

## PERFECT PILOTS

**A**n answer to the empty cockpit syndrome - a new range of pilots for scale models from Perfect Pilots.

Recognising the difficulty her RC model flying husband was experiencing when trying to find suitable pilots for his models spurred Wendy Norman to start making pilots. A few years later, Perfect-Pilots now offers a growing range of handmade bespoke pilots.

From the beginning, the goal was to create pilots that looked like scaled down humans but were lightweight, adaptable and tough. A range of male and female 1/4 and 1/3 scale pilot figures in both full body and partial body variants resulted and each pilot is individually hand-made and painted.

The bodies are made from a combination of lightweight foams for a fully poseable figure with articulated limbs, so the pilots will fit the smallest cockpit. Partial pilots can be supplied in heights to suit almost any cockpit.

Heads, hands and feet are cast from lightweight polyurethane resins and are available either unpainted or individually hand painted in high quality artists' paints before a fuel-resistant coating is applied (if required).

Clothing is hand-sewn from materials chosen to represent scaled down versions of the full-sized article and can be adapted to suit the aircraft and style of pilot - a pioneer biplane, a World War Two fighter or modern glider.

In addition to the range of standard pilot figures (available as painted and clothed fully complete pilots or as kits for home painting and/or clothing), Perfect Pilots offers a bespoke service and welcomes requests for bespoke pilots to suit specific aircraft or ages of flight. To ensure that these fully meet the modeller's requirements, Wendy will base these bespoke pilots on reference photos and other information supplied by the modeller.

Planned additions to the range include fully moulded 1/4, 1/5 and 1/6 pilots and a range of accessories including harnesses, 'silk' scarves, sunglasses, oxygen masks, control columns and similar items to suit the pilots. Versions offering servo-driven head rotation are planned and a 1/2 scale pilot range is also possible if there is sufficient demand.

Prices vary depending on the size, finish level, and bespoke options but guide price for a painted standard full body pilot with flight suit or trousers and 'leather' jacket is £110 for 1/3 scale and £75 for 1/4 scale.

For more information on Perfect Pilots or to complete a survey to guide future developments please visit Richard and Wendy Norman's website [www.Perfect-Pilots.com](http://www.Perfect-Pilots.com)

