

Jerry Bates

Jerry Bates is highly regarded as a master designer in the giant-scale RC community, authoring over 100 distinct designs. His catalog spans iconic World War II warbirds—such as the Grumman F6F Hellcat, Douglas SBD Dauntless, and Hawker Sea Fury—to historic civilian aircraft.

Bates distinguished himself from standard kit manufacturers through a rigorous design methodology:

- **CAD Drafting:** He was one of the early designers to fully transition to Computer-Aided Design (CAD), producing exceptionally clean, highly accurate blueprints that are easy for plans-builders to interpret.
- **"Proof of Model" Verification:** Before any plan is published or made available for sale, a physical prototype is always constructed from the drawings. This ensures that hardware placement, servo installations, engine alignment, and retract mechanisms are flawlessly integrated into the airframe.
- **True-to-Scale Engineering:** Builders highly value his plans because they incorporate exact panel lines, internal structural framing, and structural components tailored to match real-world aviation geometry while maintaining excellent flight characteristics.

Through partnerships with laser-cutting manufacturers like RC Laser Kitters, his blueprints continue to be distributed globally as "short kits," keeping traditional balsa scratch-building alive in the modern era. Jerry Bates remains a foundational figure in the scale RC community, admired for transforming aviation history into high-fidelity, flying art.

Jerry remains a foundational figure in the scale RC community, and I am honored to partner with him – keeping traditional building techniques alive in the modern era.