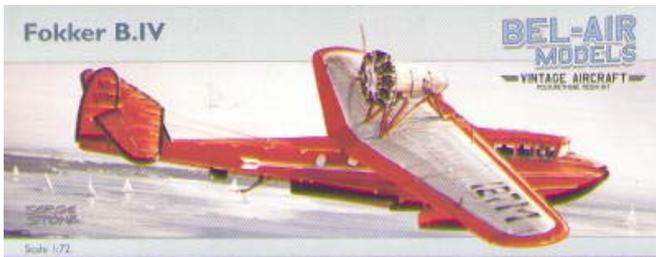


# Fokker B.IV Bel-Air Models<sup>i</sup> resin kit

## Flying boat passenger

Scale 1:72

After an abortive attempt to construct a flying boat during the World War I, the B.IV was Fokker's fourth post-war flying boat design. The B.I, B.II and B.III were all intended for use as a reconnaissance airplane by the Dutch Navy, but none was accepted and only one copy of each type has been built. The last B.III was finally converted in a passenger plane. Based on that concept the B.IV was developed specifically for the American market. The all-metal hull was produced in the Netherlands, the wooden wing in the USA and final assembly took also place in the American Fokker factories. It was sold in small numbers under the American Fokker designation F.11. There are pictures of F.11's as an amphibian. Some sources designate this version as F.11A (B.IVa), other sources use that designation for an improved version of the first B.IV.

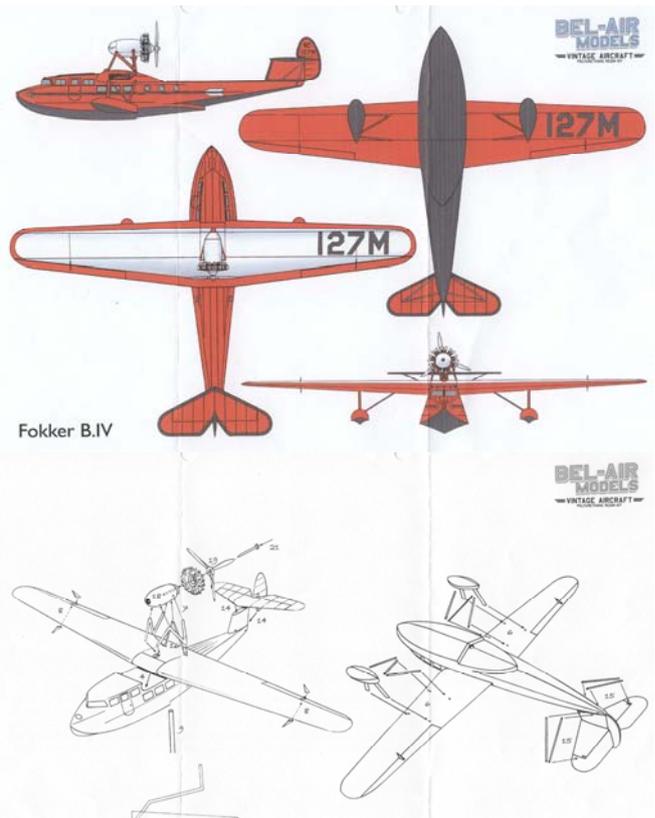


need little rework; generally some light sanding is sufficient.

The fuselage is one solid piece of poly-urethane, where detail must be delivered by the decals. For a kit of this price (almost 70 Euro), somewhat more could have been expected (at least the presence of real cockpit and cabin windows). As usual the struts for the engine suspension are a bit too coarse to represent the correct scale.

The instruction sheet contains assembly instructions, a four-view drawing, detailed painting instructions and an exploded view indicating the location of all parts. I had some problems in identifying the correct location of the Fokker logo, which consequently ended up on the tail instead of on the engine nacelle.

The kit comes in a box and represents the flying boat version B.IV. It is a resin version of the perspex Bel-Air museum quality model. The kit contains resin parts, a piece of metal wire, a white metal engine, decals, painting masks, a stand, a piece of sandpaper and an instruction sheet. The parts are well finished and



Alting (ref.1), Hegener (ref. 2), de Leeuw (ref. 3), van de Noort (ref. 4), Vliegwereld (ref. 5) and Fokker Bulletin (ref. 6) list the dimensions of the B.IV, while Fokker Bulletin also shows a three-view drawing.

	Ref.	1:72	model
Span	17.98-18.00 m	249.7-250.0 mm	mm
Length	13.70-13.81 m	190.3-191.8 mm	mm
Height	4.39-4.50 m <sup>ii</sup>	61.0-62.5 mm	mm

	<i>Ref.</i>
<i>Engine</i>	Pratt & Whitney Hornet, 525 hp; Wright Cyclone R-1750, 575 hp
<i>Crew</i>	2
<i>Passengers</i>	6-10

### Fuselage

<text>

### Wing

The joint between wing and fuselage showed quite some gap and needed correction with putty.

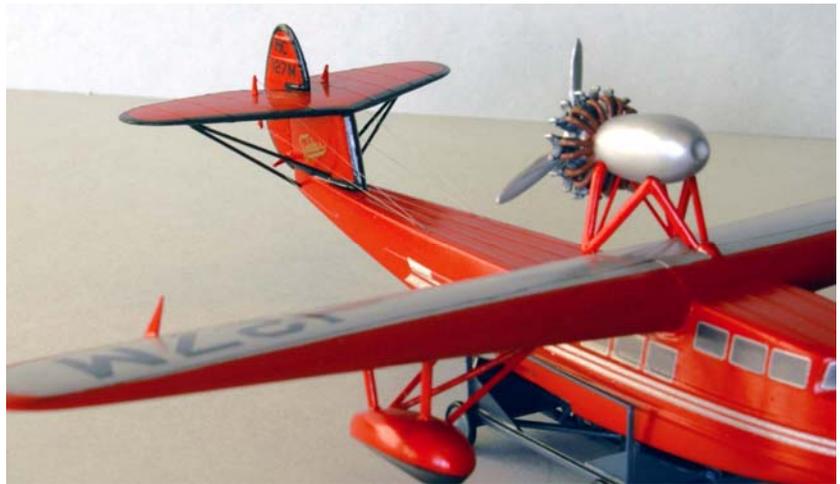
### Painting

The paint masks for wing and tail surfaces are only of limited use when painting with a brush like I normally do; the paint runs under them, and I had to finish the job the ordinary way by using Tamiya masking tape, which adheres a lot better to the surface.

### Final assembly

The kit includes levers for the ailerons only. I have added control horns for rudder and elevator made from scrap plastic. Control cables have been added based on information from photographs. I have constructed a transport cart from scrap parts and Evergreen profiles to expose the model (I prefer that above the stand). Below some pictures of the finished model are shown.





## References

1. P. Alting, *Fokkers in Uniform, Driekwart eeuw militaire Fokker vliegtuigen*, p. 62, Rebo Producties, Sassenheim, 1988
2. H. Hegener, *Fokker, The Man and the Aircraft*, p. 179, ISBN 0-8168-6370-9, 1961
3. R. de Leeuw, *Fokker Verkeersvliegtuigen, Van de F.I uit 1918 tot de Fokker 100 van nu*, pp. 124-127, 192, ISBN 90 269 4074 2, 1989
4. P.F.A. van de Noort, *Fokkers 'Roaring Twenties', De vliegtuigen van de Amerikaanse Fokker-fabrieken*, pp. 36-38, 62, Rebo Producties, Sassenheim, 1988
5. Vliegwereld, *Het Dertigjarige Bestaan van de Nederlandse Fokkerfabriek 1929 – 1949*, p. 470, Jaargang 15, No. 29, 1949
6. Fokker Bulletin, *Fokker, Nederlandsche Vliegtuigenfabriek 1919-1929, Vol. V, Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 12*, pp. 73-74, 168-169, NV Nederlandsche Vliegtuigenfabriek, Amsterdam, 1929
7. H. Hooftman, *Alles over de Fokker Friendship, Fokker Verkeersvliegtuigen van F.1 tot F.28*, p. 53, L.J. Veen's Uitgeverij N.V., Amsterdam, 1963
8. H. Hooftman, *Fokker, Bekende en onbekende vliegtuigtypes van A.H.G. Fokker, Neerlands grootste vliegtuigbouwer*, p. 34, ARTI beeld encyclopedie 36, Alkmaar, 1959
9. W.C.J. Westerop, *Fokker en de twintigste eeuw: een historische relatie*, pp. 24, 30, ISBN 90-9011870-5, 1998

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<sup>i</sup> [www.bel-air-models.com](http://www.bel-air-models.com)

<sup>ii</sup> Hegener reports a height of 5.54 m