

NIUPORT 28

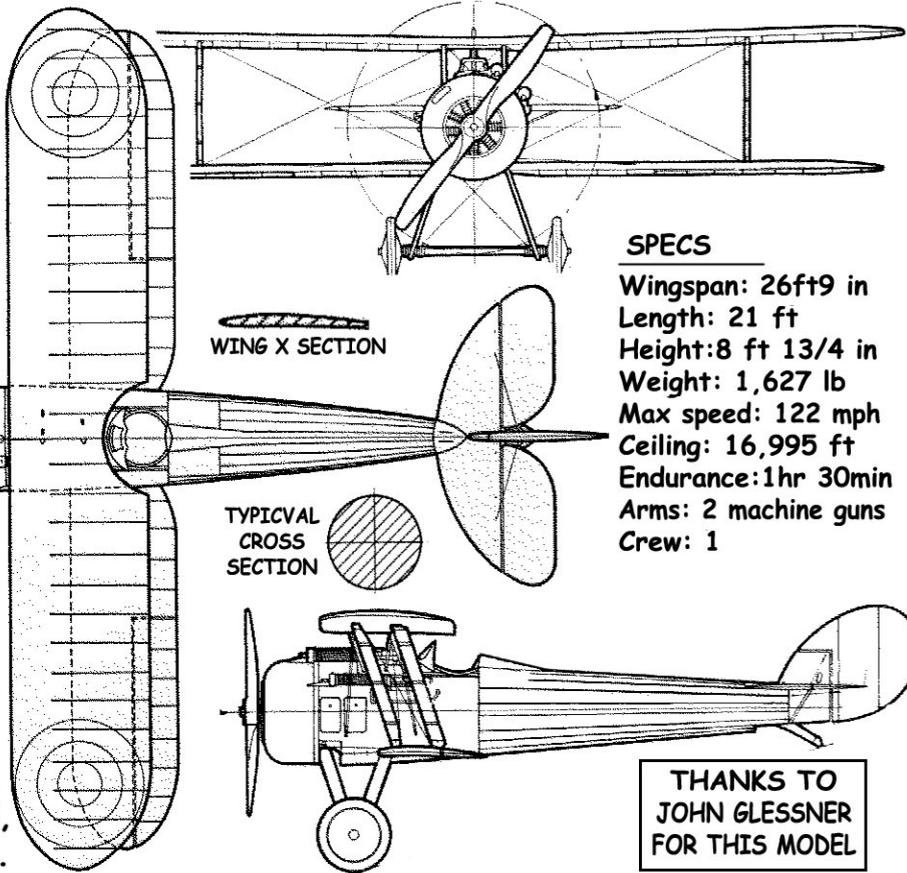
Described as the most elegant aeroplane of the First World War, the Nieuport 28 was radically different from the familiar line of Nieuport sesquiplanes.

The wings were staggered, with elliptical tips; rather unusually, the lower wing carried the ailerons. Two pine spars on which were fitted wire-braced wooden ribs made up the basic wing shape; the leading-edges were covered with plywood veneer, to which was tacked the fabric wing covering. The interplane and center-section struts, of wood, were set closely together.

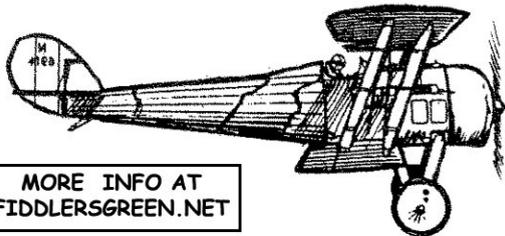
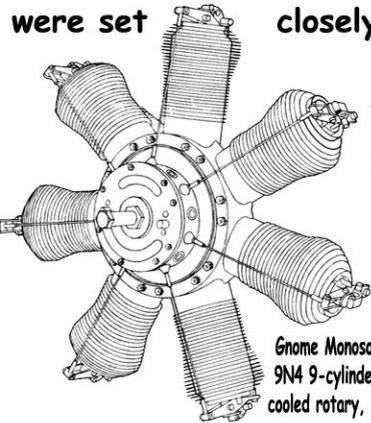
Limited numbers of the 28 were used by the French Flying Service. The 28 is more famous however, as being the machine which equipped the first American fighter squadrons. 297 were purchased by the American Expeditionary Force, the first delivery being in March 1918.

SPECS

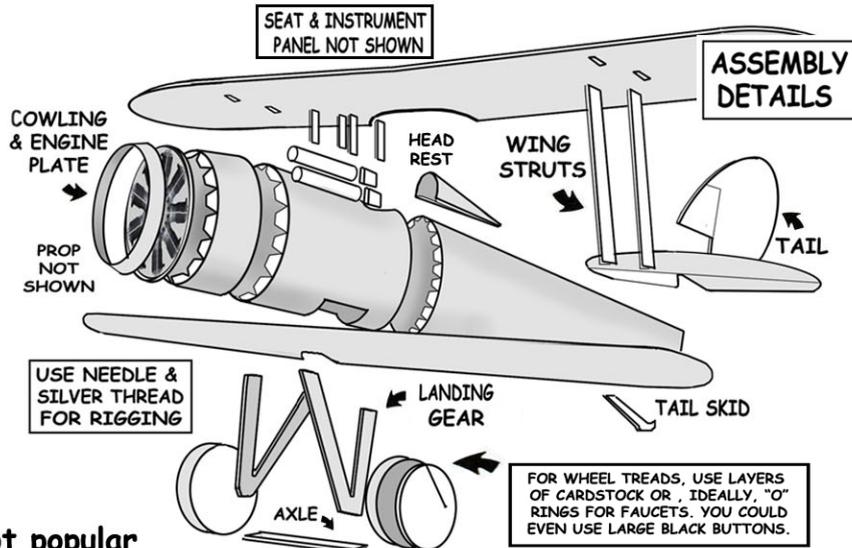
Wingspan: 26ft9 in
 Length: 21 ft
 Height: 8 ft 13/4 in
 Weight: 1,627 lb
 Max speed: 122 mph
 Ceiling: 16,995 ft
 Endurance: 1hr 30min
 Arms: 2 machine guns
 Crew: 1



THANKS TO
 JOHN GLESSNER
 FOR THIS MODEL



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Nevertheless the little biplane was not popular with American pilots. Though very maneuverable and with a good rate of climb, when dived too steeply it had a tendency to shed the fabric from the leading-edges of its wings. Steps were taken to strengthen the wing-fabric of the 28, and a satisfactory solution to the problem had been evolved by July 1918. This was too late unfortunately, for by then the Nieuports in the American fighter squadrons had been replaced by sturdier Spad 13s.