



Short Feature Article

eduard

Hanriot HD.2 Floatplane

1:48 scale

with
David Lane
(September 2019)

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Just before we get into the build notes, here's a look at how this one turned out...



Hope you like it!

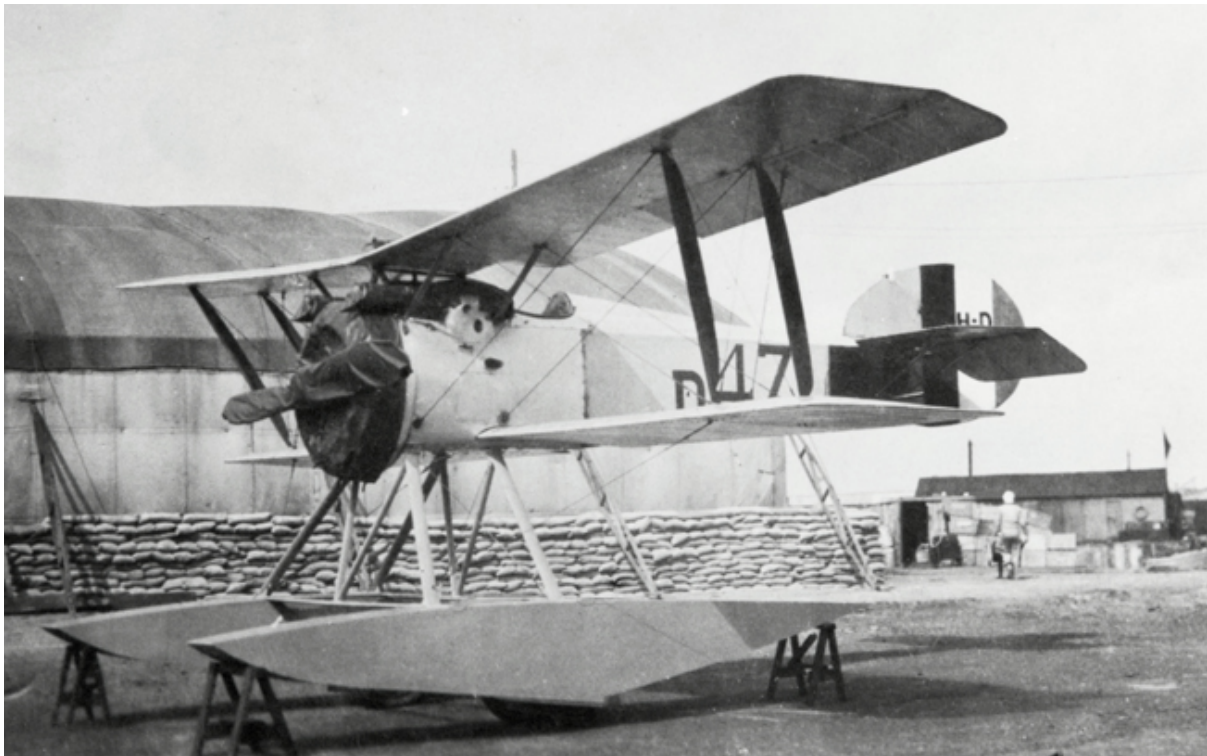
A little bit of background on the Hanriot HD.2...

The Hanriot HD.2 was a biplane floatplane fighter aircraft produced in France during the First World War which was used after the war for testing the use of aircraft from warships.



(Photo: French Navy Hanriot HD.2 floatplane on the water. Courtesy: SDASM Archives)

The design was based on that of the HD.1, but was a purpose-built floatplane. It had larger tail surfaces and a shorter wingspan with greater area. Like its predecessor, though, it was a conventional single-bay biplane with staggered wings of unequal span. The prototype had a twin pontoon undercarriage, with a small third pontoon under the tail. The third pontoon was later discarded on production machines, though.



(Photo: French Navy Hanriot HD.2 on beaching gear. Courtesy: SDASM Archives)

The HD.2 was developed specifically as an interceptor to defend flying boat bases, but soon was used as an escort fighter to protect French reconnaissance flying boats. The United States Navy also bought 10 examples with wheeled undercarriages, designated HD.2C.

Both the French and United States navies used these aircraft in early experiments in launching fighters from warships. The United States Navy replicated the French trials where a HD.1 had been launched from a platform built atop one of the turrets of the battleship *Paris* and built a similar platform on the USS *Mississippi* to launch a HD.2 from. The French Navy converted some of their HD.2s to wheeled configuration and used them for trials on the new aircraft carrier Béarn.

A final experiment in launching a HD.2 from a ship was carried out in 1924 with two new-built examples designated H.29. An unorthodox launching system was developed where the aircraft were equipped with three small pulley-wheels, one on each tip of the upper wing, and one at the tip of the tail fin. These ran along metal rails that had been attached to project horizontally from the mast of the battleship *Lorraine*. This did not work as hoped, succeeding only in depositing the aircraft into the water below. Further trials were discontinued.

Hi Geoff,

Just finished this Eduard 1:48 [Weekend] Hanriot sea plane...

An easy build. The only niggle was the hollow distorted float sides that were filled with Magic Sculpt and sanded smooth.



Black base primer with white and tan coloured squiggles all over it. Then a very thin layer of Mr Hobby 337 Greyish Blue lightened with a touch of XF-2 . Once the ribs were masked 337 was sprayed to knock back the mottled first layer. A thin layer of Tamiya

X-19 Smoke with lightly spayed along the taped ribs to give a little contrast/depth. Once gloss-varnished, the kit decals went on very easily.





Aluminium areas were AK matt Aluminium.

Wooden struts were based in Tamiya Flesh and a mix of Burnt Umber and Venetian red oil mixed was worked over it to create the woodgrain.

The prop was MRP Sand primer. A dark Vallejo brown acrylic was brush painted to give the darker wood ply. The grain was put on with Burnt Umber oil paint. The painted area were finished with a layer if MRP semigloss varnish.

Black and white photos showed different rigging to the supplied instructions. Around the float I used some new Gaspach resin turnbuckles to fit the photos. These seem to have better detail than the metal ones. Brass tubing form 'Bob' was used for the remainder about the wings.

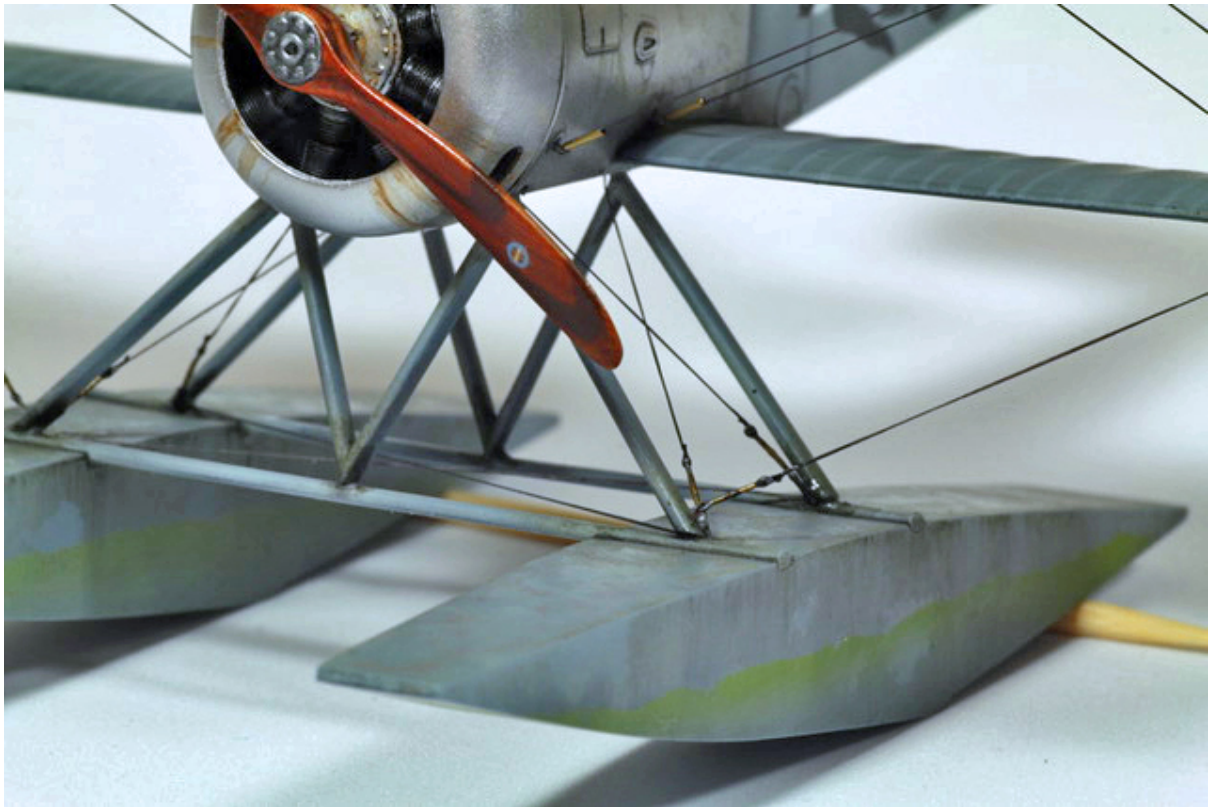
The leather around the cockpit was again oils.

The top wing was placed first by only the central support. After 60 mins I wiggled the front the rear struts in, Dave Coward style. After another 60mins the central Cabane struts were also wiggled in.

AK rain effects were used to create a surface dirt pattern on the floats. Streaking AK was use on their sides. A green scum line was added around the float water line.

Out of the box apart from Gaspach turnbuckles and around the floats paint with printer's ink. Bob's Buckles elsewhere.









That's it!

David L.



