

REGISTERING A NEW PROJECT

Building an aircraft can be an immensely rewarding experience. However, it is important to take a little time at the start to choose the right design. The designs available to the builder range from the budget sunny afternoon 'drifters' to serious cross-country cruisers. Whatever your preference and budget, there is an LAA approved design to suit your requirements. New designs are also being added each year to ensure that the most modern aircraft designs are available to the LAA builder. It is useful to consider the following questions when deciding on which type to build:

- *Is it LAA accepted ?*
- *How much will the kit or materials cost ?*
- *Can it be supplied (and paid for) in modular form over a period of time ?*
- *Is there a UK agent ?*
- *Does the agent, and the manufacturer, have a good reputation/proven track record ?*
- *How many have already been successfully completed?*
- *How many seats do you really need, 1, 2 or 4 ?*
- *High wing or low ?*
- *Aerobatic, cruising or 'round the patch' ?*
- *Tail wheel Tricycle or other! ?*
- *Runway or prepared strip ?*
- *Difficulty of construction ?*
- *Construction materials ?*
- *Size and suitability of workshop ?*
- *Time to build ?*
- *Cost of operating ?*
- *Stored outside, in hangar, or trailered home ?*

The right choice will depend on the builder's own circumstances, but it is important to be realistic and accept that some compromise will be inevitable.

We strongly recommend that you build a design which has already been accepted by the LAA. There is a route to approve new designs, but it is a significant additional undertaking with risk attached. Anyone who feels strongly about a design which is not yet approved should contact LAA Engineering; there may be a good reason why it is not approved!

The best way to research these issues is to go along to your local LAA Strut and meet fellow builders. Magazines such as Light Aircraft are also a good resource, and go to as many Fly-ins and club meetings as possible. The LAA can also provide details of other builders of any particular aircraft type who are usually happy to discuss their projects.

Once the decision is made:

1. Contact LAA Engineering office giving your details and LAA membership number, together with the type name of the aircraft you wish to build.
2. LAA will return a Registration Pack, which includes a Registration Card for you to complete and sign.
3. Return the registration card, along with the LAA Registration fee (£300 for kit built, £50 for plans built).

If the aircraft is of a type which LAA have accepted or is in the final stages of acceptance, LAA will return a Project Inspection Record to be signed at various build stages by an LAA inspector. This book also specifies the unique LAA project number which has been assigned to your aircraft. Accompanying the Project Inspection Record will be a folder of guidance material to help you through the challenges ahead, including a Type Acceptance Data Sheet (TADS) regarding your specific model of aircraft.