



# Review 9394: Jet Plane

## Heading to the sky

By Milan Reindl (grohl)

**Set: Jet Plane**  
**Set number: 9394**  
**Number of parts: 499**  
**Recommended retail price in Spain: 42,99€**

It has been a while since we got the last LEGO® Technic Plane. 8 long years passed between the 8434 Aircraft (2004) which is by many AFOLs, considered to be one of the worst Technic sets, and this Jet. This year LEGO introduced two flying machines and in the second half of the year they are going to launch the largest LEGO Technic helicopter ever. But back to the main focus of this review. LEGO has never released a jet plane before. All past aircrafts had propellers which makes the 9394 even more special.

If you decide to buy this set, you will have to spend \$49.99 or €39.99. For this sum you receive 499 parts (99 of them are the black pins), 22 panels in red colour (extremely high number for a medium-sized set), some gears and steering gear racks. The sticker sheet offers 15 stickers with white stripes and hawk head patterns but the plane does not need them to look good. The box does not include any new parts. One thing I noticed when building my alternate model is that there are nearly no 7 and 9 studs long liftarms. On the other hand, you get plenty of the longest ones in red. Typical for the first half sets is the fact that you receive instructions for both models so you do not have to download anything.

The building of the plane is easy; the instructions do not contain mistakes and in an hour and a half or two you have the finished model measuring 46 cm in length and 44 cm in width. The plane features four functions: retractable landing gear via turning the axle connector on the left side, elevators controlled by the joystick in the cockpit, opening canopy by the worm gear mechanism hidden between the panels right behind the cockpit and finally the changing wing geometry when turning the nozzle. Three of the functions are operated using worm gear which is quite unusual. The coolest one is the last one mentioned and it has never appeared in any previous LEGO Technic sets. Some people complained about the slow speed of sweeping wings, but I do not consider it to be a problem.

The jet plane has some minor flaws. The rudder (tail fin) is in my opinion too high and its profile too narrow. I would prefer the nose a bit more covered, but this problem mainly comes from the lack of cone parts suitable for building planes. The landing gear height would cause the plane trouble especially during the take off. The legs should be longer to allow the plane higher angle without scratching the bottom. Another thing that looked weird to me were the “teeth” on the leading edge of the wings close to the fuselage. This does not necessarily mean they do not exist on the jet planes with changing wing geometry (MiG-23 Flogger for example), but I have never seen such a strange shape of them. The unusual gap on the trailing edges can be easily fixed by replacing 11L liftarms with 15L ones. I personally think that the reason for this was cutting the costs down. You can find two jutting out pins from the fuselage





the mechanism that would allow both spinning rotors while the main one can be tilted back and forth. Tilting the rotor is operated by a lever in the cockpit. You can make the main and tail rotors move by turning the black gear on the left and between the panels at the bottom, you turn the axle connector to retract the landing gear of the helicopter. Overall length is 50 cm and the rotor measures 44 cm in diameter.

To sum up this set enriches your red parts (especially panels) inventory, looks great, includes great functions and on top of that it is the first jet plane released ever!

You can see a video of the helicopter at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hi5TaltV\\_UQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hi5TaltV_UQ)  
 Instructions for the 9394 Jet Plane alternative are available on the HispaBrick Magazine website: <http://www.hispabrickmagazine.com/en/content/hbm013-instructions-9394-jet-plane-alternative>

Acknowledgements: LEGO® Iberia S.A., Joachim Schwidtal and Rosa Seegelken for this set and the official images.  
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between the wings and elevators. I have never noticed this in any previous Technic sets. I would personally prefer the plane in a different colour. Blue, grey or white would be fine. The red starts to bore me a bit, but what can we do? Children love it.

I made a couple of very simple modifications to the set. You can find the instructions for them here: <http://www.brickshelf.com/cgi-bin/gallery.cgi?f=492318> and see the modified plane in this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLuuRCgmaV4>

I did not try to build the official B model but it looks a lot simpler. The aerobatic plane with great looks can be easily recognized. Unfortunately it offers only 2 "true" functions — working elevators and landing gear. Rotating the propeller by the 24 tooth gear attached to the same axle doesn't seem to me like a function. Spinning wheels of a car are not highlighted on a box as a function as well.

Building my own alternate model took me 3 afternoons and the final version uses nearly 90% of all available parts. From the beginning I had a rescue helicopter in mind and I am glad that I was able to make one I am satisfied with. The hardest part to create was

