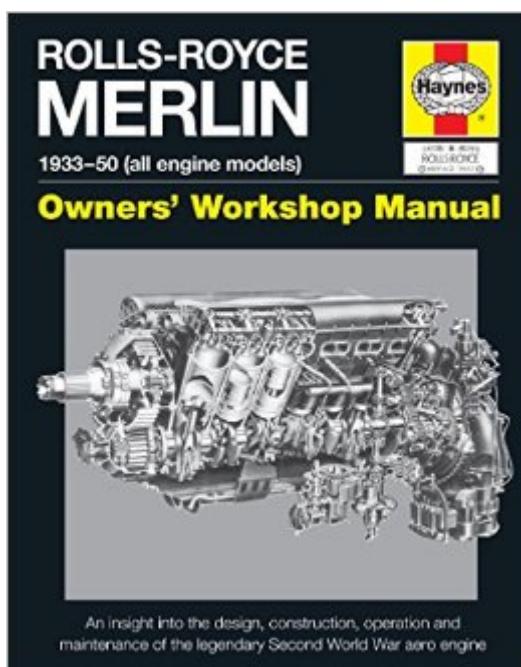


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Rolls-Royce Merlin Manual - 1933-50 (all Engine Models): An Insight Into The Design, Construction, Operation And Maintenance Of The Legendary World War 2 Aero Engine (Owners' Workshop Manual)



Synopsis

The Rolls-Royce Merlin liquid-cooled V-12 piston aero engine is considered an icon of British engineering with a worldwide recognition. It was one of the most successful aircraft engines of the Second World War period and its incremental development ran hand in hand with that of the legendary Supermarine Spitfire to which it was fitted from the very beginning. From its genesis in the 740hp PV-12 engine that was first flown in 1935, the Merlin went through rapid development during the war years until in its ultimate version, the Merlin 130 series designed specifically for the de Havilland Hornet, it produced over 2,600hp. Merlin engines powered many more of the best-known Allied combat aircraft of the war including the Hawker Hurricane, Boulton Paul Defiant, P-51 Mustang, Avro Lancaster, Handley Page Halifax, and the de Havilland Mosquito. Many variants of Merlin were built by Rolls-Royce at their factories in Derby, Crewe and Glasgow, as well as by Ford of Britain at their Trafford Park factory near Manchester. The Packard V-1650 was a license-built version of the Merlin made in the United States. When Merlin production finally ceased in 1950, almost 150,000 engines had been delivered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'd like to point out first that this book is not an ultra-detailed mechanical study of a single Merlin engine, based on a complete strip-down and rebuild. That said, it IS a very nicely done look at this iconic British aircraft engine. In the first half, Ian Craighead, the current Chief Executive of the

Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust, traces the development of the Merlin from the first Rolls-Royce racing engines, its selection as the engine for the Hurricane and Spitfire, and its rapid development during World War II. The second half focuses mainly on the mechanical aspects of the Merlin, including sections describing the anatomy of the Merlin III, disassembling the engine and restoring it to flight, wartime maintenance and troubleshooting, and the offshoot Griffon engine. I'm genuinely surprised how much material was squeezed into this book while still giving it room to breathe. I was dreading that it would be a shallow Rolls-Royce-licensed puff piece... but despite being only 157 pages long, it feels genuinely well-rounded, enjoyable, and detailed without being suffocatingly so. The book's format makes good use of sidebars and asides to avoid interrupting the flow of the text, featuring short biographies of key figures in the Merlin's development, descriptions of engine basics (i.e. the importance of the supercharger, how the four-stroke cycle works, etc.), and brief histories of the major Merlin factories. The overall quality of the photographs and diagrams is quite good. I'm frequently amazed that, in the midst of World War II, British draughtsmen were able to deliver such beautiful, intricately detailed technical diagrams.

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