

XP-72 Build

2

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Prior to installing the new cowling, it was necessary fabricate a new forward firewall to correctly position the gearbox. At this point we cut away the lower forward portion of the fuselage to accept the new cowling and fair into the new bottom profile.



Next we positioned the gearbox and installed the foundation mounts for the cowlings.



We used a 15 inch brass tube over the propeller shaft to verify the thrust line was exactly on aircraft centerline. Then we bolted the full powertrain into the fuselage.

One of the more noticeable changes to the P-47 profile is the very large extended belly. Since the new R 3350 required a much larger turbosupercharger with a far larger pressurized air ducting system, Republic had to increase the internal volume of the fuselage.

Jim scaled out the fuselage changes, designed the parts in Fusion 360 and used a computer guided router to cut out the majority of the frames. As you can see, we simply built right over the existing lower fuselage. Top Flite has this part glued to the bottom of the wing we made it removable using a sliding pin and spring.



