

Spitfire in my Workshop – a short precis

'Spitfire in my Workshop' chronicles the building of a remarkable 1:5 scale museum model of Britain's most iconic fighter aircraft. It takes the reader on an 11-year journey, revealing in painstaking detail the myriad techniques used by a master model maker to create a rivet-for-rivet replica of the original. From cockpit instruments with needles that stand proud of their dials, to individual stitches in the rudder fabric, to air valves in the landing wheels – nothing is overlooked; nothing is compromised.

In the words of a wartime pilot who flew Spitfires: "The only thing missing is the oil drop in the mirror"!

Written with wit, humour and a touch of pathos, this is a book that offers a glimpse of the agony and ecstasy that is model making at this level, from despair when things go wrong to the euphoria of seeing the finished masterpiece unveiled for permanent public display at Britain's most prestigious aviation museum. 'Spitfire in my Workshop' is written to inform, guide and inspire others to extend the envelope of their model making skills – to do the undoable. But the story it tells and its magnificent photographs of a matchless model of an iconic aircraft give it far broader appeal. Here is a portrait of an immortal fighter and an intimate insight into the mindset of a master model maker whose lifelong passion for aviation has found vent in the building of exquisitely detailed scale replicas of the aircraft he so admires.

David Glen's Supermarine Spitfire model was placed on permanent display at the Royal Air Force Museum Hendon in November 2006. His North American P-51D Mustang, also in 1:5 scale, was unveiled at the RAF Museum Cosford in June 2014, where it can be viewed in the entrance to the Visitor Centre. David is currently working on his third giant scale model, a Spitfire Mk IX.