

Strangely out of place in a world of high performance aircraft, the Fiat CR.42 biplane still served Italy faithfully throughout the Second World War. Although it was clearly outclassed by the newer monoplanes, the Falco was available in quantity at the outbreak of the war. Its initial role was that of bomber escort, but the

Falco was available in quantity at the outbreak of the war. Its initial role was that of bomber escort, but the superior-performance of the allied fighters soon discouraged this practice. The CR.42 found its greatest successes came as a night fighter and fighter-bomber. As a light bomber its agility was found to be a great advantage and CR.42's were used very effectively in this guise during the North African Campaign. As bombers, Falcos were designated CR.42-A.S. and carried two 220 pound bombs. The little biplane served in nearly every Italian fighter squadron during the war, as well as forming substantial parts of the air forces of Sweden, Hungary and Belgium. Many Falcos were still in operation with the Italian Air Force when that nation surrendered. Some of them continued to fight in the hands of the Anti-Facist Co-Belligerent Air Forces, thus holding the distinction of fighting on both sides in the conflict. The Fiat CR.42 was the last biplane fighter to be produced by the combatants, surpassing the British Gladiator which also saw service in the war. It was constructed of welded steel tubes covered with fabric. which also saw service in the war. It was constructed of welded steel tubes covered with fabric. The Falco's clean lines and 340 hp Fiat A74 R.C. 38 engine gave the plane an unusually high speed for a biplane: 267 mph! The service ceiling exceeded 33,000 feet, and the maximum range was over 600 miles. The Falco, or Falcon, carried two 12.7 mm Breda-SAFAT machine guns with 400 rounds per gun. The upper wing had a span of 31 feet, 934 inches; overall length being 27 feet, 234 inches. Your model of the Fiat CR.42 is another distinctive miniature in Revell's series of famous aircraft in 1/72 scale.



