

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission
on December 21, 2000

Reg. No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8
Registration Statement
Under
The Securities Act of 1933

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas	75-1563240
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

P.O. Box 36611, Dallas, Texas	75235-1611
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)	(Zip Code)

Southwest Airlines Co.
2000 Aircraft Appearance Technicians Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan
(Full title of the plan)

Gary C. Kelly
Vice President-Finance & Chief Financial Officer
Southwest Airlines Co.
P.O. Box 36611
Dallas, Texas 75235-1611
214/792-4363
(Name, address, and telephone number, including area code,
of agent for service)

Copy to:

Deborah Ackerman
Associate General Counsel
Southwest Airlines Co.
P.O. Box 36611
Dallas, Texas 75235-1611

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (2)	Proposed maximum offering price per share (1)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(1)	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock par value \$1.00 per share	1,500,000 shares	\$30.84	\$46,260,000	\$12,212.64

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee which, pursuant to Rules 457(c) and 457(h), is based on the average of the high and low price for the Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on December 18, 2000.

(2) The number of shares of Common Stock registered herein is subject to adjustment to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

PART II
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") are incorporated herein by reference:

(a) the Company's latest annual report filed pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;

(b) all other reports filed pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 since the end of the fiscal year covered by the annual report referred to above; and

(c) the descriptions of the Company's Common Stock and Common Share Purchase Rights contained in registration statements filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by the Company with the Commission, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such descriptions.

All reports and other documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such reports and documents.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

The validity of the Common Stock registered hereunder has been passed upon for the Company by Deborah Ackerman, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary. Ms. Ackerman beneficially owns 124,808 shares of Common Stock of the Company.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Article VIII, Section 1 of Registrant's Bylaws provides as follows:

"Right to Indemnification: Subject to the limitations and conditions as provided in this Article VIII, each person, who was or is made a party to, or is threatened to be made a party to, any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitrative or investigative (hereinafter called a "proceeding"), or any appeal in such a proceeding or any inquiry or investigation that could lead to such a proceeding, by reason of the fact that he (or a person of whom he is the legal representative) is or was a director or officer of the corporation (or while a director or officer of the corporation is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, partner, venturer, proprietor, trustee, employee, agent, or similar functionary of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, proprietorship, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise) shall be indemnified by the corporation to the fullest extent permitted by the Texas Business Corporation Act, as the same exists or may hereafter be amended (but, in the case of any such amendment, only to the extent that such amendment permits the corporation to provide broader indemnification rights than said law permitted the corporation to provide prior to such amendment) against judgments, penalties (including excise and similar taxes and punitive damages), fines, settlements and reasonable expenses (including, without limitation, court costs and attorneys' fees) actually incurred by such person in connection with such proceeding, appeal, inquiry or investigation, and indemnification under this Article VIII shall continue as to a person who has ceased to serve in the capacity which initially entitled such person to indemnity hereunder; provided, however, that in no case shall the corporation indemnify any such person (or the legal representative of any such person) otherwise than for his reasonable expenses, in respect of any proceeding (i) in which such person shall have been finally adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction (after exhaustion of all appeals therefrom) to be liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received by him, whether or not the benefit resulted from an action taken in such person's official capacity, or (ii) in which such person shall have been found liable to the corporation; and provided, further, that the corporation shall not indemnify any such person for his reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with any proceeding in which he shall have been found liable for willful or intentional misconduct in the performance of his duty to the corporation. The rights granted pursuant to this Article VIII shall be deemed contract rights, and no amendment, modification or repeal of this Article VIII shall have the effect of limiting or denying any such rights with respect to actions taken or proceedings arising prior to any such amendment, modification or repeal. It is expressly acknowledged that the indemnification provided in this Article VIII could involve indemnification for negligence or under theories of strict liability."

Article Ten of the Company's Articles of Incorporation provides that a director of the corporation shall not be liable to the corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for an act or omission in the director's capacity as a director, subject to certain limitations.

Article 2.02-1 B. of the Texas Business Corporation Act provides that, subject to certain limitations, "a corporation may indemnify a person who was, is or is threatened to be made a named defendant or respondent in a proceeding because the person is or was a director only if it is determined in accordance with Section F of this article that the person: (1) conducted himself in good faith; (2) reasonably believed: (a) in the case of conduct in his official capacity as a director of the corporation, that his conduct was in the corporation's best interests; and (b) in all other cases, that his conduct was at least not opposed to the corporation's best interests;

and (3) in the case of any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful."

The Company also maintains directors' and officers' liability insurance.

Item 8. Exhibits.

4.1 Southwest Airlines Co. 2000 Aircraft Appearance Technicians Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan.

4.2 Specimen certificate representing Common Stock of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1994 (File No. 1-7259)).

5 Opinion of Deborah Ackerman, Associate General Counsel of Southwest, re legality of securities being registered.

23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors.

23.2 Consent of Deborah Ackerman, Associate General Counsel of Southwest (contained in the opinion filed as Exhibit 5 hereto).

Item 9. Undertakings.

A. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which is registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement.

(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

provided, however, that paragraphs (A)(1)(i) and (A)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove by registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

B. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

C. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment

by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

The Registrant. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized in the City of Dallas, State of Texas on December 20, 2000.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

By /s/ Gary C. Kelly

Gary C. Kelly
Vice President-Finance,
Chief Financial Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on December 20, 2000.

Signature	Capacity
/s/ Herbert D. Kelleher ----- Herbert D. Kelleher	Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer
/s/ Gary C. Kelly ----- Gary C. Kelly	Vice President-Finance (Chief Financial and Accounting Officer)
/s/ Samuel E. Barshop ----- Samuel E. Barshop	Director
/s/ Gene H. Bishop ----- Gene H. Bishop	Director
/s/ William P. Hobby ----- William P. Hobby	Director
/s/ Travis C. Johnson ----- Travis C. Johnson	Director
/s/ R.W. King ----- R. W. King	Director
/s/ June M. Morris ----- June M. Morris	Director
/s/ C. Webb Crockett ----- C. Webb Crockett	Director
/s/ William H. Cunningham ----- William H. Cunningham	Director

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

4.1 Southwest Airlines Co. 2000 Aircraft Appearance Technicians
Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan.

4.2 Specimen certificate representing Common Stock of the

Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1994 (File No. 1-7259)).

- 5 Opinion of Deborah Ackerman, Associate General Counsel of Southwest, re legality of securities being registered.

23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors.

23.2 Consent of Deborah Ackerman, Associate General Counsel of Southwest (contained in the opinion filed as Exhibit 5 hereto).

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

2000 AIRCRAFT APPEARANCE TECHNICIANS
NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION PLAN

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO., a Texas corporation (the "Company"), hereby formulates and adopts the following 2000 Aircraft Appearance Technicians Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan (the "Plan").

1. Purpose. This Plan is adopted pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (the "Agreement") between the Company and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters - Airline Division for Aircraft Appearance Technicians of Southwest Airlines Co. (the "IBT") ratified on November 17, 2000.

2. Administration. This Plan shall be administered by an Administrative Committee (the "Committee") consisting of not more than five (5) persons designated from time to time by the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, including as one of its members a representative of the IBT. Members of the Committee may be removed or replaced at any time by the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. The Administrative Committee shall select one of its members as Chairman and shall adopt such rules and regulations as it shall deem appropriate concerning the holding of its meetings, the transaction of its business and the administration of this Plan. A majority of the whole Committee shall constitute a quorum, and the act of a majority of the members of the Committee present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Committee; any decision or determination reduced to writing and signed by a majority of the members of the Administrative Committee shall be fully as effective as if made by a majority vote at a meeting duly called and held.

3. Grant of Options; Persons Eligible.

(a) Persons Eligible. The Stock Option Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company, or such other committee as may be appointed by the Board, shall have the authority and responsibility, within the limitations of this Plan, to grant options from time to time to persons employed as Aircraft Appearance Technicians by the Company pursuant to the Agreement and as set forth in the schedule attached as Exhibit A and made a part hereof. Only persons who are employed as fulltime Aircraft Appearance Technicians of SWA on the date of the grant may be granted options under this Plan; under no circumstances shall executive officers of the Company be eligible to receive options hereunder.

(b) Grant Price. Initial Grants (as defined in Exhibit A) shall be granted at an exercise price of \$29.72 per share; thereafter, Options shall be granted at an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the Common Stock of the Company on the date of the grant of the option plus five percent (5%).

(c) Southwest Airlines Employees Becoming Aircraft Appearance Technicians. Except as provided in subparagraph (e) below, Southwest Airlines Employees who enter the Aircraft Appearance Technicians work force without a break in company service and who are participants in another stock option plan (an "existing plan") will either retain stock option grants established in accordance with such existing plan (if permitted by such existing plan), or will receive grants in accordance with this Plan, whichever is chosen by the Employee involved, but the Employee shall not hold grants under both plans simultaneously. The Employee must make the election prior to the scheduled grant date for options under this Plan. If the Employee does not make a timely election, options previously granted will remain in effect, and no grant will be made under this Plan. Exercise of options will be done in accordance with the Plan under which they were awarded. At such time as the Employee no longer holds any vested or unvested options under the other existing plan, the Employee will receive an initial grant under this Plan on the next scheduled grant date. The total grant shall be based on the Employee's years of service as of the grant date, and shall be equal to the number of shares which have not vested prior to the grant date for that step level, according to Exhibit A.

(d) Aircraft Appearance Technicians Transferring to Another Work Group. Except as provided in subparagraph (e) below, if a Southwest Airlines Aircraft Appearance Technician transfers to another work group, any unvested portion of any option granted in accordance with this Plan, shall automatically and without notice terminate and become null and void as of the first day such Optionee is on the payroll for such position. Any vested and unexercised portion of any such option shall remain exercisable under this Plan.

(e) Employees Transferring between Groups Represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Southwest Airlines Aircraft Appearance Technicians who transfer between work groups represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and which are each covered by an existing stock option plan will either retain stock option grants established in accordance with their original plan or will receive grants in accordance with the plan for their new group, whichever is chosen by the Employee involved, but the Employee shall not hold grants under both plans simultaneously; provided however, that if the Employee chooses to retain his grants under his original plan, and the stock option plan for the group into which he is moving would provide additional options (in the Total Grant) at his entry, he may choose to retain his grants under his original plan, and, in addition, receive a supplemental grant under the other plan in an amount equal to the difference between those available under the other plan, and the amount he has already received under his original plan. For example, an Employee with two years of service at the Effective Date of the Agreement receives options to purchase 4,700 shares of Southwest Airlines Co. Stock at \$25.00 (by way of example, only), and transfers to the Stock Clerk group on February 15, 2001, would then be eligible under the Stock Clerk's plan for a grant of 4,850 shares on August 16, 2001. If the fair market value of the stock on August 16, 2001, is \$30.00 per share, such Employee would choose to retain his grant for 4,700 shares under this Plan, and receive a supplemental grant under the Stock Clerk's Plan of 150 shares.

The Employee must make the election under this paragraph prior to the next scheduled grant date for options under the stock option plan for the group into which the Employee is moving. If the Employee does not make a timely election, options previously granted under the Employee's original plan will remain in effect and, if appropriate, an incremental grant will be made under the other stock option plan.

4. Definitions. An Employee receiving any option under this Plan is hereinafter referred to as an "Optionee." Any reference herein to the employment of an Optionee with the Company shall include only employment with the Company. The fair market value of the Common Stock on any day shall be the mean between the highest and lowest quoted selling prices of the Common Stock on such day as reported by the primary national stock exchange on which such stock is listed. If no sale shall have been made on that day, or if the Common Stock is not listed on a national exchange at that time, fair market value will be determined on the most recent business day on which the stock was traded, unless otherwise determined by the Committee.

5. Stock Subject to Options. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 12, the number of shares of the Company's Common Stock subject at any one time to options, plus the number of such shares then outstanding pursuant to exercises of options, granted under this Plan, shall not exceed 1,500,000 shares. If, and to the extent the options granted under this Plan terminate or expire without having been exercised, new options may be granted with respect to the shares covered by such terminated or expired options; provided that the granting and terms of such new options shall in all respects comply with the provisions of this Plan.

Shares sold or distributed upon the exercise of any option granted under this Plan may be shares of the Company's authorized and unissued Common Stock, shares of the Company's issued Common Stock held in the Company's treasury, or both.

There shall be reserved at all times for sale or distribution under this Plan a number of shares of Common Stock (either authorized and unissued shares or shares held in the Company's treasury, or both) equal to the maximum number of shares which may be purchased or distributed upon the exercise of options granted under this Plan.

Exercise of an Option in any manner shall result in a decrease in the number of shares of Common Stock which may thereafter be available, both for purposes of this Plan and for sale to any one individual, by the number of shares as to which the Option is exercised.

6. Expiration and Termination of the Plan. This Plan will expire on February 16, 2009.

No modification, extension, renewal or other change in any option granted under this Plan shall be made after the grant of such option unless the same is consistent with the provisions of this Plan.

7. Exercisability and Duration of Options.

(a) Exercisability. Options granted under this Plan shall become exercisable pursuant to the vesting schedule and requirements set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto.

(b) Duration. The unexercised portion of any option granted under this Plan shall automatically and without notice terminate and become null and void at the time of the earliest to occur of the following:

(1) February 16, 2009;

(2) The expiration of three months from the date of termination of the Optionee's employment with the Company (unless such termination was as a result of the circumstances set forth in subparagraph (3) below); provided that if the Optionee shall die during such 3-month period the provisions of subparagraph (3) below shall apply; or

(3) The expiration of 12 months from the Optionee's death if such death occurs during his employment with the Company.

In the case of subparagraphs (2) and (3) above, the Optionee shall have the right to exercise any Option prior to such expiration to the extent it was exercisable at the date of such termination of employment and shall not have been exercised.

8. Exercise of Options.

(a) Procedure. The options granted herein shall be exercised by the Optionee (or by the person who acquires such options by will or the laws of descent and distribution or otherwise by reason of the death of the Optionee) as to all or part of the shares covered by the option (but in no event less than 100 shares, unless such exercise is for all remaining shares) by giving written notice of the exercise thereof (the "Notice") to the Company. From time to time the Committee may establish procedures relating to effecting such exercises. No fractional shares shall be issued as a result of exercising an Option.

(b) Payment. In the Notice, the Optionee shall elect whether he or she is to pay for his or her shares in cash or in Common Stock of the Company, or both. If payment is to be made in cash, the Optionee shall deliver to the Company a cashier's check or electronic funds transfer in the amount of the exercise price on or before the exercise date. If payment is to be made in Common Stock, (a) it shall be valued at its fair market value on the date of such notice, as determined pursuant to Paragraph 4 hereof; (b) such Common Stock must have been owned by the Optionee for at least six months prior to the exercise date; and (c) the Notice shall be accompanied by a certificate for at least the number of shares of Common Stock to be used as payment.

(c) Irrevocable Election. The giving of such written notice to the Company shall constitute an irrevocable election to purchase the number of shares specified in the notice on the date specified in the notice.

(d) Withholding Taxes. To the extent that the exercise of any Option granted pursuant to this Plan or the disposition of shares of Common Stock acquired by exercise of an Option results in compensation income to the Optionee for federal or state income tax purposes, the Optionee shall deliver to the Company at the time of such exercise or disposition such amount of money as the Company may require to meet its obligation under applicable tax laws or regulations, and, if the Optionee fails to do so, the Company is authorized to (a) withhold delivery of certificates upon exercise and (b) withhold from remuneration then or thereafter payable to Optionee any tax required to be withheld by reason of such resulting compensation income.

(e) Delivery of Shares. The Company shall cause shares to be delivered to the Optionee (or the person exercising the Optionee's options in the event of death) as soon as practicable after the exercise date.

9. Nontransferability of Options. No option granted under this Plan or any right evidenced thereby shall be transferable by the Optionee other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. During the lifetime of an Optionee, only the Optionee (or his or her guardian or legal representative) may exercise his or her options.

In the event of the Optionee's death during his or her employment with the Company, during the three-month period following the date of termination of such employment, the Optionee's options shall thereafter be exercisable, as provided in paragraph 7(b), by his or her executor or administrator, or by the person who acquires such options by will or the laws of descent and distribution or otherwise by reason of the death of the Optionee.

10. Rights of Optionee. Neither the Optionee nor his or her executors, administrators, or legal representatives shall have any of the rights of a shareholder of the Company with respect to the shares subject to an option granted under this Plan until certificates for such shares shall have been issued upon the exercise of such option.

11. Right to Terminate Employment. Nothing in this Plan or in any option granted under this Plan shall confer upon any Optionee the right to continue in the employment of the Company or affect the right of the Company or any of its subsidiaries to terminate the Optionee's employment at any time;

subject, however, to the provisions of the Agreement.

12. Adjustment Upon Changes in Capitalization, Etc.

(a) The existence of the Plan and the options granted hereunder shall not affect in any way the right or power of the Board of Directors or the shareholders of the Company to make or authorize any adjustment, recapitalization, reorganization or other change in the Company's capital structure or its business, any merger or consolidation of the Company, any issue of debt or equity securities ahead of or affecting Common Stock or the rights thereof, the dissolution or liquidation of the Company or any sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all or any part of its assets or business or any other corporate act or proceeding.

(b) The shares with respect to which options may be granted are shares of Common Stock as presently constituted, but if, and whenever, prior to the expiration of an option theretofore granted, the Company shall effect a subdivision or consolidation of shares of Common Stock or the payment of a stock dividend on Common Stock without receipt of consideration by the Company, the number of shares of Common Stock with respect to which such option may thereafter be exercised (i) in the event of an increase in the number of outstanding shares shall be proportionately increased, and the purchase price per share shall be proportionately reduced, and (ii) in the event of a reduction in the number of outstanding shares shall be proportionately reduced, and the purchase price per share shall be proportionately increased; likewise, the number of shares to be granted pursuant to the schedule set forth in Exhibit A shall be appropriately adjusted. In the event of any such change in the outstanding Common Stock, the aggregate number of shares available under the Plan shall be appropriately adjusted by the Board of Directors of the Company, whose determination shall be conclusive.

(c) If the Company recapitalizes or otherwise changes its capital structure, thereafter upon any exercise of an option theretofore granted the Optionee shall be entitled to purchase under such option, in lieu of the number of shares of Common Stock as to which such option shall then be exercisable, the number and class of shares of stock and securities to which the Optionee would have been entitled pursuant to the terms of the recapitalization if, immediately prior to such recapitalization, the Optionee had been the holder of record of the number of shares of Common Stock as to which such option is then exercisable. If the Company shall not be the surviving entity in any merger or consolidation (or survives only as a subsidiary of an entity other than a previously wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company) or if the Company is to be dissolved or liquidated, then unless a surviving corporation assumes or substitutes new options for Options then outstanding hereunder (i) the time at which such Options may be exercised shall be accelerated and such Options shall become exercisable in full on or before a date fixed by the Company prior to the effective date of such merger or consolidation or such dissolution or liquidation, and (ii) upon such effective date Options shall expire.

(d) Except as hereinbefore expressly provided, the issuance by the Company of shares of stock of any class or securities convertible into shares of stock of any class, property, labor or services, upon direct sale, upon the exercise of rights or warrants to subscribe therefor, or upon conversion of shares or obligations of the Company convertible into such shares or other securities, and in any case whether or not for fair value, shall not affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number of shares of Common Stock subject to options theretofore granted or to be granted or the purchase price per share.

13. Purchase for Investment and Legality. The Optionee, by acceptance of any option granted under this Plan, shall represent and warrant to the Company that the purchase or receipt of shares of Common Stock upon the exercise thereof shall be for investment and not with a view to distribution, provided that such representation and warranty shall be inoperative if, in the opinion of counsel to the Company, a proposed sale or distribution of such shares is pursuant to an applicable effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 or is, without such representation and warranty, exempt from registration under such Act. The Company shall file a Registration Statement on Form S-8 pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, covering the shares to be offered pursuant to the Plan and will use its best efforts to maintain such registration at all times necessary to permit holders of options to exercise them.

The obligation of the Company to issue shares upon the exercise of an option shall also be subject as conditions precedent to compliance with applicable provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, state securities laws, rules and regulations under any of the foregoing and applicable requirements of any securities exchange upon which the Company's securities shall be listed.

The Company may endorse an appropriate legend referring to the foregoing restrictions upon the certificate or certificates representing any shares

issued or transferred to the Optionee upon the exercise of any option granted under this Plan.

14. Effective Date of Plan. This Plan shall become effective on the latter of the following to occur: (a) its adoption by the Board of Directors of the Company and (b) ratification of the Agreement by the IBT membership.

EXHIBIT A

Initial Grants

On the Effective Date of the Agreement, options will be granted to persons employed as Aircraft Appearance Technicians by the Company according to the following schedule. Initial Grants are based on the Aircraft Appearance Technician's years of service for pay purposes as of the Effective Date of the Agreement. Options will vest annually on August 16 of subsequent years.

STOCK OPTION VESTING SCHEDULE

Year of Service as of Effective Date of Plan	TOTAL GRANT	Effective Date of Plan (Date of Ratification)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1st	4,450	400	450	500	550	600	650	650	650
2nd	4,700	450	500	550	600	650	650	650	650
3rd	4,900	500	550	600	650	650	650	650	650
4th	5,050	550	600	650	650	650	650	650	650
5th	5,150	600	650	650	650	650	650	650	650
Thereafter	5,200	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650

Subsequent Grants

On August 16 of each year, commencing August 16, 2001, through August 16, 2007, options will be granted to persons employed as Aircraft Appearance Technicians by the Company who have completed probation during the previous 12 months (except those receiving an Initial Grant on November 17, 2000). Options will vest annually on the anniversary of the Grant Date as follows:

Grant Date STOCK OPTION VESTING SCHEDULE

8/16	8/16/01	8/16/02	8/16/03	8/16/04	8/16/05	8/16/06	8/16/07	TOTAL GRANT
2001	400	450	500	550	600	650	650	3,800
2002	0	400	450	500	550	600	650	3,150
2003	0	0	400	450	500	550	600	2,500
2004	0	0	0	400	450	500	550	1,900
2005	0	0	0	0	400	450	500	1,350
2006	0	0	0	0	0	400	450	850
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	400

Vesting Requirements

Options will vest on the applicable vesting date under the following circumstances, and no other:

(a) For Optionees who are Employees of the Company on paid status and on the Aircraft Appearance Technician seniority list as of the applicable vesting date; and

(b) For Optionees who are Employees of the Company on unpaid status and on the Aircraft Appearance Technician seniority list as of the applicable vesting date (e.g., medical leave, military leave, union leave, maternity leave etc.) who accrue hours of service during the calendar year prior to the year in which the vesting date occurs sufficient to qualify for a profitsharing contribution under the Company's Profitsharing Plan for such calendar year. By way of example, if an Optionee is on unpaid medical leave on August 16, 2001, but during calendar year 2000 accrues sufficient hours of service to qualify for a profitsharing contribution for 2000, such Optionee's options will vest on August 16, 2001, as if that Optionee had been on paid status as of August 16, 2001.

Provided, however, that options may vest for former Aircraft Appearance Technicians meeting the requirements set forth above (except the requirement for being on the seniority list), plus those set forth in paragraph 3(e) of the Plan.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

Deborah Ackerman
Associate General Counsel

P.O. Box 36611
Dallas, Texas 75235-1611
(214) 792-4665
Facsimile: (214) 792-6200

December 21, 2000

Southwest Airlines Co.
P.O. Box 36611
Dallas, TX 75235

Dear Sirs:

I have represented Southwest Airlines Co., a Texas corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933 of the shares of the common stock, \$1 par value of the Company ("Common Stock") to be issued by the Company from time to time upon the exercise of stock options pursuant to the Southwest Airlines Co. 2000 Aircraft Appearance Technicians Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan (the "Plan").

In this connection, I have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified to my satisfaction, of such documents, corporate and other records, certificates and other papers as I deemed it necessary to examine for the purpose of this opinion, including the Registration Statement of the Company for the registration of the Common Stock to be issued pursuant to the Plan on Form S-8 under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Registration Statement").

Based on such examination, it is my opinion that the shares of Common Stock registered under the Registration Statement when issued pursuant to the terms of the Plan will, upon the payment of the consideration therefor required by the terms of the Plan, be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

I consent to the use of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, I do not thereby admit that I am within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the rules and regulation thereunder.

Sincerely,

/s/ Deborah Ackerman

Deborah Ackerman

DA:lss

[LETTERHEAD OF ERNST & YOUNG]

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) pertaining to the Southwest Airlines Co. 2000 Aircraft Appearance Technicians Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan of our report dated January 18, 2000 with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Southwest Airlines Co. included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 1999, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

ERNST & YOUNG LLP

December 18, 2000