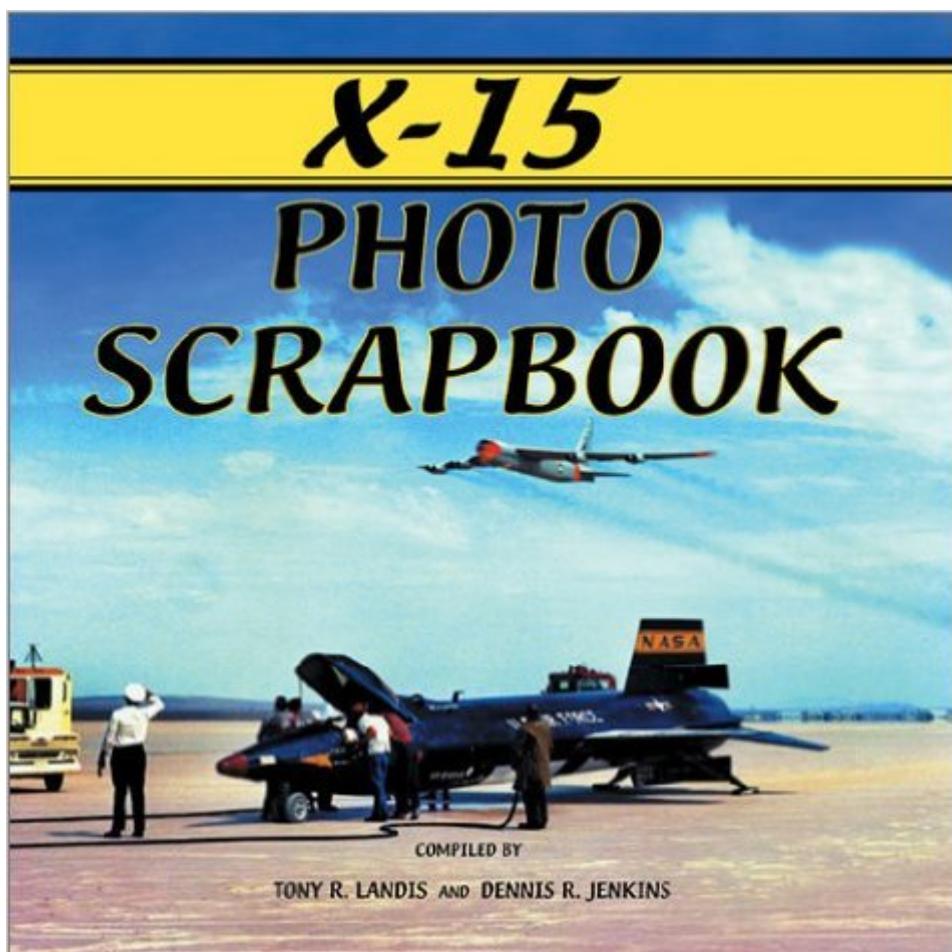


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# X-15 Photo Scrapbook



## Synopsis

The North American X-15 was the last in a line of manned rocket-powered research airplanes built during the 1950s to explore ever-faster and higher flight regimes. This was an era before computers were commonplace, and the only way to investigate the unknown was to go there. The program was launched in 1954 specifically to produce the first hypersonic (velocities greater than five times the speed of sound) manned aircraft. Forward-thinking researchers also decided to design the airplane to fly to the edge of space, long before the manned space program had begun in earnest. An in-depth history of the X-15 program may be found in *Hypersonic: The Story of the North American X-15* by Dennis R. Jenkins and Tony R. Landis. This book is a collection of illustrations that were assembled for *Hypersonic* but would not fit into the finished work. Since many of these are significant and most have never before been published, it was decided to print this scrapbook as a companion volume to *Hypersonic*. With over 350 b/w and 50 color photos, this scrapbook provides an excellent visual look at a very exciting research program.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you are looking for a detailed history of the X-15 program, you need to purchase *Hypersonic*, by the same authors. If you want a large number of unusual photographs of the program, then this is the ebook you need to buy. Better yet, buy both. This book says it contains the photos that would not fit into *Hypersonic*, and there are some real gems here. Many of these have never been seen before, and essentially none of them duplicate the already excellent coverage in *Hypersonic*. This is a great

book!

Collaboratively compiled and written by aerospace experts Tony R. Landis and Dennis R. Jenkins, X-15 Photo Scrapbook is a collection of over 350 black-and-white photographs and 50 color photos showcasing the last in a line of manned rocket-powered research airplanes to be built during the 1950s. Brief commentary with an eye for technical details is fully enhanced by the pictures, in this visual distinction which is very highly recommended for aviation buffs. Also highly recommended is the Landis and Jenkins aerospace history: Hypersonic: The Story Of The North American X-15 , which offers a detailed 276-page history of this remarkable aircraft. The X-15 Photo Scrapbook collects photographs that could not be included in Hypersonic due to space limitations.

If you are looking for a lot of text, then get Hypersonic by the same authors (the best history book ever written on the X-15 program). If you already own Hypersonic, or just want a book filled with seldom-seen (or often, never-seen) photos of the X-15 and its support environment, then this is the book for you. There is essentially no text other than captions. It is only 108 pages long, but contains several hundred photos, all very well reproduced. Twelve of the pages are full-color and contain some wonderful images taken for National Geographic as well as a variety of other photos of the airplanes during their flight test program. I highly recommend this publication.

In Scrapbook, what struck me are the human interest photos. Hypersonic! was superb in detailing the X-15; Scrapbook presents photos of engineers and technicians performing their mundane but vital tasks, as well as the heroic pilots in lighter moments.What I took away from this experience was an admiration for the professionalism and dedication of a handful of Americans who were opening new frontiers.Scrapbook featured all that was good about 1950's America. Long may that spirit live. This book was a time machine for me. Get this book while you can.

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