VariViggen
Model 27

Project Summary

Burt Rutan
Model 27 VariViggen

Specifications
Two-place tandem
Wing Span 19 ft.
Wing Area 123 sq. ft.
Aspect Ratio 2.94
Empty Weight 1020 lbs.
Gross Weight 1700 lbs.
Engine 150 hp 0320-A2A

Performance
Take Off Distance 1200 ft.
Landing Distance 490 ft.
Rate of Climb 1200 fpm.
Maximum Speed 144 KTAS
Cruise Speed 131 KTAS
VariViggen History/Milestones

• Inspiration - XB-70 and Saab Viggen - 1963/64
• Concept and Aero design; College, Cal Poly - 1964/65
• Car-top wind-tunnel - 1967 east Lancaster roads
• Fabrication - 1968 to 1972 in a Lancaster garage (two, actually).
• RC Model - October 1971 (During St Louis TDY)
• First Flight - May 1972 Newton, KS
• Plans sold – 1974 to 1979
  – Plans $27 Encouraged builder innovation
  – RC model plans, 18% scale. $14
• Oshkosh
  – First appearance (Burt a BEDE employee) - 1972
  – Outstanding New Design Trophy – 1974
  – Flown to Oshkosh ~ 11 different years, 2 from Kansas
  – Prototype VariViggen donated to Hales Corners EAA Museum in 1977
• Death Race 2000 1974 Classic Movie
The Inspiration
Design Without Computers
The “Car-top” wind tunnel
Lancaster, while a USAF FTE
1967
Built in a Garage. Lancaster, California
Paint scheme morphs to USAF Thunderbird style

ThunderChicken
Airshows
1973
Semi-aerobatic
First (and only)

“Pin-up” Sport Aviation Cover
Learning the ropes at Oshkosh
Burt’s Excellent Adventure
VariViggen
1973

Off-Airport forced landing after engine failure in Burley Idaho. Taxi through town to the airport.
RAF at Mojave

New building 1977

Solar Water Heat 1978
Another RAF Product

RC model plans
Death Race 2000
Jawbone Canyon
1974
Altitude Record Flight
The Melvill homebuiltSP 1981

The ‘SP’ “high aspect ratio” wing
Final Resting Place

N27VV at EAA Oshkosh

N27MS at Seattle Museum of Flight