

# Wright 1903 Flyer

**The Wright 1903 Flyer was the world's first aircraft to make controlled flights by a heavier-than-air flying machine. It was made by the Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur, who made four short flights on it on 17 December 1903.**

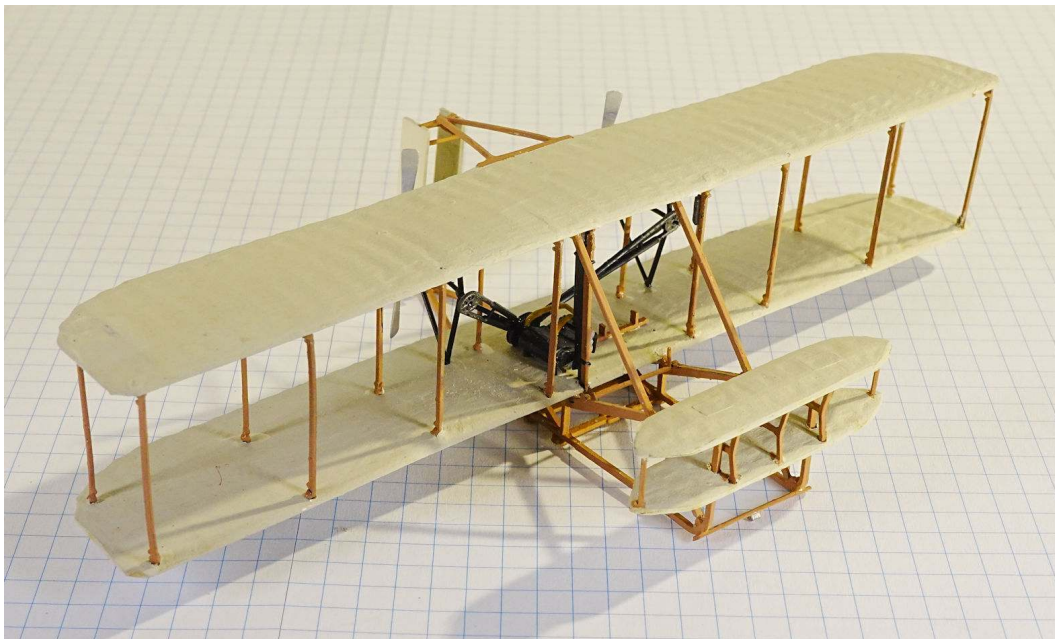
The Wright brothers were among a number of experimenters attempting to make the first controlled flight of a heavier-than-air aircraft. After extensive experimentation they developed a simple glider that they flew successfully in 1902. They then worked on an engine to power their aircraft which they made themselves.

In December 1903 they were ready, and, after an earlier unsuccessful attempt, they made four flights of a total distance of 411 meters on 17 December 1903. Later in the day the aircraft was caught by a wind gust, severely damaged and never flew again.

Despite controversy and counter claims in following years these four flights by this aircraft are now considered to be the beginning of the world's aviation industry.

This model represents the only Wright 1903 Flyer as it appeared on 17 December 1903.

**Data:** *Engine* one Wright straight-4 cylinder water cooled engine of 8.9kW. *Wing span* 12.29m. *Length* 6.43m. *Empty weight* 274kg. *Maximum speed* 26km/h. *Renwal* 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in 2024.



The Little Aviation Museum