

What Happened???

I bought the plans, a beautiful model glider. I've always loved flying model airplanes and even designed a few in my younger days. It's really not hard so long as the designer makes the craft balance about a third of the way back from the leading edge of the wing and use enough engine. But this was a glider and the whole airplane had to be more carefully fabricated.

Step one: cut out the tissue paper pattern.

Step two: carefully pin the pattern pieces to the eighth inch balsa wood planks.

Step three: cut the pieces with a sharp X-Acto knife.

Step four: sand the pieces to make aerodynamic edges.

Step five: sand the wings to have an airfoil shape (for lift).

Step six: pin the pieces to the other tissue paper pattern and glue pieces together.

Step seven: weight the nose for proper balance.

Step eight: launch at a 45 degree angle and enjoy the flight!

But that is all so boring and takes so much time. Besides that, I had my own ideas about design and aesthetics. About half way through the building process I decided that I knew as much about things as the designer, so I made an amazing original! I put both wings on the same side of the fuselage and the tail at the front. It was an amazing idea. I was the only one who had such a modern design. (Modern art is all the rage, you know!) All my friends and neighbors praised my ingenuity. The human mind is so creative and almost anyone could recognize newness of my work.

But there *was* one problem: my beautiful creation wouldn't fly! I re-shaped the airfoils. I adjusted the nose weight. I even painted it sky blue! Nothing helped. For all its beauty, it would not do the one thing it was designed to do - FLY! *I even enlisted the help of my famous brother, surely if I get some agreement it will work.* We both agreed about the excellence of the design, but we still couldn't get it to fly!

We consulted the pattern, but it was just too limiting to my creative imagination. We called the designer and left a message about my plight. We weren't home when he returned the call, so he left a simple, but useless message, "Just follow the pattern." He obviously did not recognize our creative genius!

We still have my treasured glider with two left wings. We visit it every Sunday morning and enjoy the design of our own creation. We hold it lovingly, we stroke it gently, we even talk to it in tender tones and repeat the poems we have written about it. We just love this creation of our own thoughts. It pleases us. It stands as a monument to our own prowess. Few things give us as much pleasure in life as this magnificent piece of art – a true homage to the discipline of aircraft design and our understanding of aeronautics.

But alas, it just won't fly! Maybe we should have followed the pattern!

Wilbur and Orville Wrong

For further reading: *Aircraft Design*, by John P. Fielding

2 Tim. 1:13; Ex. 25:9, 40; Acts 7:44; Phil. 3:17; Heb. 8:4, 5