reasonable weight and well-trimmed can win a P-30 contest even against the most seasoned competitors. Optimum rubber motor selection and winding are crucial, as well as picking a thermal, or at least avoiding a downer. Prop selection is not crucial to achieving victory, so long as the prop is balanced, i.e., the blades should have equal weight and pitch. The P-30 rules allow weight to be added to one blade but the blades cannot be scrapped. Re-pitching of either of the blades is not allowed. Therefore, if a plastic prop has unequally pitched blades, you should pick another one. Be aware that without a reliable de-thermalizer (DT) installed you won't have your P-30 for very long.

