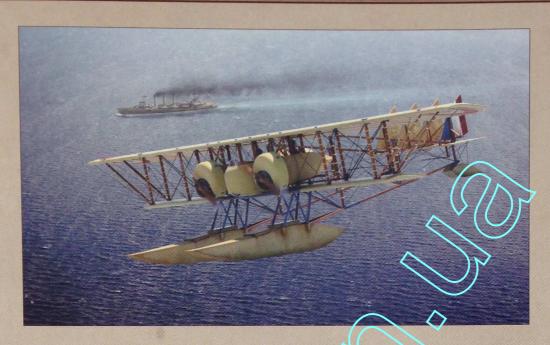
1/48 Caudron G.IV Hydravion



The Caudron G.4 "Hydravion" was the French WW1 twin engine floatplane-equipped naval reconnaissance version of the G.4 reconnaissance/bomber.

The naval version was a two seater developed to meet the requirements of the French Navy. These floatplane versions were powered by two Le Rhone 9c 80hp rotary engines. The floats were aesthetically pleasing but otherwise, there were few changes to the basic G.4 design. A light anchor and reel was placed in the observer's compartment. The flying characteristics of the aeroplane were barely affected by the floats, although they did add an extra 25kg to the empty weight of the aircraft.

The G.4 floatplane was sometimes called the Caudron G.4 Hydravion. It underwent testing in September 1916 at the Naval base in Saint-Raphael in the Mediterranear, part of the French Naval Aviation test centre.

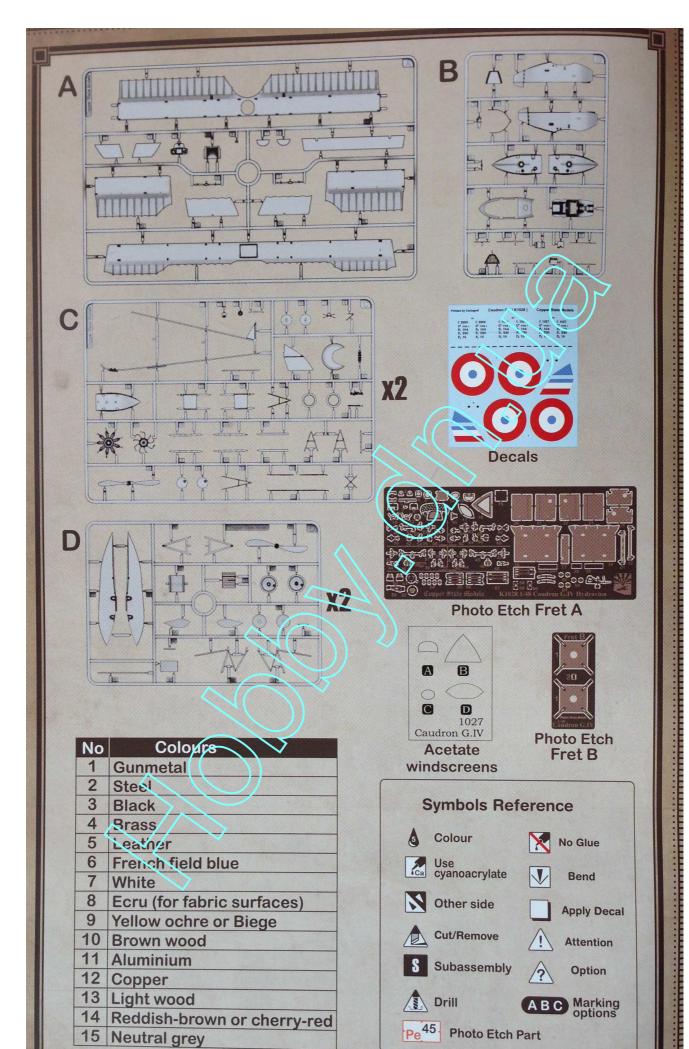
The French maritime operators were not impressed with the new Caudron G.4 Marine because they preferred flying boats to float planes, especially if the aircraft had to make an emergency landing at sea. Also the bulky size of the G.4 Hydravion meant it could not be loaded on ships, which reduced its operational range.

Its fuel capacity of 200kg meant it had a flying limit 1.5 hours less than the land based version. However the floatplane version still found a use. At the beginning of 1917 at least three G.4 Hydravion aircraft were transferred to the aerial gunnery school in Cazaux for use as target tugs among other duties. The detailed history of the G.4 Hydravion is vague on when they were taken out of service, but photos dating back to the early 1920s show an aircraft fitted with floats.

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