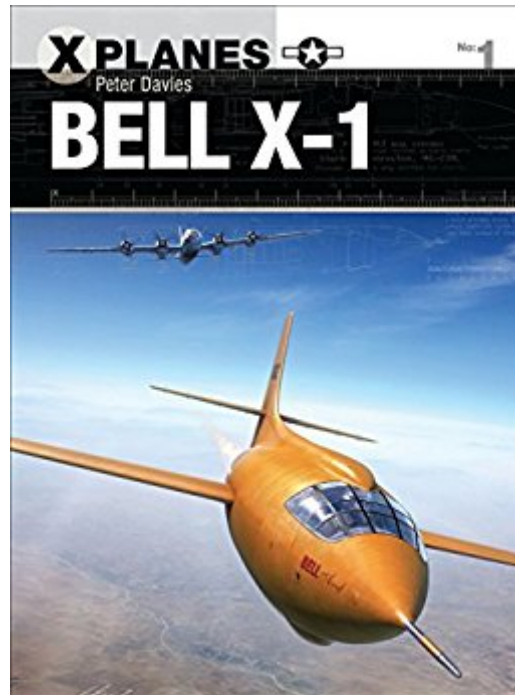




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Bell X-1 (X-Planes)



Synopsis

In 1947, no one knew if it was possible to break the 'sound barrier'. The Bell X-1 was the tiny, rocket-powered craft that finally broke it. It was the result of innovative designers and engineers turning their attention from the pioneering jets of World War II to a new task – an aircraft designed purely to fly faster than sound. Legendary pilots rallied to the cause, with World War II ace Chuck Yeager piloting the X-1 when it finally achieved supersonic flight in 1947, the first manned craft to reach such speeds. With historical photographs and meticulously researched digital art, Peter Davies traces the whole career of the pioneering Bell X-1, from its early development through to the influence it had on military and civilian jets in the second half of the 20th century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book in this new series by Osprey Publishing. Great overview of the program and the aircraft. I plan to the X-15 book when it is released.

Small book, but covers essentials.

Very Good

Thanks to the book and movie "The Right Stuff", anyone who cares about aviation knows Chuck Yeager was the first pilot to break the sound barrier. The details, maybe not so much. Wonder no more. This Osprey X Planes Series book "Bell X-1" tells the story in the kind of detail an aviation buff wants. Experienced aviation historian Peter Davies does the honors, with help from illustrators Jim Laurier and Gareth Hector. The book starts with World War II and the first experiments by Allied and Axis scientists and aircraft designers to approach Mach One. A series of fatal accidents built up the mythology that the sound barrier couldn't be broken. The U.S. X-1 program, a combined effort of the U.S. Air Force, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and the Bell Aircraft Company, made a serious post-war run at the barrier. Chuck Yeager's successful flight was only one of many speed and altitude records broken by the team. The details are here, along with the improvisations, the hair-raising series of accidents, and the pure thrill of it all. Highly recommended as a concise but fascinating introduction to the topic.

This is probably the best Osprey book I have ever bought. It covers many of the personalities involved in the X1 program, both commissioned, enlisted and civilian. It also covers some unusual missions flown under the program, including the flight for filming of the movie "Jet Pilot" and the mission that launched from a runway (instead of an airdrop) to satisfy inter-service rivalry with the Navy.

The Bell X-1 was the first X plane and the first true spacecraft. First machine also to break the sound barrier courtesy to Maj Chuck Yeager, it is well and deeply portrayed in this fine Osprey's book of the new "X-planes" series. Author Davies is quite effective in tracking through this first "space race" between USAF and US Navy with the similar Douglas Skyrocket. He describes in detail the USAF and Bell team's successful efforts in making history by their incredible faith in "flying against the unknown" that saw incredible men revolutionize aviation history. The book is also enriched by the wonderful iconographic section of two real artists like Gareth Hector and Jim Laurier, a perfect team able to portray not only the peculiar X-1's lines but also the pathos of those flights with incredible pilots

Beautiful new series and this book was excellent to start the series off - I also got the 2d book in the series - Great quality with 's great packaging and speedy delivery via USPS - Thanks to all !

Incredible information , and real photographic HISTORY - of this INCREDIBLE PILOT and AIRCRAFT !!!

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