

Bristol Brabazon

The Bristol Brabazon was the wrong aeroplane in the wrong place at the wrong time. Although it was designed to meet a demand that never emerged it was still a magnificent engineering achievement.

During World War II the British government set up a committee to plan post war civil aviation development. Prime among its recommendations was a very large airliner capable of flying the Atlantic ocean while offering a high level of luxury to passengers. Bristol used existing plans for a very heavy bomber as the basis for the design and the prototype made its first flight on 4 September 1949. However, air transport was developing in a different direction, offering fast (and unluxurious) travel to a mass public. The Brabazon had no part in this development and it was scrapped in October 1953.

This model represents the sole Brabazon, c. 1949.

Data: *Engine* eight Bristol Centaurus radio engines of 1980kW (2650hp) each. *Wing span* 70.0m (230ft). *Length* 54.0m (177ft). *Maximum take-off weight* 131,542kg (290,000lb). *Cruising speed* 400km/h (250mph). *Range* 8,900km (5,500miles). *Payload* up to 100 passengers. *Crew* 6-12.

F-Rsin 1/144 kit. Completed in October 2008.



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