

## Hotwheels Batplane

£1.49 (about \$2)

### Review by Jonathan Aird

Look up! Is it a bird? Is it a 'plane?

Yes, it is a 'plane - in this case a Batplane which is, not too surprisingly, the property of The Batman. This rather sleek version is taken from the Batman Animated series rather than the recent films where Batman has upgraded to a much more muscular looking combat aircraft (which hopefully will turn up as a Hotwheels model at some point). The pictures below describe it better than words - just to note that the underside of the wing has all the manufacturing and trademark information on it, but none of this is visible from above when the model is mounted on its supplied flight stand - the presence of which is a nice touch and is much to be preferred to having small wheels under the model.



The model has a wingspan of approximately 5.5cm, an overall length of 7cm and stands about 1cm high. Assuming this is meant to be about the size of a single engined jet fighter (say the F-16) then the scale is approximately 1:180, making it usable with smaller scale figures - fine for 10mm and just about ok for 15mm figures. That is if it being used as a single seat aeroplane. However it could also be used as a much larger aeroplane in a Science Fiction setting with 6mm figures, or even as a small fighter spaceship as an alternative to endless waves of X-Wing and TIE fighters.





For that last use there are a number of the HotWheels Star Wars spaceships that this looks fine with - the Millennium Falcon and the Imperial shuttle in that range were both a little small compared to the various fighters available, but they look quite good with the Batplane!



Another possible option would be to use several of these models in a combat air-racing game - this might need the application of paint in order to distinguish different teams, and it would also certainly require the good luck of finding multiple examples! Hotwheels models can be bought via Ebay and Amazon but they tend to be a lot more expensive there, whilst in toy shops it seems that only random selections are available.