

Nose Wheel vs. Tail Wheel

Tail Wheel

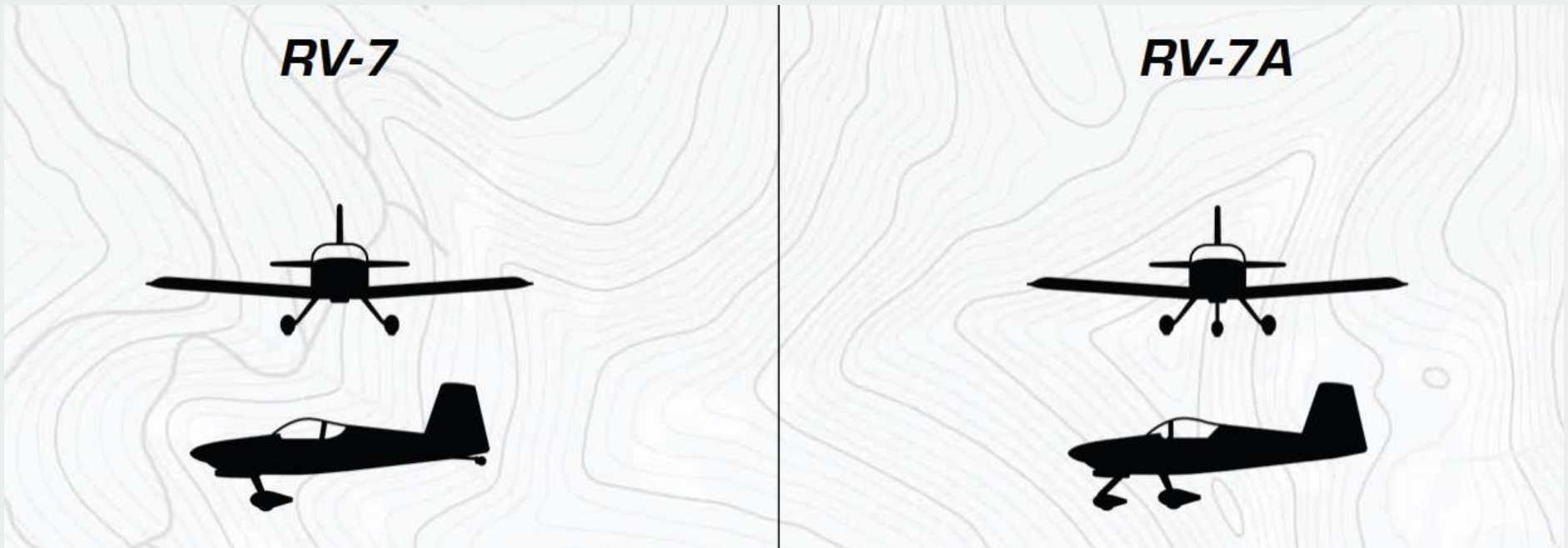
The tail wheel is the little wheel on the back of some airplanes. Airplanes with a tail wheel are said to have “conventional gear,” because the first airplanes had tail wheels, or just a stick called a “tail dragger.” The main wheels on a conventional gear airplane are forward of the center of gravity, making the plane more challenging to land.

Nose Wheel

Airplanes with a small wheel in the front are said to have “tricycle gear.” Tricycle gear airplanes have the main wheels aft of the center of gravity, making the plane easier to land.

Vans Aircraft

Vans Aircraft sells full size airplane kits for people to build. Some of the models have the option to have a tail wheel or tricycle gear. For example an RV-7 has a tail wheel and an RV-7A has tricycle gear. The decision to build an airplane with a nose wheel vs. a tail wheel is the builder’s personal preference.



RivKit.com

RivKit.com sells small simple to build aluminum airplane models, similar in shape to the RV-8 tail wheel plane and the RV-7A tricycle gear plane.