



Dennis Andreas

# RC REPORT

## DU-BRO

# Vintage Chrome Wheels Fly Off The Shelves

**T**here are quite a few names in the modeling industry that started small, filling a niche need, and grew to withstand the test of time. These companies provide the right stuff at a good price, and quality is always a priority. We have highlighted some of these companies, and Du-Bro stands side by side with the best of them.

Du-Bro has been designing and manufacturing products since the Broberg family started the company in 1959 in Wauconda, Illinois. I started modeling in 1969 with small trainers but soon moved up to pattern-style aircraft. We were and are still lucky to fly off paved runways. A quality wheel was paramount to stick your landing and not bounce like a beach ball down the runway. Enter Du-Bro's Low Bounce Wheels!

The Du-Bro wheels are made from a rubbery material with trapped air that absorbs bounce in practically all temperatures. Foam wheels have always been popular for lightness, but sometimes a low bounce wheel is the best choice. During my pattern days, we used to pull the Du-Bro tires off the hubs and squeeze them onto trendy Kraft wheel hubs for style and performance.

Back in the day, Chrome Du-Bro wheel hubs were the standard. They looked great and were in line with the chromed land yachts cars of the day. Just about every vintage model sported a set. I suspect as time passed and prices increased, the option for chrome wheels was dropped and plain gray hubs filled the bill. Chroming is a multi-step process requiring electrolysis and chemicals, so no doubt cost was a factor.

To stir things up, Du-Bro is releasing the Limited-Edition Chromed Wheels again, and stir things up they did! I fly with folks that fly from early vintage to modern models. I have received calls asking when can we get them? One of my buddies is refurbishing many of his late father's models and wants to mount the wheels on his planes. Kudos to the marketing folks at Du-Bro for capitalizing on this nostalgia.



So enough of the words and let's check them out! I dug through my stock and found some quite old stock as you can see from the price. These wheels are more than 30 years old, but still look great! Now let's look at the new stock.





The new stock has the same great quality, and the packaging is in the familiar Du-Bro style. The limited-edition, six-spoke chrome wheels are available in eight sizes ranging from 1.75 inches to 3.5 inches. You can outfit a classic model with period-correct wheels, or just add some bling to your favorite sport flyer.

The 1.75-inch wheels are going on my design of a vintage model and will replace the foam wheels. The rubbery low bounce and stylish chrome wheels make the perfect combination for this model. The larger ones will go on a 60-inch Monocoupe.

On heavier models, the Du-Bro wheels give a scale squash from the weight. Another advantage is how quiet the low-bounce wheels are on asphalt. Heat-shrink-covered models tend to amplify any wheel noise like a drum. The recently re-released wheels are still outstanding, maintaining the same high quality as from their original release years ago.

I suggest you promote the wheels heavily in your store and they will be rolling out like crazy. **HM**

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