Mathew Sellers
Inspiration of a Kentucky Inventor

Mathew Sellers invented the “quadroplane”; a glider with four wings, motorized glider powered by a two-cylinder engine, and the first airplane to have retractable wheels. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Sellers and his family moved to a farm in Carter County, Kentucky, in 1888. There he built a laboratory and wind tunnel to experiment with the lift and drift of the arched surfaces of various wing designs, propeller designs, and glider-style airplanes.

Seller’s experiments were not part of the research being done by the Wright brothers at that time. On December 28, 1908, five years after the Wright brother’s first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Sellers successfully flew his quadroplane. In July 1911 his design was patented (registered as an original design).

Photo Credits: (Top) Mathew Sellers. (Left top) The only known photo of the Quadroplane in flight. (Left bottom) The Quadroplane just before his first December flight. Note the snow on the ground and trees. Photos courtesy of the Kentucky Aviation Museum.
Make your own
QUADROPLANE
Invented by Mathew Sellers

Fold on the top red line, …then fold again, …and again.

Now, gently crease along the 3 red lines.

Your plane should slightly curve up.

To launch, hold the plane high from the rear, and release gently.
To turn, bend the wing flaps up or down.

Kentucky’s Mathew Sellers Invented the four-winged “Quadroplane” in 1908.