

Famous aircraft worked on in Cambridge

Beta II Airship

First flight: 1910
Crew: 3
Speed: 25 miles per hour



The airship balloons can be filled with hydrogen or helium, which are gases that are lighter than the air around them. As the balloon is lighter than the air around it, it floats.

Airships have an engine and propellers. The engine and propellers power the airship to travel through the air.

Gipsy Moth

First flight: 1925
Crew: 2
Speed: 102 miles per hour



The Gipsy Moth was a popular early plane. Several of these planes were owned by Cambridge Airport.

They were the planes used to teach people to learn to fly.

Lockheed L-1011 TriStar

First flight: 1970
Crew: 4
Speed: 556 miles per hour



The Lockheed L-1011 started life as a successful passenger plane. It was used by airlines like British Airways.

The Royal Air Force identified a need for a new transporter aircraft. It was Marshall in Cambridge who converted the Lockheed from a passenger plane to a transporter.

de Havilland Mosquito

First flight: 1910
Crew: 3
Speed: 25 miles per hour



The Mosquito was a plane that played many different roles in World War Two. It carried out intelligence missions and was also used as a fighter.

What makes this aircraft unique is that it was made almost entirely from wood.

Gloster Meteor

First flight: 1943
Crew: 1
Speed: 410 miles per hour



The Gloster Meteor was the first plane to be fitted with jet engines. Jet engines meant planes could fly further and faster than before.

The jet engine was invented by Frank Whittle, who studied at Cambridge

de Havilland Comet

First flight: 1949
Crew: 4
Speed: 460 miles per hour



The de Havilland Comet was the first passenger plane to use jet engines.

de Havilland was a famous British aviation company.

In its first year, the Comet carried 30,000 people to destinations round the world.

Lockheed C-130 'Hercules'

First flight: 1954
Crew: 5
Speed: 370 miles per hour



The C-130 is best known as a transporter plane, carrying people, medical equipment or other cargo.

It can carry cargo equivalent to the weight of 15 mid-size family cars.

Boeing 747

First flight: 1969
Crew: 2 pilots
Speed: 579 miles per hour



The Boeing 747 was the world's first 'Jumbo Jet'.

It could carry more than 500 passengers and fly further than any other plane.

Many holidaymakers fly on Boeing 747s when travelling to another country.

Aérospatiale/BAC Concorde

First flight: 1969
Crew: 3
Speed: 1,354 miles per hour



The Concorde was the first passenger plane to fly 'supersonic' or above the speed of sound.

It could fly from London to New York in 4 hours.