

Trumpeter 1/48th Scale Messerschmitt Me 509

by Terry D. Moore

A few weeks ago whilst at the local hobby emporium, a new kit found its way into my hands - the 1/48th scale Trumpeter Me-509. Why Trumpeter would issue a kit such as this is beyond me, unless it was issued to appeal to guys like me!

According to the Internet, the Me 509 was a project based on the Me 309, but with the engine located behind the pilot, similar to the P-39 Airacobra. It never got beyond the design stage.

Trumpeter has a reputation for producing overly complicated kits and kits with questionable accuracy. Their new Me 509 could possibly be the most accurate kit they have ever released, considering that they didn't have a real example to take measurements from. Also, the parts count is relatively small; for example, there are only about 16 or so parts for the cockpit, including photo-etch rudder pedals and seatbelt/harness parts.

The model assembles quite easily - I have spent only a few hours spread over three evenings, including painting the cockpit and landing gear wells, to have the model almost completely assembled. The model requires only a minimal amount of filler putty and most of that is on the underside of the nose ahead of the wing where the nose wheel well is part of the wing assembly. I think the biggest issue I've had with the kit is that the plastic is somewhat softer than I'm used to. I found that I was a bit ham-fisted with the Xacto knife and files on certain parts. We'll just say that my Spies & Hecker filler putty will take care of those little problems I created. The model does require a considerable amount of weight in the nose to keep it from being a tail sitter. I added a rather large quantity of lead ahead of the cockpit, in the nose wheel well as well as filling the open area behind the cockpit with lead as well. I only wish I hadn't glued the spinner to the prop

as I could have put a small bit of lead there, as well. The kit instructions are quite easy to follow and color information is provided for various brands of paint. Decals are provided for two Luftwaffe aircraft and are, of course, totally bogus. And since it falls within the realm of my interests, I'm building mine as a captured example (RAF, of course) as displayed at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, in November 1945, for the

"Exhibit of Captured Enemy Aircraft". Which was a real event, by the way.

This kit jumped right off the shelf at me and I started it shortly after I arrived home. It's been a fun project to work on with the back story almost as much fun as the model.

Review sample provided courtesy of my wallet.

