

# B-17G Flying Fortress Late Production 

TIhe Boeing B-17 'Flying Fortress' was one of the U.S.A.'s main four-engine heavy bombers, operating alongside the B-24 Liberator, and the later B-29 Superfortress, in all theatres of World War 2. It's a fact that the B-17 almost never saw its place in history and the defeat of Nazi Germany, as the prototype, known as Model 299, crashed due to pilot error during its evaluation in October 1935. Thankfully, the design had shown such promise during the testing phase, in fact, far exceeding the requirements of the original specification, that further prototypes were ordered despite Boeing losing the original contract with the United States Army Air Corps. It was this further evaluation that saw the type enter active service in 1938. The actual name 'Flying Fortress' was coined by a newspaper hack who witnessed a roll-out of the machine, bristling with guns and turrets, and Boeing realised that this was the sort of propaganda they needed, and trademarked the name. After the initial prototypes, serial production of the B-17 began with the $B-17 B$ variant, and underwent a major revision with the introduction of the ' $E$ '. This type featured a substantially redesigned tail and fillet that featured throughout subsequent versions, giving the B-17 its iconic profile. An extra 10ft of length was added to the fuselage. Other refinements included the addition of a tail and dorsal turret, and the addition of a Bendix turret to replace the fixed bathtub type that had
graced previous versions. This was found to be disappointing, and was eventually replaced with the Sperry ball turret that became a permanent feature of all future marques.
Boeing's 'G' incarnation of the Fort, was perhaps the most significant of all types built, and of course, numerous ' $F$ ' version modifications were carried over, such as the remotely operated Bendix chin turret that was introduced in the late block series of the 'F'. Differences between the 'G' version and the previous main production ' $F$ ' type were the positions of the nose cheek guns to accommodate the remote yolk for the Bendix turret operation, and for late block production of the ' $G$ ', the introduction of the Cheyenne tail gunner position which offered a reflector gun sight and much improved field of fire. Unlike the early production blocks of the 'G', the later production blocks introduced staggered waist gun positions for the flexible-mount .50-cal machine guns.
The B-17G was powered by $4 \times$ Wright R-1820-97 "Cyclone" 1200hp turbocharged radial engines that were constantly uprated over the service life of the B-17, and it also carried $13 \times .50 \mathrm{cal}$ M2 Browning machine guns. A typical long-range mission would see the B-17G carry around 4,500 lbs of bombs. Wingspan was 103 ft 9 in , with a length of 74 ft 4 in . A crew of 10 was typically carried by all variants of the B-17G.


## CAUTION

When using both glue and paint, do not use these near an open flame, due to the flammable properties of these items.
The symbols provided, such as ' $X$ ', refer to the basic colours of parts, although a more comprehensive list is supplied for your use for Tamiya, Mr Hobby and AK-Interactive codes.
When removing parts from sprues, take extreme care. Consider correct tools such as Xuron Sprue Cutters
Please check the symbology on the left and familiarise yourself before building this model kit.



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HKMODELS O1e030


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MARKING A B-17G-95-B0, s/n 43-38728, 851st BS / 490th BG, 8th AF, early 1945.



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Colour Guide

| Key | Gunze/Mr.Hobby | Tamiya | AKInteractive |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A: Dark Olive Drab 41 | H52 | XF-62 | AK2201 |
| B: Neutral Grey 43 | H53 | XF-53 | AK2203 |
| C: Medium Green 42 | H302 | XF-26 | AK2202 |
| D: Rubber Black | H77 | XF-85 | RC022 |
| E: Aluminium | MC218 | XF-16 | AK479 |
| F:Yellow | H4 | XF-3 | AK2091 |
| G: Flat Black | H12 | XF-1 | RC001 |
| H: Dull Dark Green | H302:5 + H12:1 | XF-26:5 + XF-1:1 | AK2106 |
| I: Gunmetal | MC214 | $x-10$ | AK483 |
| J: Brass | MC219 | $x-12$ | AK4002 |
| K: Steel | H18 | XF-56 | AK476 |
| L:Wood | H37 | XF-64 | AK780 |
| M: Grey | H75 | XF-54 | AK164 |
| $N$ White | H11 | XF-2 | RCOO4 |
| 0: Light Green | H50 | XF-71:4+XF-2:1 | AK173 |
| P: Clear Red | н90 | x-27 | RC503 |
| Q: Clear Green | H94 | X-25 | RC505 |
| R: Red | H327 | - | RC005 |
| S: Insignia Blue | H326 | - | - |

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Introductory text: James Hatch

