Lockheed P-38J Lightning

In the spring of 2010, I decided I wanted to build the iconic P-38 Lightning, after inheriting a Guillows kit of that model. Being an FACer for many years, I knew the Guillows build would be unacceptable for a rubber model because of it's weight. So, I decided to start from scratch with my plans, yet wanted to use the decals and kit plastic to make molds. So, mine is the same 40" span as the Guillows for that reason. I did use it's canopy and turbo-superchargers.

My plan was to make as light and strong a structure as possible, yet robust enough to take several seasons of punishment, since I didn't want to have to build another one.

My ship is based on "Lefty" Gardner's P-38J, serial #42-67543 with civil registration N3145X. The ship crashed at an airshow in Duxford, England, in 1996. The hulk of it was recovered and shipped to Austin, TX, where it still resides (presumably). Previously, it had been stored in Mercedes, TX from 1964-1987.

I have not found a photo of it flying, back in active war service, so, consequently, no one seems to know with empirical evidence what would distinguish between the conflicting invasion striping I've seen on plastic models, etc., on the booms. That being said, then, mine is correct for Lefty Gardner's ship, California Cutie.

Fortunately, now, Callie Graphics has a complete graphics kit for her, except the invasion stripes. My ship is still way too heavy for any flights over a minute as has been done in the past. AUW: 308grams, because, I wasn't able to find anyone

locally who could pull .007 Styrene from the molds and had to use .015 ABS plastic instead.

Presently, Bernard Guest of Hummingbird Models, Alberta, Canada, has the rights to kit it, pending production time in the near future. Using laminated balsa methodology, which Bernard has kitting experience, for, the plane from his kit should be built for around 200 grams.

This ship with counter-rotating Volare (Superior), 3-bladed props, flies like it's on RAILS! Good Luck. Show us your finished product!,

Thermals,
Duke M. Horn