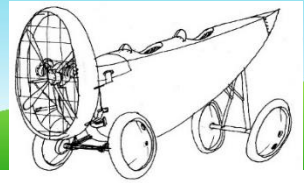


“Is it a car? Is it a plane? No, it’s a Helica!”



Marcel Leyat (1885-1986)

The name "Helica" is derived from the French word for "Propeller" and these propeller-driven automobiles were an extension of Marcel Leyat's earlier experiments, building a propeller-driven tricycle.



Leyat had worked as an engineer with the air force during the First World War. He set out to design an economical, light weight, aluminium streamlined car

The car had no transmission, differential or clutch. His initial design was completed in 1913.

The first model produced by Leyat was dubbed the Helica, also known as 'The plane without wings.' Passengers sat behind each other as in an aircraft. The rear wheels were used for steering. In the front was a giant propeller powered by an 8 horsepower Scorpion engine that provided movement for the vehicle. The car was made primarily from plywood. The cars were not very stable as they had only one wheel at the back. A later model had 4 wheels.

Marcel Leyat established the French automobile Company, Leyat, in Paris in 1919. The model "Levat" was shown at the 1921 Paris Auto Show. The company received 600 orders. No financial backing was received for production so only about 25 cars were built between 1919 and 1925.



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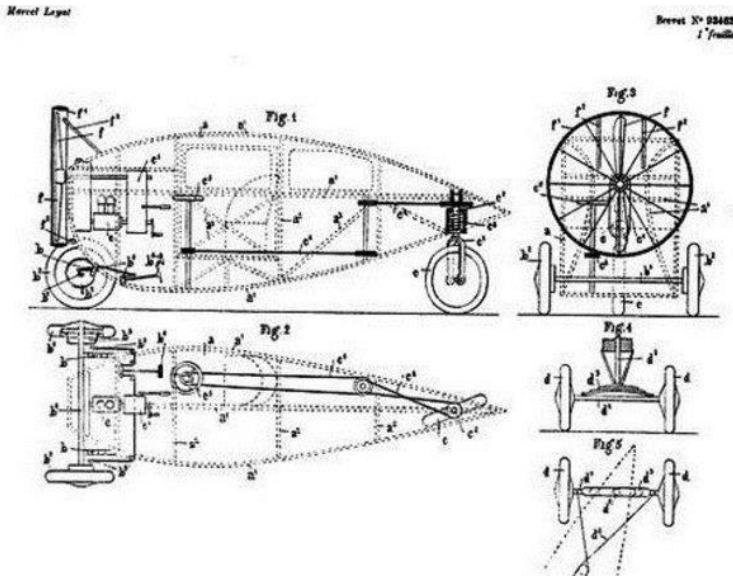
August 2015

The Helica did not change the way we travel from one place to the other. It does however, illustrate that new designs need to be tested and modified until the final product can be ready for production. Even at that point the concept may fail if it cannot be manufactured at a cost effective price.

wheeled propeller driven device. The propeller is driven by a small battery powered electric motor.

While this vehicle is at its most basic, it also allows scope for the student to develop and make a more interesting vehicle. Students can fabricate a body to simulate a monster truck, hot rod or other vehicle.

The concepts developed making this kit include: planning, design, construction and assembly. The skills include cutting, gluing and wiring.

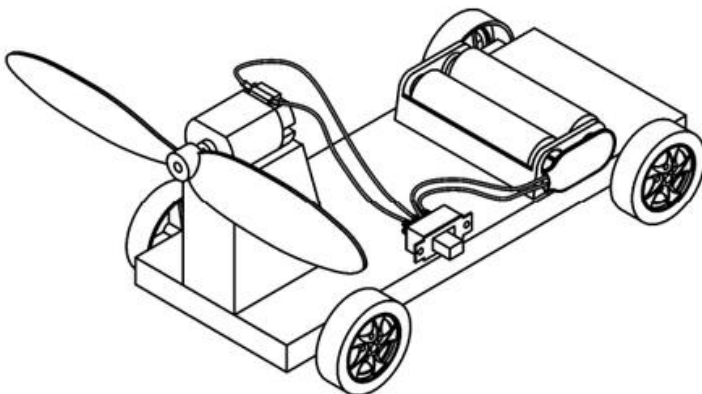


A model of the Helica can be constructed using paper. Check out the models at:

<http://www.helica.info/ereduit.htm>

PROPELLED CAR

This introductory vehicle is not a Helica but it explores the concept of a 4



Level:	Introductory kit
Type:	Mechanical & Electrical
Hours required:	5 – 7
Cost:	
Solder variant	1-19: \$4.62; 20+ \$4.62
PROPC	
Non solder variant	1-19: \$5.19; 20+ \$5.08
PROPC -NS	

References used:

<http://www.earlyaviators.com/eleyat.htm>

<http://www.conceptcarz.com/z18214/Leyat-Helica.aspx>

www.roadabletimes.com

<http://docsteamcrunk.tumblr.com/post/56670486555/helica-the-plane-without-wings-1920>

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http://img.over-blog-kiwi.com/600x450-ct/0/53/79/02/201304/ob_69be36_marcel-leyat-plan-helica.jpg



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