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Jumbo: The Making Of The Boeing 747



Synopsis

Jumbo: The Making of the Boeing 747

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A wonderful history of the development of an American icon which goes well beyond just "the making of the Boeing 747." The 747 was a step-child at least of the Boeing 707. The 707 owed much to Boeing's development of the B-47 medium bomber--the first swept wing multi-engine aircraft. The book actually and surprisingly begins by briefly recounting Boeing failure in with 247 which was a major step forward in commercial aircraft design in the middle 1930 but which totally lost out to the DC3 which propelled Douglas Aircraft to dominate commercial aviation for nearly three decades while Boeing focused on multi-engine military aircraft. I found the book to be a captivating read reminiscent of some of Tracy Kidder's earlier works such as "The Soul of a New Machine."

You will need to be keen. If you are then you will enjoy it. Someone had to come up with the design of the pods, the double isle and the double deck concepts. Great to read who and how but it is not a story as such. Great read for aviation sponges.

I actually bought this book by mistake, as I meant to buy Sutter's book. Reading both back to back was interesting nevertheless. It's certainly more balanced on the accounts and merits of Boeing (and perhaps Sutter?), but Sutter is more engineering oriented. It's a nice book, although I'd say it's more about Boeing and post-war aviation than about the 747 itself. I think we're halfway or more into the book before the 747 program actually starts. It's peppered with anecdotes from Boeing

aviation history which I'm sure many will enjoy, but dwell a little too much on personalities and too little on the tech stuff for my taste. But I'm a tech nerd and not a history nerd...As others have mentioned, the Kindle edition is pretty badly OCR'ed in places. I give it a weak four.

Excellent history of the 747 development. It came out before Joe Sutter's book, 747, but I had already read that one. They're very much the same, with 747 having more personal life details of Joe Sutter. Unfortunately this (the kindle version) has obviously been OCR'd from a scan of the paper book. I took off one star (the content is 5-star) because no one checked the digital result...or if they did, they need new glasses. There are many errors that are obviously OCR errors (lowercase L in front of other numbers, things like 2o00 miles, etc). C'mon guys.

Fascinating reading! Real insight into the people and the ethics of the Boeing Organisation. Research, Engineering and Production at its best. They deserve to be on top!

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