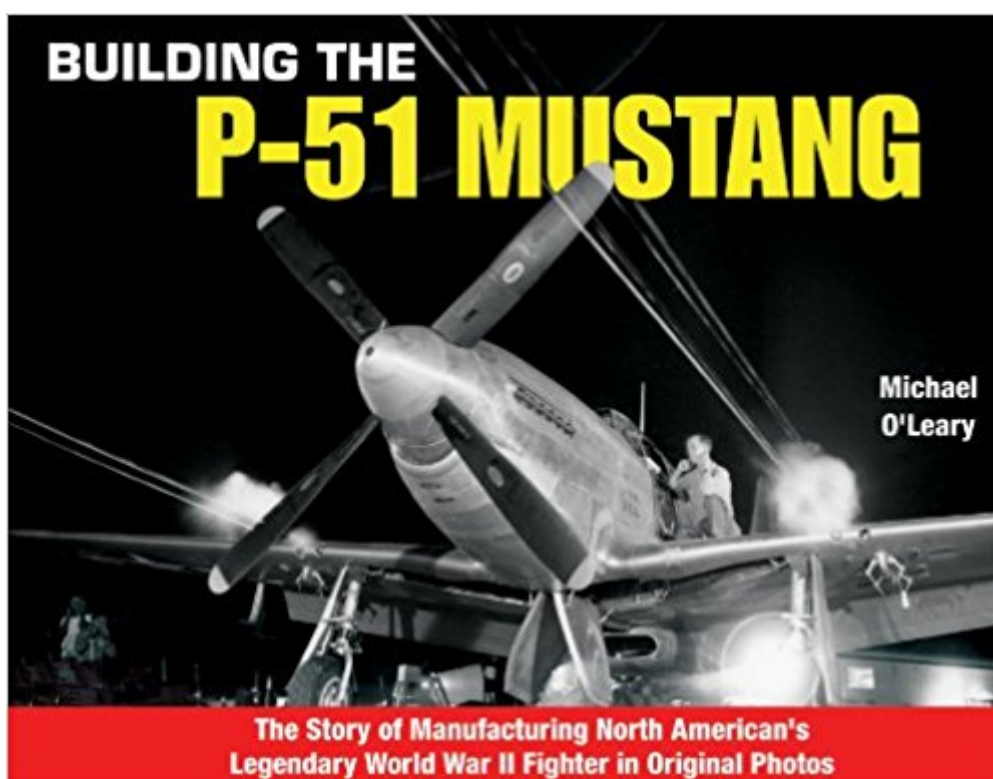


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Building The P-51 Mustang: The Story Of Manufacturing North American's Legendary WWII Fighter In Original Photos



Synopsis

The P-51 Mustang holds a fascination unlike any other World War II aircraft, and countless books have been written about nearly every aspect of the Mustang's colorful history. However, the story of manufacturing the airplane itself is usually contained only in the opening chapters of these books. Now, for the first time, here is a major work devoted strictly to telling the story of how this legendary airplane was designed and built using rare original factory photographs, documents, and unique engineering information. The author uses more than 300 original photos culled from his personal archive of official North American and USAAF images, many of which have never before been seen in any publication whatsoever. This paperback book will provide a vital "missing link" in the saga of this famed World War II aircraft, and is sure to become a valued addition to the libraries of P-51 modelers, historians, enthusiasts, and pilots in both the United States and England.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

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Customer Reviews

"Overall this is a great addition to any Mustang library." -Internet Modeler, reviewed by Chris Banyai-Riepl, February 2012 (Internet Modeler 2012-02-08)"Re-released in softbound edition, this book gives a unique manufacturing perspective that makes it a must-buy for die-hard Mustang historians. And the plethora of photographs make it a useful reference for any modeler." -Model Retailer, March 2012 (Model Retailer 2012-03-01)

Author and photographer Michael O'Leary is well known in the field of aviation journalism, having served for more than 20 years as editor of Air Classics and Warbirds International magazines.

As of my writing this, I am still only about half finished reading this after receiving it, but can already tell that this is going to be a totally positive review. I am amazed at the amount of the detailed information from the inception of the first ideas of this aircraft, right up through the entire history of its production life with all the variables of design. It is a great honor to be able to put names and faces behind all the hard work that made the P-51 a possibility, and everyone is included in the managerial level, and had it been possible, I believe the author would have included the names of each and every North American Aviation employee that contributed to the making of the Mustang (there is even a picture of the 10,000th Mustang made that was signed by all of the production line workers, then sent overseas!!). An unbelievably detailed view at my most loved fighter plane.

I am not THE collector of Mustang books. I have a unique license plate: P-51 LVR. I do "love" the "cadillac" of the WWII fighters. I also have a collection of books about the Mustang. As the author writes that many good books exist (and some poor ones too), this is a MUST for any Mustang lover/aficionado/fan-atic. Every Mustang-lover has to have this book in the collection. More information than you will ever need about design and production. If you are looking for pictures, they are here. If you are looking for fighter group history and air battles, you must go elsewhere to collect information (like the Osprey series). But since 2010, the publication date of this work, much has been written and researched about the plane. Before 2010, only a few books existed that covered details now presented by Michael O'Leary. Do not pass up this opportunity to buy this book!

Loads of photos, documentary artifacts, and some inside stories too. One of O'Learys -- who in his earlier efforts tended toward the sensational 'pop' perspective on aircraft history -- best efforts. Only wish there were more details on Mustang gestation; the world pretty much knows about the success of the D-model onward. As it is, the book is adequate on the Allison-powered generations, a plus. Could have been longer?

A unique and fascinating look at the actual production of the P-51 illustrated with mostly high quality photos taken by factory photographers. The photos are finely reproduced on high quality paper. There's enough detail that even small items in the pictures come to life with a magnifying glass. Very few of these photos have been published elsewhere. The accompanying text highlights the complexity and difficulty of deciding what to build and then building this landmark aircraft. Portions of letters and reports are reproduced to augment the clearly written text.

Albeit black & white original photos, the photos are of amazing quality and are very comprehensive. If only they had some colour photos (of e.g. surviving Mustangs), that would have made it perfect!

Absolutely mind boggling! The question comes to the forefront, "could we accomplish these amazing feats today?" Tom Brokaw wrote "The Greatest Generation" about the American soldier, but he should have included the men and women who performed these manufacturing and engineering miracles.

If you ever wanted to get into the weeds on strictly the production side of a great fighter, here it is...for better or worse. Great pictures and details. Would be a great reference for a model builder.

The P-51D has been my personal favorite, but to see the assembly of this great fighter down to the minor details, makes this the book to have!

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