



Smithsonian  
*National Air and Space Museum*

Bensen B-8 Gyro-Glider Collection

2007

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
NASMRefDesk@si.edu  
<http://airandspace.si.edu/research/resources/archives/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Bensen B-8 Gyro-Glider Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2006.0029
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1978)
<b>Extent:</b>	Enter vol amt Cubic Feet ((1 box))
<b>Creator:</b>	Bensen, Igor.
<b>Language:</b>	English

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Dave Spriggs, Gift, Year received

### Preferred Citation

Bensen B-8 Gyro-Glider Collection, Accession number 2006-0029, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

In 1953, Dr. Igor Bensen, an immigrant from the USSR where he had been chief research engineer of the Kaman Aircraft Corporation, established the Bensen Aircraft Corporation in Raleigh, North Carolina. He initially planned to produce commercial helicopters, but switched to the private market when he realized that the relative safety of rotary craft would be attractive to private pilots. His first aircraft was the Bensen B-8 Gyro-Glider, which was unpowered and could be flown without a pilot's license in the United States. It could be built at home from a kit that an aspiring pilot would purchase from the company or could be purchased already assembled.

## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the Bensen B-8 Gyro-Glider documentation: Building and Operating Manual; plan drawings; Rotorcraft Dictionary; Bensen-related brochures; list of tools needed to build a gyrocopter; Building and Operating Material Specifications for Bensen Models B-8 and B-8M; Catalog No. 81 and order form; Installment Purchase Plan documents and price list; and a "I'd Rather be flying a Bensen Gyrocopter" bumper sticker.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Cultures:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics
- Airplanes, Home-built
- Autogiros
- Bensen B-8 Gyro-Glider
- Gliders (Aeronautics)

Types of Materials:

- Brochures
- Manuals
- Plans (drawings)

Names:

- Bensen Aircraft Corporation