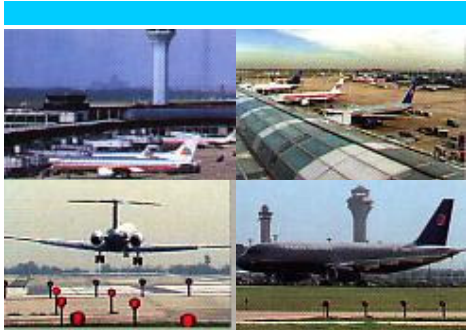


AVIATION VIDEOS



Let me first of all say that any video showing aircrafts at airports standing, taxiing, taking off or landing is a good video

There are people out there who can't understand the meaning of a two hour film showing "just" aircrafts - no story, no beginning, no end, no dialogue. You and me, we do! This is a sort of a review of videos from three makers; Just Planes Videos, Avion Video and Harry's.

Just Planes

The first video I bought showing just airplanes was the Just Planes video Hong Kong I (1995). Kai Tak is (was) **the** airport to watch airplanes landing. The spectacular approach shown in spectacular pictures of aero giants turning into that late short final.

Plus: Just Planes show long sequences of the landing, from approach to the roll out with engines reversing. Also they show some take offs from the turning onto the runway and engines revving up. This is sound I particularly like, have you noticed the scraping sound of the Boeing 737 engines at this stage - you instantly know it's a 737. And then the adding of full thrust, the rolling down the runway, the rotation and initial climb... Wow!

Minus: The sound taken from the some times very distant camera can be full of wind noise, birds, and people talking. A highly directional microphone should be used even if you don't get the real depth of the sound recorded. But then again you **do** hear the aircrafts. People keep talking about aircraft noise. What's that? Engine sounds - yes, but noise?... A special feature of Just Planes' videos is the constant zooming into the registration number. Why? Is this airplane spotting? It's ok the first time but the next, and next, and next - a bit irritating especially since you get a full list of aircrafts shown in the video. That's the place to put registrations too.

Avion Video

This is aviation videos with a British touch. Now and then a short commentary which is not interfering with the action. A little bonus in the Last look at Kai Tak video is a very special landing of a DC-10.

Plus: Nice editing. A list of aircrafts shown with registration numbers as it should be.

Minus: Almost all cuts include an aircraft coming into the picture and going off. This means that you half the time only see half an aircraft instead of the whole aircraft the whole time.



Harry's

Harry's Airport Special main feature seems to be nice pictures of several aircrafts in the same screen, taxiing and passing. It's nice. Short scenes, nice editing.

Plus: Very good editing. Lots of airplanes.

Minus: A bit rhapsodical. The use of the same scene several times. And, hey, what's this; A video on Heathrow and no Concorde landing or taking off. That's a major. And the sometimes poor sound due to the distant camera.

The conclusion is that an aviation video always is an aviation video. You can't go wrong showing airplanes. You can just show them more or less good. The winner is - all.

Just planes Videos at www.justplanes.com. I buy mine from BUCHair in England www.buchair.rotor.com

Avion Video at 97 Bradstock Road, Stoneleigh, Surrey, U K

Harry's Airport/Airline Videos. You can get their videos from several outlets. I bought from Key Direct Ltd, Stamford, Lincolnshire, U K

You can also get videos on cockpit rides and on a specific aircraft type and other special videos. Check it out.



All images © Just Planes Videos, Avion Video and B.L.&P.

(1999-Apr)