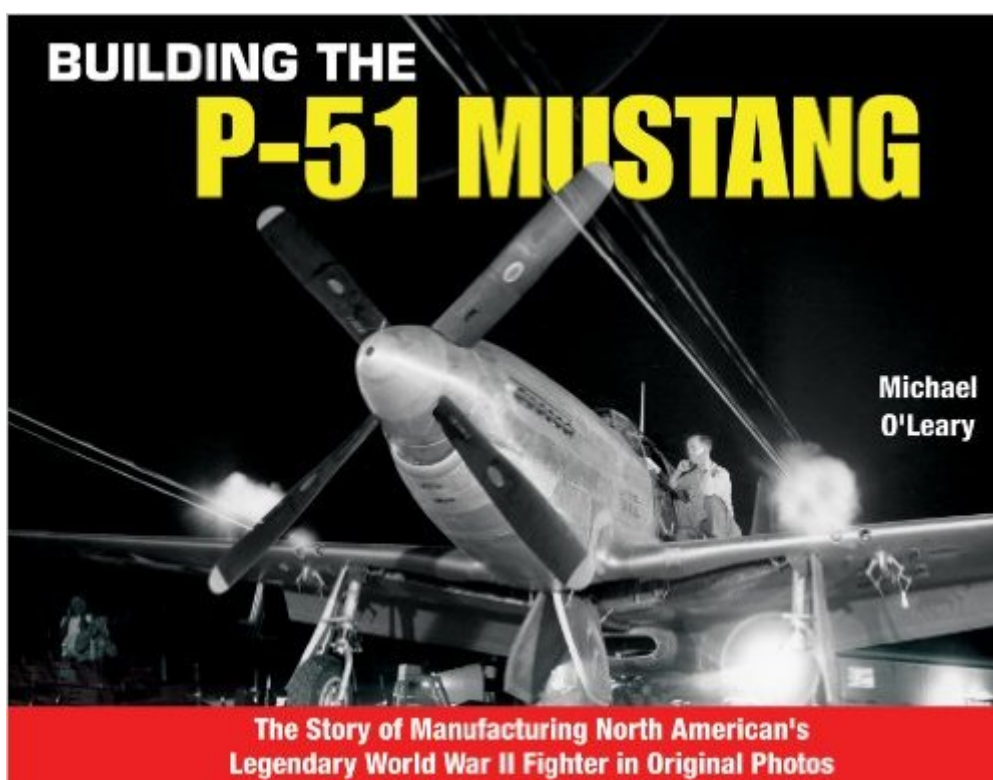


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Building The P-51 Mustang: The Story Of Manufacturing North American's Legendary WWII Fighter In Original Photos



Synopsis

The P-51 Mustang holds a fascination unlike any other World War II aircraft, and countless books have been written about nearly every aspect of the Mustang's colorful history. However, the story of manufacturing the airplane itself is usually contained only in the opening chapters of these books. Now, for the first time, here is a major work devoted strictly to telling the story of how this legendary airplane was designed and built using rare original factory photographs, documents, and unique engineering information. The author uses more than 300 original photos culled from his personal archive of official North American and USAAF images, many of which have never before been seen in any publication whatsoever. This paperback book will provide a vital "missing link" in the saga of this famed World War II aircraft, and is sure to become a valued addition to the libraries of P-51 modelers, historians, enthusiasts, and pilots in both the United States and England.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A unique and fascinating look at the actual production of the P-51 illustrated with mostly high quality photos taken by factory photographers. The photos are finely reproduced on high quality paper.

There's enough detail that even small items in the pictures come to life with a magnifying glass. Very few of these photos have been published elsewhere. The accompanying text highlights the complexity and difficulty of deciding what to build and then building this landmark aircraft. Portions of letters and reports are reproduced to augment the clearly written text.

Building the P-51 Mustang: The Story of Manufacturing North American's Legendary World War II Fighter in Original Photos is an extraordinary, detailed chronicle of the invention and manufacture of one of the most popularly fascinating World War II aircraft. More than 300 black-and-white vintage photographs chosen from the author's personal archive of official factory and USAAF images, many of which have never before been published, illustrate the meticulous recounting of engineering and technical details concerning each step of the P-51 Mustang's manufacture. An absolute "must-have" for anyone serious about researching the history of World War II aircraft, or modeling the P-51 Mustang, Building the P-51 Mustang is an exhaustively complete resource on its subject.

Well, here is just about everything you need to know about the P-51. Phew..so much information and many photos I'd never seen before. As the title says this is written from a manufacturing standpoint (rather than recounting the usual hero missions in wartime) You'll find yourself referring to this book over and over again. I often found myself saying "I never knew that" as I went through it. Not the usual rehash of P-51 books that we see which regurgitate the same old, same old. This is quite different and highly recommended.

I am not THE collector of Mustang books. I have a unique license plate: P-51 LVR. I do "love" the "cadillac" of the WWII fighters. I also have a collection of books about the Mustang. As the author writes that many good books exist (and some poor ones too), this is a MUST for any Mustang lover/aficionado/fan-atic. Every Mustang-lover has to have this book in the collection. More information than you will ever need about design and production. If you are looking for pictures, they are here. If you are looking for fighter group history and air battles, you must go elsewhere to collect information (like the Osprey series). But since 2010, the publication date of this work, much has been written and researched about the plane. Before 2010, only a few books existed that covered details now presented by Michael O'Leary. Do not pass up this opportunity to buy this book!

As of my writing this, I am still only about half finished reading this after receiving it, but can already tell that this is going to be a totally positive review. I am amazed at the amount of the detailed information from the inception of the first ideas of this aircraft, right up through the entire history of its production life with all the variables of design. It is a great honor to be able to put names and faces behind all the hard work that made the P-51 a possibility, and everyone is included in the managerial level, and had it been possible, I believe the author would have included the names of each and every North American Aviation employee that contributed to the making of the Mustang

(there is even a picture of the 10,000th Mustang made that was signed by all of the production line workers, then sent overseas!!). An unbelievably detailed view at my most loved fighter plane.

Absolutely mind boggling! The question comes to the forefront, "could we accomplish these amazing feats today?" Tom Brokaw wrote "The Greatest Generation" about the American soldier, but he should have included the men and women who performed these manufacturing and engineering miracles.

Here's another book on the P-51, but this one is different. This looks like a greatly expanded landscape format (and hardbound) version of the author's previous book by Osprey on the same subject. But it contains a lot more material, text and photos. If you like the P-51 (and if you are interested in how North American built Mustangs in WW2) you need this book. Very highly recommended. O'Leary also did an Osprey book in the same style on the P-38 production line, I wonder if he will do a larger rendition?

This is the kind of book you can keep reading. Everytime you look at the pictures, something new is discovered. Not only a tribute to the airplane but also to the quality of photography in the 1940's!

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