

THE CURTISS "KINGBIRD"

An American Twin-Engined Cabin Transport

WE give below a brief description of the first 1930 development in aircraft design of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation—the "Kingbird," produced by the Curtiss-Robertson Airplane Mfg. Co., of St. Louis.

The Curtiss "Kingbird" has been developed as a passenger carrying aeroplane of medium size, economical in first cost and operation, but having all the advantages of the larger transports in comfort and multi-engined safety. Such a machine is exactly what is needed today for feeder lines, for sight-seeing, and for transport lines on which the traffic does not justify the use of the larger ships.

From a design standpoint, the history of the "Kingbird" really goes back to the famous "Curtis Robin," the "Robin," the new six-place "Thrush," and now the twin-engined "Kingbird," all high-wing cabin monoplanes, are similar in their general plan of construction. In developing this line of ships the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company has spent over \$500,000 in engineering and research at its laboratories and experimental factory at Garden City, Long Island. This expenditure of time and money by the Curtiss engineering staff has given the "Kingbird" that degree of aerodynamic and structural quality that has always been maintained in Curtiss aeroplanes.

Briefly described, the "Kingbird" is a high-wing, externally-braced monoplane powered by two Wright Whirlwind air-cooled engines, J-6 series, mounted in outboard nacelles beneath the wings. Since there is no engine in the nose of the fuselage, vibration, noise and petrol fumes are kept away from the cabin.

Another advantage resulting from this power plant arrangement is that the pilot has unobstructed vision.

The two Wright Whirlwind engines of 225 h.p. each give the "Kingbird" an ample reserve of dependable power and a fine performance. With full load, the ship can cruise at

better than 115 m.p.h., has a service ceiling of 14,700 ft., and climbs 900 ft. per minute; it can fly on either engine, thus reducing the hazard of having to make a forced landing to a minimum.

While primarily designed for passenger carrying, the "Kingbird," with a modified cabin interior, is ideal for several other types of service. Because of the reliability of its two-engined power plant, this ship is the logical one to use for photographic work, and also for mail and express carrying over regions in which a forced landing would be extremely hazardous.

The cabin has been designed to give the utmost in comfort and convenience; the pilot sits forward on the left, with the auxiliary pilot or a passenger beside him. Since the control column is of the single-wheel type, which can be passed over from one pilot to the other, it is entirely out of the way of the person occupying the right-hand front seat. To make this seat available for a passenger, it is necessary only to disconnect the auxiliary pilot's rudder pedals.

Behind the pilot's compartment are seats for six passengers, arranged in two rows with an aisle between. Further aft is a baggage compartment and a lavatory equipped with toilet and wash basin. The passengers' seats are reclining chairs, artistically upholstered in leather, with

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Two Wright "Whirlwind" J-6 Engines

<i>Length o.a.</i>	..	34 ft. 9 in. (10.6 m.).
<i>Wing Span</i>	..	54 ft. 6 in. (11.6 m.).
<i>Height o.a.</i>	..	10 ft. (3 m.).
<i>Wing area</i>	..	405 sq. ft. (37.6 sq. m.).
<i>Tare weight</i>	..	3,855 lb. (1,748.6 kg.).
<i>Fuel and oil</i>	..	690 lb. (313 kg.).
<i>Useful load</i>	..	2,260 lb. (1,025.1 kg.).
<i>Pay Load</i>	..	1,400 lb. (635 kg.).
<i>Gross Weight</i>	..	6,115 lb. (2,773.7 kg.).
<i>Wing Loading</i>	..	15.1 lb./sq. ft. (73.76 kg./sq. m.).
<i>Power Loading</i>	..	13.6 lb./h.p. (6.1 kg./c.v.).
<i>Maximum Speed</i>	..	135 m.p.h. (217 km./hr.).
<i>Cruising Speed</i>	..	115 m.p.h. (185 km./hr.).
<i>Landing Speed</i>	..	54 m.p.h. (86.8 km./hr.).
<i>Rate of Climb</i>	..	850 ft./min. (4 m./sec.).
<i>Service Ceiling</i>	..	15,500 ft. (4,724 m.).
<i>Range (cruising, 100 gal.)</i>	..	450 miles. (724 km.).

Everling Quantities.

"High Speed Figure"	15.8
"Distance Figure"	4.8
"Altitude Figure"	7.5



The Curtiss "Kingbird": An American 8-place twin-engined cabin monoplane, fitted with two 225 h.p. Wright "Whirlwind" engines.