

Bereznyak-Isaev BI

The Bereznyak-Isaev BI was a Russian designed and built rocket fighter that first flew in mid 1942 and was tested during the rest of World War Two. It was not successful and development and production was abandoned in 1945.

Russians began developing rocket motors during the 1920s and this effort was put under the control of one body, the RN11, in 1934. Among the RN11's projects was a liquid-fuelled motor that was tested in a powered glider that flew for the first time in 1937. After this success development of a manned interceptor began and the Bereznyak-Isaev flew for the first time in May 1942. In March 1943 one crashed fatally, revealing a serious design flaw that could not be easily rectified. Despite attempts to resolve the problem the project was abandoned in 1945 after seven prototypes had been flown.

This model represents the third prototype.

Data: *Engine* one Dushkin D-1A rocket engine of 10.79kN (2205lb) thrust. *Wing span* 6.48m (21ft 3in). *Length* 6.4m (21ft). *Maximum take-off weight* 1650kg (3710lb). *Maximum speed* 800km/h (621mph) estimated. *Range* 1000km. *Armament* two nose mounted 20mm ShVAK cannon. *Crew* one.

Eastern Express 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in November 1989.



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