

# Armstrong Whitworth AW.52G

The Armstrong Whitworth AW.52G was a glider build in the mid 1940s to test the concept of a flying wing airliner. Although the glider was successful the rest of the project was unsuccessful and eventually abandoned.

During World War II Armstrong Whitworth proposed a jet powered laminar flow flying wing airliner. To test the concept a jet powered experimental aeroplane, the AW.52 was planned and, to test the flying wing concept, a smaller glider was first constructed and tested. Construction of this glider, the AW.52G, began in March 1943 and its first flight took place on 2 March 1945. Flight testing, with tug releases from 20,000 feet, continued satisfactorily until 1947.

Two powered AW.52s, about twice the size of the AW.52G, began flying in 1947 but performance was disappointing because it proved almost impossible to maintain a clean laminar flow over the wing. As a result the proposal to build the flying wing airliner was abandoned although test flying of the AW.52 continued until 1954.

This model represents the only AW.52G in the late 1940s.

**Data:** proof-of-concept glider. *Wing span* 16.41m. *Length* 5.59m. *Crew* 2. *Anigrand* 1:144 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in June 2015.



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