

# WHAT KIT AIRCRAFT?

A guide to the aircraft available to UK builders in 2011  
By Brian Hope



TL Sting carbon

**> WHAT CAR?, WHAT BIKE?** – there seems to be a magazine spelling out the options for many of our personal purchases. The breadth of choice is just as great with aircraft kits and one of the first questions new members ask is, “Do you have a detailed list of LAA types?”

While we do have a list, it's by no means detailed, containing little more than the type and category of aircraft. This is a shortcoming, and certainly one of the plans for our new website will be the provision of far more detail about current kits and plans-build aircraft that our members can build. In the interim though, I've collated a more detailed list of the LAA kit aircraft that are currently available in the UK.

It wasn't until I started doing this that I realised why nobody else had carried out the task – getting accurate information that enables all the different types to be accurately compared with each other is not easy. Take cruise speed as just one example. There are some manufacturers who claim cruise as the speed that maximum continuous engine speed provides; others use 75% – at 10,000ft. When did you last fly at 10,000ft? So, I've tried to provide what I think most of us would consider typical cruise: 75% at 2,000ft. Of course, sometimes that entails a bit of a guessimate on my part, as indeed does kit price.

Some kits really are complete to the very last nut or tin of paint, others are not. My ballpark is for a basic aircraft as provided by the supplier with no fancy avionics options or professional paint. VAT is not included in the price, and those aircraft where the price is quoted in dollars or euros is because the UK price is decided at the time of purchase dependant on the exchange rate. Where price is in bold it is based on an estimate with no guidance from the manufacturer or agent.

'Category' is M for microlight and A for Group A (what is now more correctly termed SEP or SSEA), while the number alongside is the number of seats. 'Construction' is the primary materials the aircraft is built from (Al = aluminium, Wd = wood, St = steel tube, Fb = fabric and Comp = composite), and 'Build' is my assessment of how much actual effort is required to complete the kit. 'F' is fast build, that is where the major parts like wings, tailplane, etc are already built and what you have is an assembly job. 'M' is medium build, again where many sub-assemblies are pre-built, and 'H' is where you have to do much more of the sub-assembly process – that is actually assemble individual parts to make a wing or a tailplane. Finally, the web address of the agent or manufacturer.

So, please take all what you see here as ballpark figures, as indeed you should when

you take information from a manufacturer's website or literature. Be particularly wary of claimed build times; rare is the guy who meets or better them. And always make absolutely sure you know exactly what you are getting for your money. I'm not suggesting for a moment that the industry is riddled with sharp practice, it isn't, but it's easy for misunderstandings to occur. "How much is the engine?" you may innocently enquire. "£12,000," you are told, only to discover later, having already extended you budget to its limits, that 'the engine' is indeed £12K, but that does not include the oil tank, oil and water radiators and hoses, plus the exhaust system, mounting hardware, control cables, etc, parts that can add another couple of thousand pounds.

The message is: do your homework. Make a point of talking to other builders, about their build experiences and the level of support they received from the manufacturer and/or the agent. Look at the internet as well, where past builders may well have posted comprehensive blogs, and seek out any type clubs.

There really is no need to reinvent the wheel when you choose, buy and build your aircraft kit. It's a major investment of time and money. Above all else, enjoy the truly life-changing experience of building and then flying the aircraft you have built with your own hands – and those of a few assistants, of course. ■

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AIRCRAFT	PRICE IN £1,000s	CATEGORY & SEATS	BUILD MATERIALS	BUILD TIME	ENGINE	USEFUL LOAD KG	75% CRUISE	CONTACT
Aeroprakt Foxbat A22	£42	M 2	Al/Fb	M	912	182	85/100	<a href="http://www.foxbataircraft.com">www.foxbataircraft.com</a>
Aeroprakt Foxbat A22-I	£44	A 2	Al/Fb	M	912	207	85/100	<a href="http://www.foxbataircraft.com">www.foxbataircraft.com</a>
Aerotechnik EV97 Eurostar	£42	M 2	Al	F	912	187	100	<a href="http://www.cosmikaviation.co.uk">www.cosmikaviation.co.uk</a>
Aerotechnik EV97 Eurostar SL	£45	A 2	Al	F	912	210	100	<a href="http://www.cosmikaviation.co.uk">www.cosmikaviation.co.uk</a>
Aerotechnik SporStar	£60	A 2	Al	F	912	255	115	<a href="http://www.cosmikaviation.co.uk">www.cosmikaviation.co.uk</a>
Christen Eagle	£60	A 2	Su/Wd/Fb	H	L 150-200	250	150	<a href="http://www.aviataircraft.com">www.aviataircraft.com</a>
Denney Kitfox	\$50	A 2	Su/Wd/Fb	M	912	360	120	<a href="http://www.kitfoxaircraft.com">www.kitfoxaircraft.com</a>
Dyn Aero MCR01	£70	A 2	Comp	M	912	230	160	<a href="http://www.dynaero.com">www.dynaero.com</a>
Dyn Aero MCR01 Club	£70	A 2	Comp	M	912	230	150	<a href="http://www.dynaero.com">www.dynaero.com</a>
Dyn Aero MCR01 LLC	£70	M 2	Comp	M	912	200	130	<a href="http://www.dynaero.com">www.dynaero.com</a>
Euro Fox	£32	A 2	Su/Al/Fb	M	912	270	110	<a href="http://www.eurofoxuk.co.uk">www.eurofoxuk.co.uk</a>
Europa	£54	A 2	Comp	M	912/914	215/250	150/190	<a href="http://www.europa-aircraft.com">www.europa-aircraft.com</a>
Europa Motorglider	£67	A 2	Comp	M	912	220	130	<a href="http://www.europa-aircraft.com">www.europa-aircraft.com</a>
Fokker	£13	SSDR	Al/Fb	M	40HP	115	65	<a href="http://www.grass-strip-aviation.com">www.grass-strip-aviation.com</a>
Glastar	\$80	A 2	ST/Al/Co	M	L 150/180	450	150	<a href="http://www.glasairaviation.com">www.glasairaviation.com</a>
Gropo Trail	£25	A 2	Al	II	912/Saucer	210	95	<a href="http://www.spriteaviation.co.uk">www.spriteaviation.co.uk</a>
Jabiru J160	£50	A 2	Comp	M	Jab 2200	240	115	<a href="http://www.sky-craft.co.uk">www.sky-craft.co.uk</a>
Jabiru J430	£50	A 4	Comp	M	Jab 3300	360	140	<a href="http://www.sky-craft.co.uk">www.sky-craft.co.uk</a>
JDT Hi-max	\$15	M 1	Wd/Fb	H	R447	105	70	<a href="http://www.jdtmini-max.com">www.jdtmini-max.com</a>
JDT Minimax	\$15	M 1	Wd/Fb	II	R447	105	65	<a href="http://www.jdtmini-max.com">www.jdtmini-max.com</a>
Kolb Twinstar	£22	M 2	Su/Al/Fb	M	Jab 2200	210	80	<a href="http://www.sfmicrolights.com">www.sfmicrolights.com</a>
Kolb Firestar	£15	SSDR	Su/Al/Fb	M	R447	98	65	<a href="http://www.sfmicrolights.com">www.sfmicrolights.com</a>
Midget Mustang	\$35	A 1	Al	II	L 160hp	135	180	<a href="http://www.mustangaero.com">www.mustangaero.com</a>
Mission 108	£40	A 2	Su/Al/Fb	M	UL260	280	95	<a href="http://www.lambert-aircraft.com">www.lambert-aircraft.com</a>
Murphy Maverick	£30	M 2	Al	II	R447	210	80	<a href="http://www.murphyair.com">www.murphyair.com</a>
Murphy Rebel	£45	A 2	Al	II	912/T. 150	295	110	<a href="http://www.murphyair.com">www.murphyair.com</a>
Pioneer 200	£38	M 2	Wd/comp	M	912	215	120	<a href="http://www.pioneer.aero">www.pioneer.aero</a>
Pioneer 300	£54	A 2	Wd/Comp	M	912	240	145	<a href="http://www.pioneer.aero">www.pioneer.aero</a>
Pioneer 400	€110	A 4	Wd/Comp	M	912	390	145	<a href="http://www.pioneer.aero">www.pioneer.aero</a>



Pioneer P200

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Rans S6 FS	£26	M 2	St/Al/F b	F	Jab 2200	210	100	<a href="http://www.sky-craft.co.uk">www.sky-craft.co.uk</a>
Rans S6	£26	A 2	St/Al/F b	F	Jab 2200	230	100	<a href="http://www.sky-craft.co.uk">www.sky-craft.co.uk</a>
Rans	£31	A 2	St/Al/F b	M	912	230	100	<a href="http://www.sky-craft.co.uk">www.sky-craft.co.uk</a>
Reality Kid	£17	SSDR	St/Al/F b	M	28-40HP	135	70	<a href="http://www.reality-aircraft.co.uk">www.reality-aircraft.co.uk</a>
Reality Escapade 2	£27	A 2 M 2	St/Al/F b	M	Jab 2200 UL 260	235 190	85 100	<a href="http://www.reality-aircraft.co.uk">www.reality-aircraft.co.uk</a>
Sequia Faleo	£135	A 2	Wd	H	L160/180	300	180	<a href="http://www.seqair.com">www.seqair.com</a>
Sherwood Runger	£26	A/M 2	Al/Fb	M	R582/Jab	235/21 5	70/85	<a href="http://www.g-lac.com">www.g-lac.com</a>
Silence Twister	£38	A 1	Comp	M	UT 260	170	140	<a href="http://www.silence-twister.co.uk">www.silence-twister.co.uk</a>
Slepcev Storch	£50	A 2	St/Al/F b	M	912	200	80	<a href="http://www.slepcevstorch.com">www.slepcevstorch.com</a>
Sonex	£23	A 2	Al	H	VW/1330 0	215/24 0	120/150	<a href="http://www.stmicrolights.com">www.stmicrolights.com</a>
Supermarine Mk261B	£110	A 2	Al	H	GM V6	310	150	Mike Rae 01241 859412/07709 7544
Tecnam Sierra	£55	A 2	Al	F	912	250	125/135	<a href="http://www.tecnam.co.uk">www.tecnam.co.uk</a>
Sierra RG	£64	A 2	Al	F	912	235	150	<a href="http://www.tecnam.co.uk">www.tecnam.co.uk</a>
Tecnam Echo	£51	A 2	Al	M	912	230	115	<a href="http://www.tecnam.co.uk">www.tecnam.co.uk</a>
Titan Mustang	£90	A 2	Al	M	912	200	130	<a href="mailto:euroaviation@btinternet.com">euroaviation@btinternet.com</a>
TL Sting Carbon	£56	A 2	Comp	M	912	215	130	<a href="http://www.midlandaviation.co.uk">www.midlandaviation.co.uk</a>
Vans RV3	£35	A 1	Al	H	L125/150	160	170	<a href="http://www.vansaircraft.com">www.vansaircraft.com</a>
Vans RV4	£40	A 2	Al	H	L150/180	265	170	<a href="http://www.vansaircraft.com">www.vansaircraft.com</a>
Vans RV7	£40/55	A 2	Al	H	L160/200	315	170	<a href="http://www.vansaircraft.com">www.vansaircraft.com</a>
Vans RV8	£40/55	A 2	Al	H	L150/200	315	170	<a href="http://www.vansaircraft.com">www.vansaircraft.com</a>
Vans RV9	£40/55	A 2	Al	H	L118/160	315	160	<a href="http://www.vansaircraft.com">www.vansaircraft.com</a>



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Vans RV10	£80/100	A 4	Al	H	L210/260	500	180	<a href="http://www.vansaircraft.com">www.vansaircraft.com</a>
Vans RV12	\$63	A 2	Al	H	912	260	125	<a href="http://www.vansaircraft.com">www.vansaircraft.com</a>
X' Air Hawk	£24	M 2	Al/Fb	M	Jab 2200	195	90	<a href="http://www.xairuk.com">www.xairuk.com</a>
Zenair 610XL	\$60	A 2	Al	H	912	280	125	Gary Johnson JMS Aero 07887 767050
Zenair CH701	\$60	A 2	Al	H	912	235	80	Gary Johnson JMS Aero 07887 767050
Zenair CH750	\$60	A 2	Al	H	O-200	250	90	Gary Johnson JMS Aero 07887 767050



Supermarine Mk26 Spitfire