



Edmund Schneider Cat. No. 0030
Grunau Baby 3A, c. 1953



Edmund Schneider Cat. No. 0075
Grunau Baby 4, c. 1953

This Grunau Baby, the first glider built by Schneiders after they immigrated to Australia, was test flown on 3 January 1953 by Dave Darbyshire and Owen Lewis. It is the only machine of its type. It is essentially a Grunau Baby 2B with a Perspex enclosed cockpit, wing airbrakes and a landing wheel. However, the wing design came from an existing Grunau 3 type that was being built in Germany.

The glider has given extensive service for a number of owners – including the Gliding Club of Victoria, Sunraysia Gliding Club, Millicent Gliding Club, Max Bugler of Morwell and Garth Hudson of Brighton in Victoria. Prior to being donated to the Australian Gliding Museum in January 2001 the glider had logged over 2200 hours flying time from over 9000 flights.



[Grunau Baby 4 - photo from Geoff Hearn]

This aircraft, donated to the Museum by Derek Hardie, was designed by Harry Schneider as a single seat medium performance sailplane. It was originally designated as the Grunau Baby 3B but later named the Grunau Baby 4. However, it was a completely new design with fully enclosed cockpit. The main point of difference to earlier Schneider designs was the tapered wings with the Gottingen 549 aerofoil. This design feature gave the Grunau Baby 4 a better speed range compared to the Grunau Baby 2b or the Grunau Baby 3.

The prototype flew on 6 December 1953 and it went to the Waikerie Gliding Club. A second was delivered to the Dubbo Gliding Club in October of the next year and a third built for the Adelaide Soaring Club in 1959. Another was built by Josef Brabec from a Schneider supplied kit over the period of 1954 to 1956.



[Grunau Baby 3A at Avalon Airshow 2009; photograph – Geoff Hearn]