

Caproni Campini N.1

The Caproni-Campini was a testbed for an Italian jet engine development in which the compressor stage was replaced by a separate piston engine. It was not a successful idea and jet engine developments took a different direction.

Many people began experimenting with jet engines in the 1930s, in Italy Ingeneire Secondo Campini .produced a power unit in which air was compressed by a piston engine and then ignited in a variable-area nozzle. The Caproni company designed and built a testbed for this power plant with the piston engine in the nose and the nozzle in the rear fuselage. It first flew on 28 August 1940 and later achieved a maximum speed of 372km/h (233mph). One flight of 270km was flown at only 209km/hr (130mph). The engine was considered a failure and the idea abandoned. However the Caproni Campini is on display in a museum Milan.

This model represents the only Caproni Campini constructed.

Data: Two-seat research aeroplane. *Engine* one IsottaFraschini radial engine of 671kW (900hp) driving a three stage air compressor. *Wing span* 15,85m (52ft). *Length* 13.10m (43ft). *Maximum take-off weight* 4195kg (9250lb). *Maximum level speed* 375km/h (233mph). *Crew* 2.

Delta 2 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in April 2000.



THE LITTLE AVIATION MUSEUM