

## **THE GENIE LINE ALTERNATIVE (Sept. 5, '09)**

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Since I was a kid growing up during the Big Depression I was fascinated by model airplanes. Money was about non-existent, so having one called for "making do" with what cost nothing.

I never heard of a kit or a model magazine until I was 14, but then laying your hands on even a dime to actually buy something non-essential was unheard of. My dad, when employed during the Depression, had a salary as little as \$12.50 a week! A 25 cent a week allowance for a kid's amusement was unthinkable.

Of necessity, I learned about such raw materials as apple boxes, cedar shingles, fence posts and cigar boxes, bamboo rakes, tissue paper, matchsticks, toothpicks, Popsicle sticks, leftover school glues and the lumber yard junk pile. Reasonable facsimiles of miniature aircraft got built. A cousin still has a fully intact black and white Gee Bee racer I painstakingly hand-carved some 75 years ago.

Later, with a little money of my own, I bought a few kits, but always saw ways to improve on them. This got me favoring "scratch-building" my own stuff which has provided a lifetime adventure full of gratification.

My interest the last 40 plus years has been in the development of original design, fine performing & nice handling RC sailplanes that can be inexpensively scratch-built. In all those years of competing, I never showed up with a ship that I did not design and scratch build.

17 such designs were published as construction articles in various model magazines for others to build and enjoy. Unfortunately, the best ones were designed after the ARF appeared and after that, the magazines were no longer interested in publishing construction articles on sophisticated, state-of -the-art scratch-buildable, competition sailplanes.

The lack of interest by magazines prompted me to establish this website devoted to scratch-building. It teaches by offering several designs and full instructions to build them. They are elegant and aesthetic but rugged creations that can effectively compete in thermal competition with anything commercially available. Long experience is not needed to build one. Just follow the step by step instructions. In so doing, you will get a liberal education in doing fine construction.

For some insight as to what these unique ships are about, go to the document "What's A Genie" and then to the document "What's Available?" to see what's available to help. Review the Gallery file to see pics and stories about others who have built one or more. Don't give in to the notion that you can't build one. Others, who never even built a kit have done so. Read about retired and quiet Otto Weiderkehr who built three that I know of and who ordered things to do a fourth one.

If you have any inclination to use or develop your creative skills, while dramatically reducing airframe costs, building a Genie line ship affords a proven way to do so.

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