

Geli Model #70 - Saab J-350 Draken ,Ostarrichi'

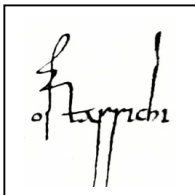
An event I've never seen in card modelling history before: A world famous vendor donates a commercial model to his fans. I would like to thank Mr. Karl Wittrich, the genius constructor of the GELI models, and his partner Mrs. Gertraud Litscher, the charming head of GELI Modellbau Klagenfurt and the person from whom the name GELI stems from, for their generosity and for the great afternoon we spent together in Klagenfurt. It was a big honour for me to meet them, and I will always remember this meeting with joy and gratefulness. A more fantastic gift for the 60th anniversary of GELI Modellbau to the card modelling community would not have been possible.

Mischa Klement aka Cyana, 5.5.2007

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Saab J-35Ö Draken ,Ostarrichi'

In the year 1996, Austria celebrated its 1000th anniversary of the first documented mentioning of its name in 996, 'Ostarrichi'. Also in 1996, the Austrian Airforce celebrated its 20th anniversary, so the decision to apply a special anniversary painting to one Saab Draken, the main jet fighter of the Austrian army at that time, was not very surprising. In an army-wide contest, the design of Capt. Michael 'Kim' Kirchner finally was selected, and the 'Ostarrichi Draken' had its first rollout in 1997.



The painting shows the colors of the Austrian flag together with the ,Ostarrichi' writing taken from the document from 1st Nov. 996, where king Otto III donates the town ,Niuuanhova' (Neuhofen an der Ybbs) to bishop Gottschalk von Freising, ,in regione vulgari vocabulo Ostarrichi' ([located] in the region commonly named Ostarrichi).



Courtesy of the Austrian Airforce

The ,Ostarrichi Draken' quickly became very popular and soon was a celebrated highlight at all visited air shows. It's not only the most beautiful design ever seen on a Draken, but probably one of the most awesome jet fighter paintings on the world.

Today, the ,Ostarrichi Draken', together with the black painted farewell edition, the ,Knight's Dragon', can be visited at the air museum in Zeltweg, Austria.

The Model

The idea to design a paper card model of the 'Ostarrichi Draken' was born, when I came across some pictures on the web for the very first time. Soon after that, I went to the air museum at Zeltweg and took hundreds of pictures and dimensions from this fabulous machine. I would like to thank the helpful people at the museum, who let me climb onto the jet and inspect all parts of it. Also, after my visit, I still got mail from them with helpful advice and drawings, amongst them from Mr. Maier, the man responsible for the painting.

Unfortunately I did not have the time to fully develop my own kit (however, it will come, one day), but the 'Ostarrichi Draken' was always on my mind, so one day I started to repaint a scan of the original GELI Draken (model #48). The test build took place online at the card modelling forum www.kartonbau.de followed by a lot of modeller mates - a good opportunity to spoil all your reputations forever. However, the big enthusiasm from the forum members simply was overwhelming, and after the model was finished, soon the idea came up to ask Mr. Wittrich, the constructor of GELI Modellbau, for the permission to distribute the 'Ostarrichi Draken' freely on the web.

Against all expectations, our dream became true. Mr. Wittrich, visibly moved by the enthusiasm of his fans, granted the permission and GELI Model #70 was born. Many thanks to Mr. Wittrich, and also to the forum members for their great support !

For an optimum result you should print the coloured pages of the model on cardstock between 140g/m² to 150g/m². On my test build, I used 160g/m², that worked good however was not easy to handle on certain parts (specially part 31). For the structural parts on the last page you should use 500g to 1,000g. I printed the page on 250g cardstock, and glued another 250g cardstock to it - this worked quite well.

The GELI Draken #48 does not come with external fuel tanks, so I took the ones from the GELI Phantom and resized them. At GELI #48, the part number range from 69 to 76 is reserved for missiles; this range is used for the fuel tanks in the Ostarrichi model and is extended with letters.

There is no written building instruction for the fuel tanks. Also, I did not translate the building instructions that came with the model. You might want to use babel fish if you really need a translation, however referring to the drawings should be sufficient enough. Also, you might want to look at my building report at <http://www.kartonbau.de/wbb2/thread.php?threadid=11280>

I hope you enjoy the model !
Cyana