

BY LARRY COOPER ■ PHOTOS BY JOHN REID

Green RC Models

MINI GEE BEE Y

A golden-age racer you can fly almost anywhere

EVER SINCE THE 1930s when the Granville brothers developed their fast and strong pylon racers called the Gee Bees, pilots have been fascinated with them. Maxford has released a semi-scale version of the Gee Bee that would make the Granville brothers proud. Maxford has gone the extra mile to make the Mini Gee Bee Y a high-quality, fun-to-fly model. It is a built-up plane and covered beautifully. It is available in three color schemes, all of which are eye-catching. My test plane is yellow and black with red trim, but it is also available in red and white with black trim or red and black with yellow trim. This baby is intended for intermediate to advanced pilots and comes with everything except the motor and radio gear.

The cowl and wheel pants are of strong fiber glass construction. A good example of the quality of this kit is the way the cowl is shipped. It has a Styrofoam insert to ensure that the cowl remains perfectly round during shipping and is enclosed in a plastic bag



The motor mounts to a wooden frame that in turn is bolted to the firewall of the fuselage.

to protect it from scratching. The landing gear, pushrods, control horns, hardware, and even the push-pull linkages for the rudder are all included in the kit. There is one minor problem with the kit and that is the instructions. They are just two pages of photos that leave important details out.

The scale looks of this plane really stand out with this 3/4 view of the Gee Bee.



SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL	Mini Gee Bee Y
MANUFACTURER	Green RC Models
DISTRIBUTOR	Maxford
TYPE	semi-scale park flyer
WINGSPAN	39.4 in.
WING AREA	306.4 sq. in.
WEIGHT	26.3 oz.
LENGTH	30 in.
WING LOADING	12.36 oz./sq. ft.
RADIO REQ'D	4-channel w/ 4 servos
POWER REQ'D	15 to 25A outrunner motor
PRICE	\$145.99

HIGHLIGHTS

- Great scale appearance
- Handful of fun in the air

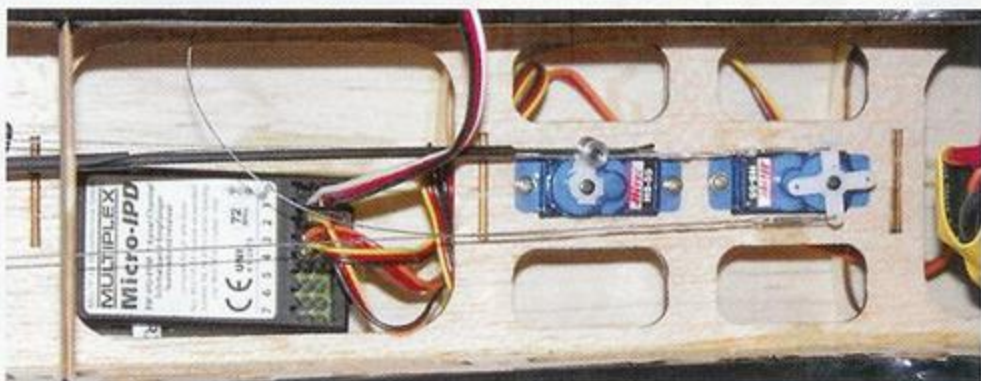




However, an experienced modeler will have no problem.

UNIQUE FEATURES

The Mini Gee Bee Y is loaded with special features. The first one that caught my eye was the landing gear. Both the main gear and tail gear are spring and lever arrangements that act as a shock-absorbing mechanism during take offs and landings. The main gear fit into slots already provided in the wing. The gear can be installed



The radio compartment is very roomy and offers plenty of room for the radio gear and servos.

**THE GEE BEE LIVES UP TO
ITS HERITAGE IN THE AIR:
IT'S FAST AND
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by itself or inside the beautifully finished fiberglass wheel pants. The wheels on the landing gear are a stiff foam rubber material and turn freely on their shafts letting the plane roll easily. The tail gear also fits into a precut slot and is held in place by both CA and two screws to ensure strength.

This model comes with a well-crafted wooden frame on which you mount the motor, then in turn mount the frame to the fuselage. The end that mounts to the firewall is perfectly square. The other end angles the motor in relation to the centerline of the fuselage and needs to be oriented so the motor points slightly down and to the right to compensate for torque from the spinning prop.

The control surfaces all come hinged from the factory except one on the rudder. All of the mounting holes for the control



The tail landing gear is held in place with CA and two screws that secure it to the rudder.

horns have been drilled in the plane, which saves time and ensures accurate mounting of the control horns. The tail feathers come with tabs and slots to ensure perfect alignment. The rudder fits onto the top of the horizontal stabilizer and is held in place with CA. I used 5-minute epoxy to secure the tail-feather assembly to the fuselage so I would have enough time to ensure the proper alignment. The ailerons are hinged from the factory and a string inside the wing makes it a piece of cake to pull the servo wires through the wing. The wing is held to the fuselage with two nylon screws, but wing-to-fuselage struts are also provided in matching colors for the part of the fuselage to which they mount.

There is plenty of room in the radio compartment for the receiver, and the servos all fit nicely in the slots provided. The battery compartment door comes covered and is held in place with a tab and magnet arrangement to make removing the battery a snap.



In the Air

I like to fly at dry lake beds and this plane does great on the flats, but I'm sure it would be fine on short grass as well. The plane was in the air and flying with good speed in about 20 feet or so. It has so much power that it climbs at any angle you desire with ease. You only need a lot of room for landing. It comes in a little on the fast side but is very manageable. The spring-loaded landing gear is very helpful in cushioning any rough landings. I nosed it over on a landing and there was no noticeable damage.

General Flight Performance

STABILITY The Gee Bee Y is very stable and responds as commanded. It maintained its attitude until new inputs were transmitted.

TRACKING It tracks very well; even a little wind doesn't affect it very much.

AEROBATICS The Gee Bee will do all of the standards: rolls, loops, and inverted flight are all easy.

GLIDE & STALL PERFORMANCE My test plane didn't show any bad tendencies. It sinks slowly and predictably on landing and has so much power on takeoff that stalls don't happen. Even in tight turns it slips very little.

Pilot Debriefing

The Gee Bee lives up to its heritage in the air. It is fast and maneuverable. All of the standard aerobatics are easy to do. It rolls with just a slight loss of altitude and has plenty of power for loops and knife-edges. The tight turns required for pylon racing are a breeze. The Gee Bee is very responsive without being twitchy and is a blast to fly.

The plane comes with a pair of decals that are placed on either side of the rudder/vertical stabilizer and are a breeze to install.

CONCLUSION

The Mini Gee Bee Y is a high-quality plane that is fairly easy to assemble. I built mine in a couple of evenings. The components included with the plane make the plane

sturdy, air worthy, and definitely eye catching. It is quick and responsive in the air and all of your buddies will be over at your hanger ogling this great-looking plane. If you are searching for a scale model that flies as well as it looks, this plane is a must-have for you. ✈

See the Source Guide for manufacturers' contact information.

CONTROL THROWS

ELEVATOR: $\pm 3/2$ in.; expo: 15% (high); $\pm 3/4$ (low); expo: 15%

AILERON: $\pm 3/4$ in.; expo: 10% (high); $\pm 3/8$ (low); expo: 10%

RUDDER: ± 1 in.; expo: 10% (high); $\pm 1/2$ (low); expo: 10%

GEAR USED

RADIO Multiplex Rolyal EVO 9 transmitter, Multiplex receiver and 4 HS-55 Hitec servos w/ two 12-in. extension wires and a Y-connector

MOTOR A22-15M brushless outrunner w/ HS 25A brushless controller

BATTERY Impulse 1300mAh 11.1V LiPo

PROP 10x5 APC