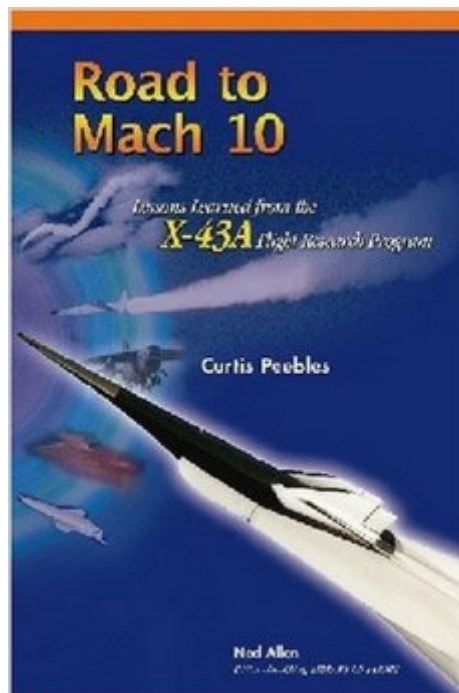


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Road To Mach 10: Lessons Learned From The X-43a Flight Research Program (Library Of Flight Series)



Synopsis

"This is the first full-length history of the X-43 project, written by the project historian at Dryden Flight Research Center. The project achieved the first in-flight testing of a scramjet engine, at speeds of nearly Mach 7 and Mach 10.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Curtis Peebles wrote this book about the Hyper-X based on his unique vantage point as NASA project historian. Based on internal and published documents, interviews with project participants and his own personal observations, the book offers a detailed insider's view of one of the most exciting flight research projects in several decades. As befits a book published by an organization of aerospace engineering professionals, this book is highly technical in places. While not an engineering textbook, the author assumes that the reader has a good background in the full range of aerospace technologies. If the sentence "The computational-fluid-dynamics data were used to quantify the ground-to-flight scaling and unsteady-flow phenomena during the dynamic separation." fazes you, this book might not be for you. For those who are undaunted by the required level of technical knowledge, the reader is rewarded with a detailed but readable story that begins with a background of scramjet research and continues on to Hyper-X design, manufacturing, integration and checkout, and flight operations. The first flight tumbled out of control shortly after release from the B-52, but the second and third flights successfully demonstrated scramjet-powered flight at

Mach 6.83 and 9.68 respectively. Peebles provides an excellent description of all the missions as well as the mishap investigation. There is an adequate number of good photographs in the book. Unfortunately the photographs are reproduced in black and white rather than in color. A more significant omission is the absence of line drawings of the vehicles and its systems. At several points in the book, intricate mechanisms are described, but with no supporting illustrations it is difficult for even the intended audience to visualize the systems.

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