



Inside the 737

Under the skin of Boeing's greatest commercial success

The Boeing 737 Technical Guide

Chris Brady

Available direct from the author (www.b737.org.uk), US\$50.00

☆☆☆



An interesting concept, this 'print on demand' publishing. The author writes the book, edits it into the appropriate format and ships the whole thing to a publishing company (or 'service provider' as some print on demand publishing companies prefer to be known). The publishing company then handles all aspects of printing, ordering, sales and shipping leaving the author, if things work out, to pocket monthly royalty cheques. The advantages are that small runs, even down to a single copy, can be scheduled as orders are placed, there is no stock holding cost and the author can easily incorporate changes into the text as and when required.

'The Boeing 737 Technical Guide' is the first print on demand volume to arrive at the *AI* reviewing facility. In presentation, layout and binding, it is indistinguishable from other short-run books, but comes with the offer of traditional perfect binding or coil binding for the same price. The cover is laminated card, nicely printed front and rear, with a large photo of an easyJet Boeing 737 and various smaller shots of parts of the

airframe, equipment, cockpit instrumentation, etc. The page layout, while probably the result of desktop publishing software, is competent and the photo reproduction (all in b/w) acceptable — certainly no worse than that found in some recent mainstream aviation publishers' offerings. The author, Chris Brady, is easyJet's maintenance test pilot (hence the cover shot?) who has carried out something over 100 test flights on the company's 737s. He also is the man behind the www.b737.org.uk website which offers 'operational, mechanical and training notes; articles and photos contributed by 737 pilots and engineers from around the world'. This printed volume is in many ways an extension of the website. The book can only be ordered through the site, which connects you to the website for a US company Lulu; they then print a copy, bind it and mail it to you.

So, what does this title offer? Difficult though it is to categorise, it really does cover the 737 from many angles. It starts with a 'History and Development' of the

type, reviewing variants both well-known and less familiar. In the latter context, your reviewer was unaware even of the existence of the NT-43A radar test bed, used on stealth technology trials — see p9. There's also a set of technical specifications for each main 737 variant, 30 pages of accident summaries covering all write-offs to date, and a fascinating section entitled 'The Rudder Story' examining a series of accidents, incidents, airworthiness directives and the decision by Boeing in 2000 to redesign the 737's rudder. The main part of this volume, though, is

a technical guide to the aircraft and its systems written in straightforward English. It does not pretend to be a replacement for any Boeing publications, but it provides a fascinating look at the 737 and 'how it works', and answers many questions that both enthusiasts and engineers might want to pose. For those more professionally involved, there's even a 60-question 'Example Type Rating Exam Paper' on the 737. While the average enthusiast might fail to meet the CAA's 75 per cent pass mark, there are surely some useful answers here for your Christmas pub quiz.

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