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Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1998](#) -> [May](#) -> **Re: Mach 50 Thunderdart**

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Mach 50 Thunderdart

From: **Baron Northrop** <baron@anim.dreamworks.com>
Date: Fri, 01 May 1998 23:13:59 -0700
Fwd Date: Sat, 02 May 1998 09:30:25 -0400
Subject: Re: Mach 50 Thunderdart

>From: "Tim Matthews" <matthews@zetnet.co.uk>
>To: <updates@globalserve.net>
>Subject: Mach 50 Thunderdart
>Date: Sat, 2 May 1998 09:27:18 +0100

<snip>

>The rumour that the US has a Mach 50 Thunderdart is complete
>nonsense. The Thunderdart was a Testors model kit. The whole idea
>makes no sense.

<snip>

To quote from:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/bulletin/sec29.html>

Aurora for Fun and Profit

Could secrecy be the new engine of economic growth? Hardly. But the classification of advanced surveillance aircraft is being exploited as the major selling point for a new set of scale models of "Aurora"-type spy planes for hobbyists.

Declaring that "the secret is out!" the Testor Corporation of Rockford, Illinois announced last month that it is marketing what it calls "the super secret SR-75 Penetrator" ("also known by the code word Aurora") and "the XR-7 Thunder Dart reconnaissance aircraft system."

The ad copy asserts that these craft "were designed to replace the aging SR-71 Blackbirds and are now flying missions from remote bases around the world." The Air Force denies this.

The models' designer, John Andrews of Testor, says they are based on "available government information, some expert aviation and aerospace contacts, his own engineering experience, and several technological guesses."

The marketing of a toy model has become something of a milestone in secret aircraft programs, suggesting that the time for declassification of some secret aircraft may soon be ripe. The Testor Corporation created an uproar when it released its model of a stealth fighter (which it called the F-19) in 1985, just a few years before the F-117A stealth fighter was finally unveiled. At the time, one bewildered Congressman demanded to know "how a secret aircraft that even Congressmen were not allowed to see

could be reproduced by a model company." (Airpower Journal, Fall 1991, p.24).

As it turned out, however, the Testor model bore little resemblance to the actual F-117A. But more than one million F-19s were sold, making it "the best selling model airplane of all time."

Available at:

<http://worldmall.com/hhaven/120595.txt>

TES 567 1/72 XR-7 THUNDER DART 8.95

Also available!

TES 576 1/48 LAZAR SPACECRAFT 19.95

Please don't flame me for what may look like an advertisement... I just wanted to show the kind of information that can be located on the net with minimum effort... This information is the result of less than 5 minutes using <http://www.dogpile.com> with "Thunderdart" as a search term...

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