

"I recently had the opportunity to meet with Thierry Zibi, C.E.O. of SAM Aircraft. He took me on a tour of their facilities at Lachute airport (CSE4) and introduced me to their latest creation, the SAM LS. My first impression was that this is the airplane I have been looking for all those years! All metal, low wing, solid looking aircraft with this amazing retro look.



I just had to go for a test flight. Company test pilot Raphaël Langumier gave me a thorough tour of the airplane and I climbed into the front office.



Being a big man, 6'5" and 230 pounds I was pleasantly surprised at how roomy the cockpit was. This airplane will fit any size pilot as the seat is adjustable. Very comfortable! Flight controls are conventional stick and rudder configuration with throttle on the left. This aircraft was equipped with a 10" Dynon Skyview display that put my B777 cockpit displays to shame. This is a very clean cockpit indeed. Engine start is a simple matter of engaging the starter and

this modern engine just comes to life with no fuss whatsoever.

It has been said that if an aircraft looks great it also flies great, that certainly holds true for the SAM LS. The takeoff is very straight forward with some right rudder required. We leveled off at cruise altitude for some basic flight manoeuvres. This is a wonderful aircraft to fly, as expected for this type of aircraft, flight control coordination is required using ailerons and rudders. This would make an excellent training platform.



Back in the circuit for some touch and goes. The elevator trim is actuated electrically from a toggle switch on the control stick and the flaps are also electrically controlled. This makes the aircraft very easy to manoeuvre around the circuit. Approach is done at around 65 to 70 mph and landing this aircraft is a real joy. The flight controls are very effective even at very low speed.



In conclusion, if you always dreamed of owning a vintage warbird type aircraft but like most people cannot afford the very high cost of maintenance, fuel, insurance etc., the SAM LS with it's vintage look and state of the art technology just may be the answer!

As I stepped out of the SAM LS I had this grin on my face.....I call it the SAM LS grin! I cannot wait for my next flight...."

- JP Mallard, Test Pilot, Air Canada