1/72 Scale Plastic Model Kit

WEEKEND edition



The MiG-21 was the most-produced supersonic fighter in the world serving with more than fifty Air Forces over four continents. The Mig-21MF was an export variant, but it saw use with the Soviet Union air force as well.

The MiG-21 was one of a long-list of Mikoyan-Gurevich designs integrated into the armed forces of the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact, and allied client states. Its predecessors included such notable types as the MiG-15, MiG-17, and the supersonic MiG-19. The roots of MiG-21 project reach back to the first half of the fifties. In 1954, when the preliminary design study Ye-1 came to its end and was quickly replaced by the reworked Ye-2 prototype. Both had a swept wing. The first MiG design to feature the delta wing was the Ye-4 prototype, which took to the air for the first time on June 16, 1955. It was also demonstrated a year later at the Moscow airfield Tushino.

The new aircraft with the MiG-21 designation was the first successful Soviet design integrating fighter and interceptor characteristics. It was also quite light Mach 2 aircraft, although the long-lasting development was adding weight gradually. The design featured sleek fuselage with the front air intake and shock cone. This feature later limited future development due to the very small space available for the radar.

Cold War warrior

The first of the new line to enter production was the MiG-21F. which together with the MiG-21P and MiG-21F-13 represented the first generation of this line. These versions were in production through the end of the fifties and the beginning of the sixties. Subsequent versions included the PF, FL, PFM and R with production of these peaking at the end of the sixties. The third generation started production in 1968 and included the most advanced versions of MiG-21 like the M, SM, MF, SMT or bis among others. Simultaneously, two-seat training versions were also produced designated MiG-21U, UM and US.

Production of the MiG-21 ended in 1985. The new aircraft came off Soviet production lines in Moscow, Gorky and Tbilisi, the MiG-21F-13 was also built under license in Czechoslovakia and the MiG-21FL, M and bis in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. The Soviet Union produced 10,645 examples of all versions, 194 were built in Czechoslovakia and 657 in India. During the Cold War, the opponents of the MiG-21 included the likes of the Northrop F-5 Freedom Fighter or the Dassault Mirage III. NATO assigned it the reporting name "Fishbed", while the Soviet pilots called it "Balalaika" due to the shape which resembled it with the popular Russian musical instrument.

Aces from Asia, Middle East or Africa

Outside of the Soviet Union, the type flew with a long list of nations on four continents (Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America) and participated in many conflicts and wars. The most remarkable combat use includes the Vietnam war, the Indo

-Pakistan wars, the Cuban participation in Angola and in the Arab world's attempts to eliminate Israel. It is no wonder there were many pilots achieving their ace status flying one or more variants of MiG-21

Thanks to the high volume of use and intensive combat actions, the Vietnamese pilots are topping the list of aces of MiG-21. The top of the ladder is occupied by Nguyen Van Coc with nine kills with three eight-victory aces following: Mai Van Cuong, Nguyen Hong Nhi and Pham Thanh Ngan. Of the other nations the Syrian pilots Bassam Hamshun and Majid Zugbi both achieved seven kills flying MiG-21MF, while Adeeb Al-Jarf had the same score with MiG-21FL and Egyptian pilots Ali Vajai, Sami Marei and Sami Marei scored five times.

This kit: MiG-21MF Interceptor

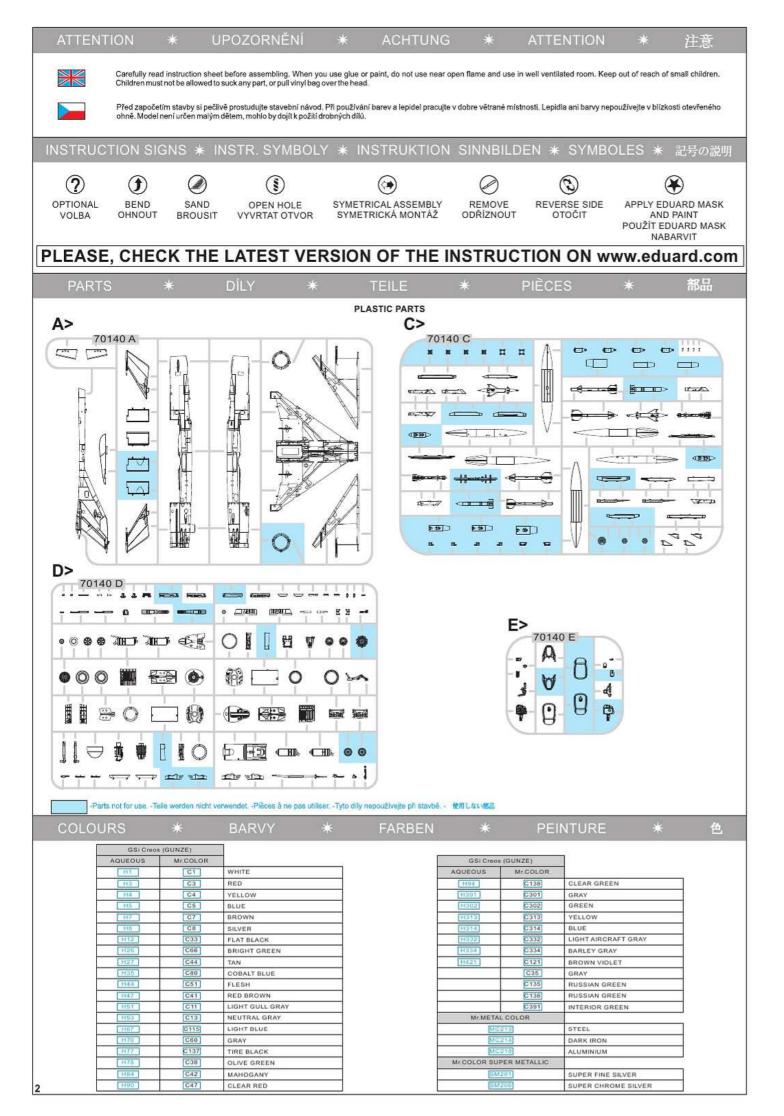
This plastic model kit represents the MiG-21MF, an export version of the MiG-21SM where the "M" signifies "modernizovaniy" (modernized) and the "F" "forsirovanniy" (with afterburner). The MiG-21MF lacked some of the "sensitive" avionics equipment of the SM version. On the other hand, it also sported some improvements to its export predecessor, the MiG-21M, in several aspects. It was powered by the more powerful Tumansky R-13-300 engine with afterburning used the Safir-21/RP-22 radar instead of less effective RP-21MA of MiG-21M.

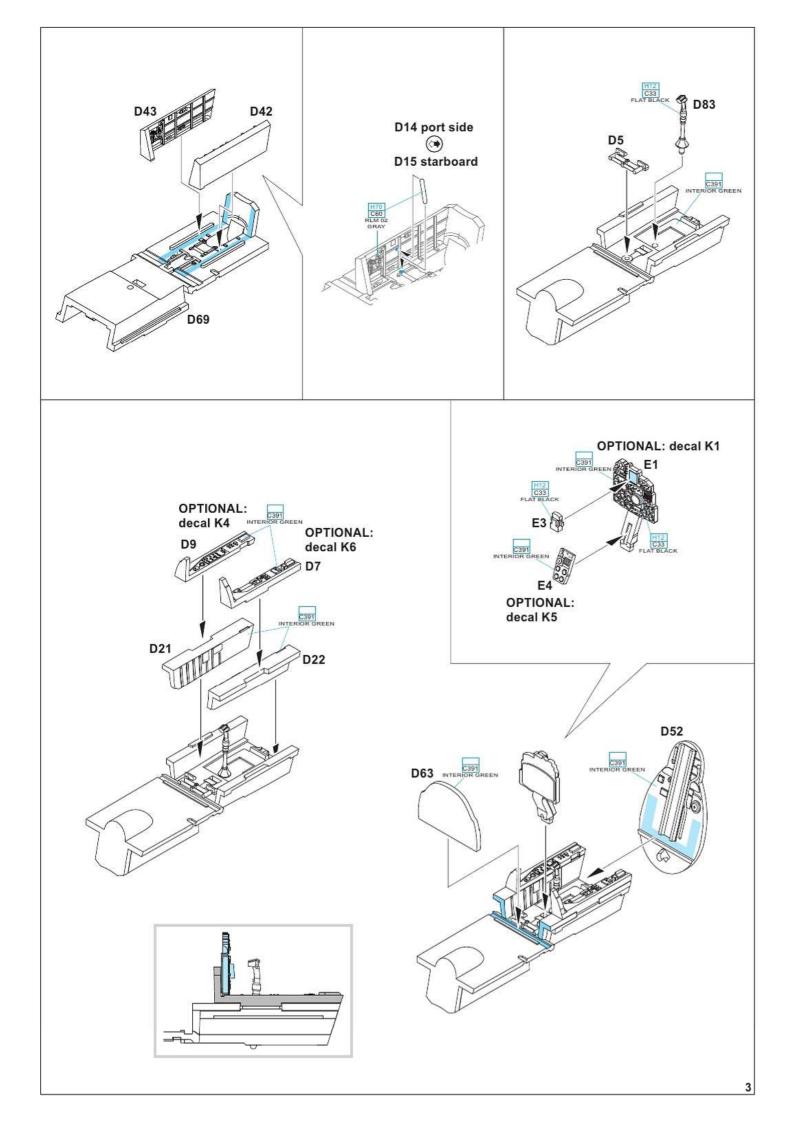
The MiG-21MF type was identified as Izdelye (series) 96F in factory documentation. The production started in the Moscow factory No. 30, with first batch of 96 production aircraft in 1969 (it is believed these were shipped to Egypt).

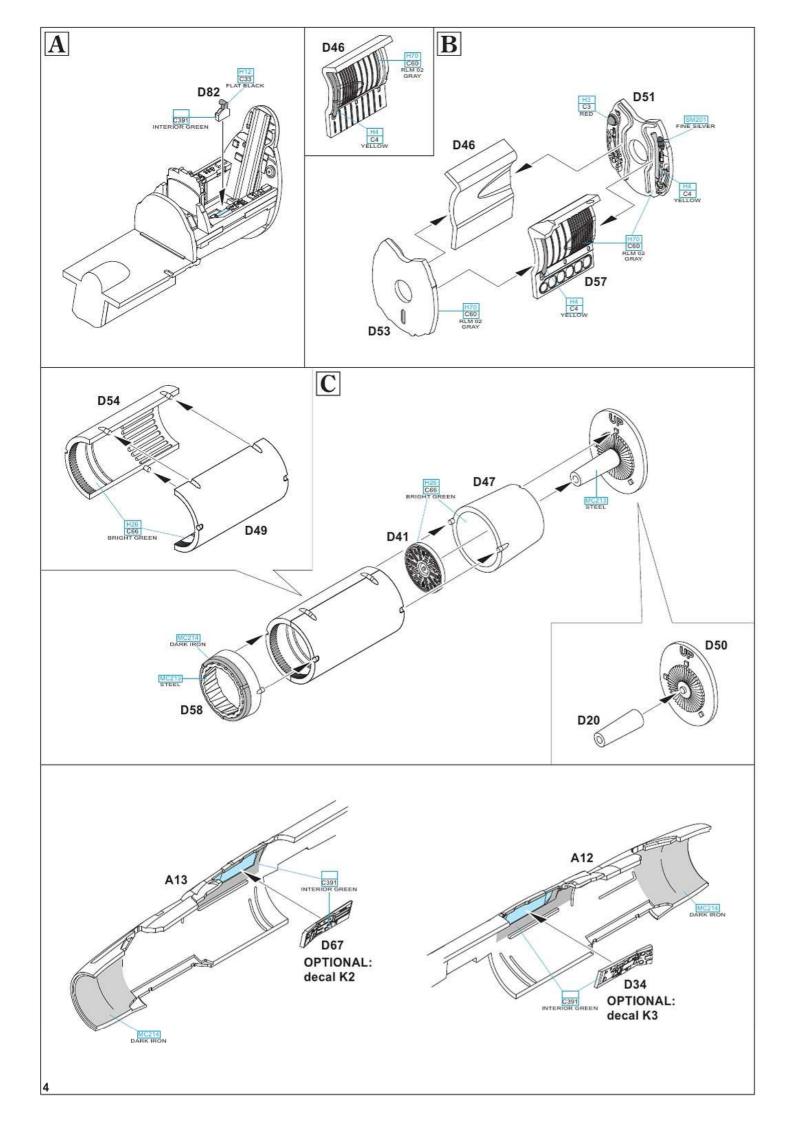
Starting from 1974 the production was shifted to the No. 21 factory in Gorkhyi, where 231 aircraft were built before the production shifted to the MiG-21bis version in 1976. All the MiG-21MFs in interceptor variant were produced at Gorkhyi.

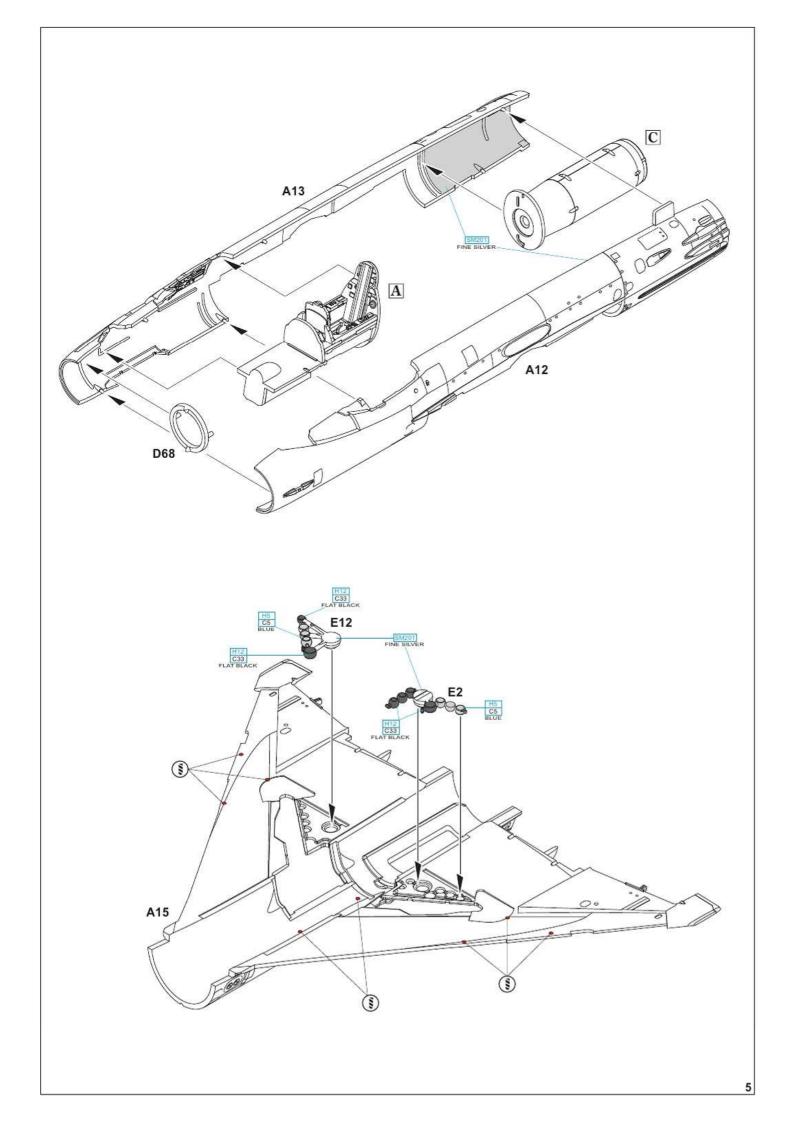
Although the MiG-21MF was export version, several aircraft saw service with 234. GvIAP (Guard Fighter Regiment) of VVS (Voenno Vozdushnie Sily – Air Force) located at the Kubinka air base. The reason was quite simple – the unit provided flight demonstrations for foreigner customers and also conducted official parade and display flights.

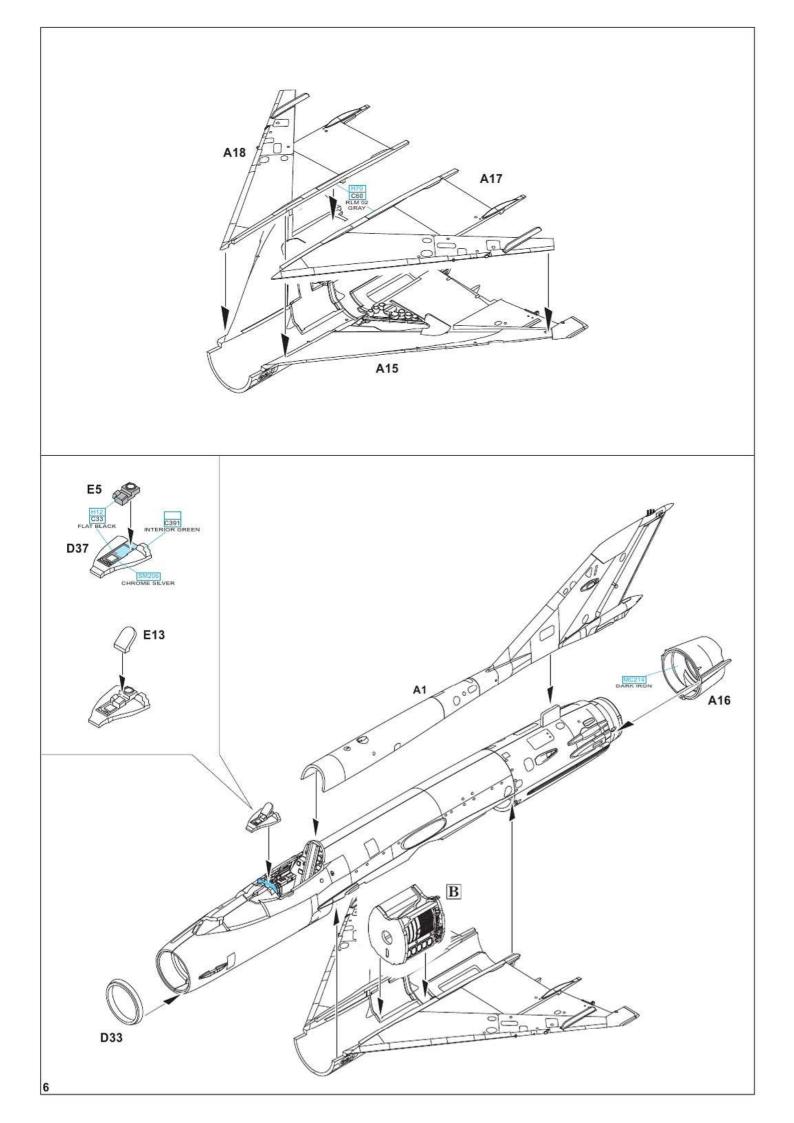
The armament consisted of the GS-23-2L 23mm cannon with 200 rounds. The underwing pylons could carry a combination of FAB bombs up to 500 kg caliber, UB-16-57 rocket pods, R-3S, Ch-66 or S-24 missiles, and R-60 air-to-air missile, including the R-60M. NATO assigned the MiG-21MF codename "Fishbed J". In the interceptor role the MiG-21 served with the Soviet Union and other nations of the Warsaw Pact into the eighties when it began to be replaced by the MiG-23 in seventies and MiG-29 Fulcrum in eighties.

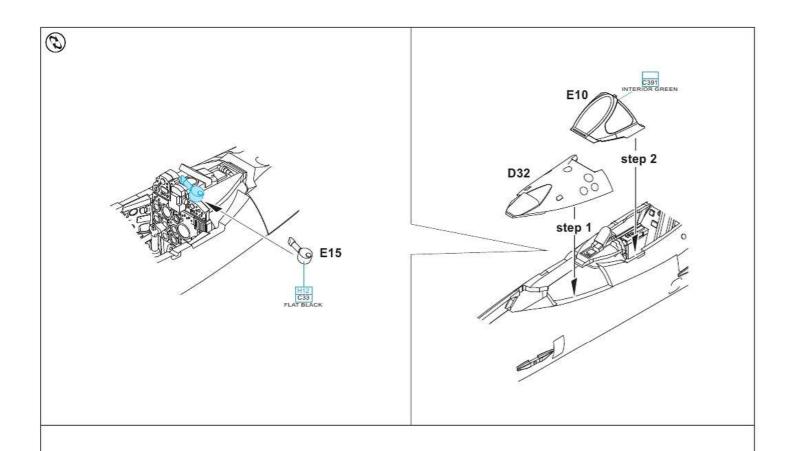


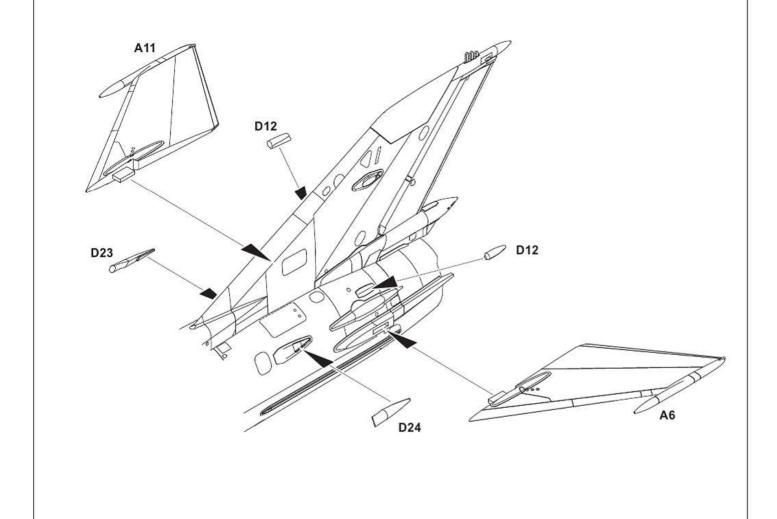


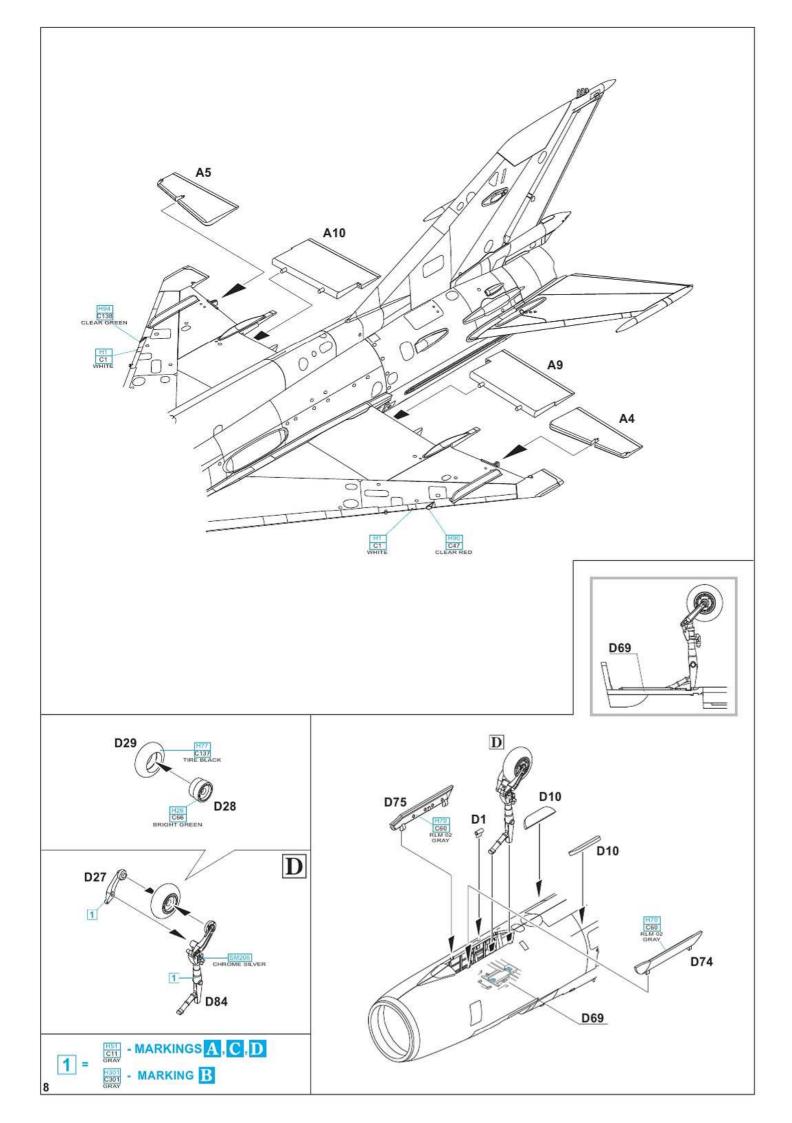


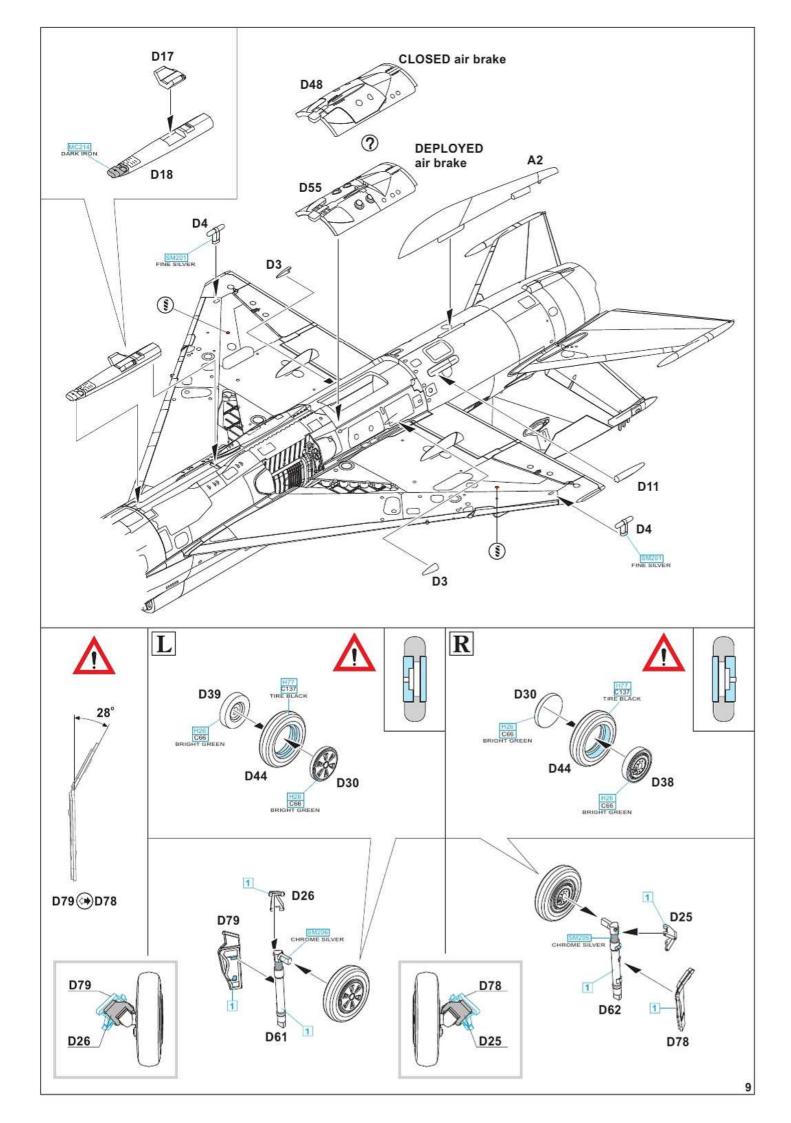


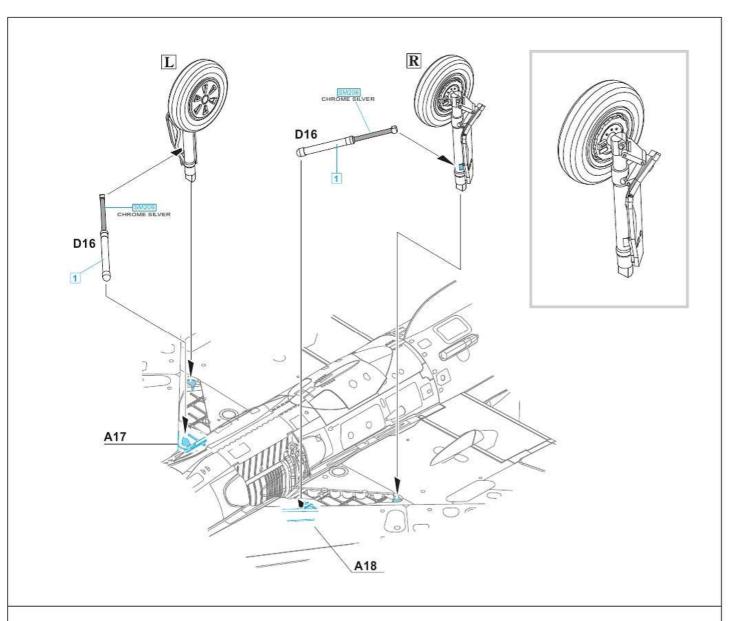


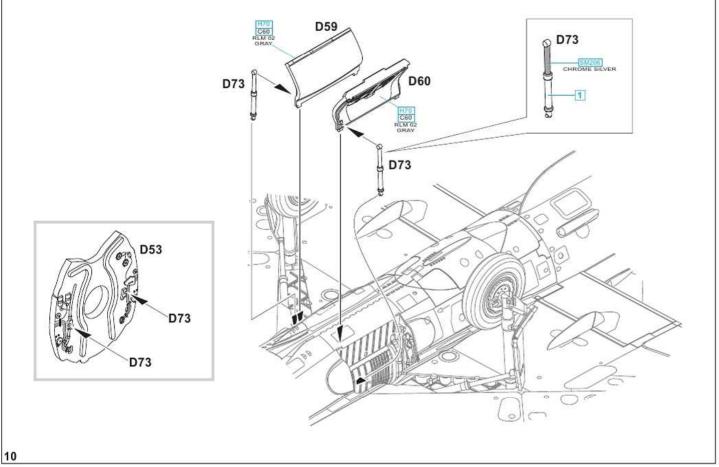


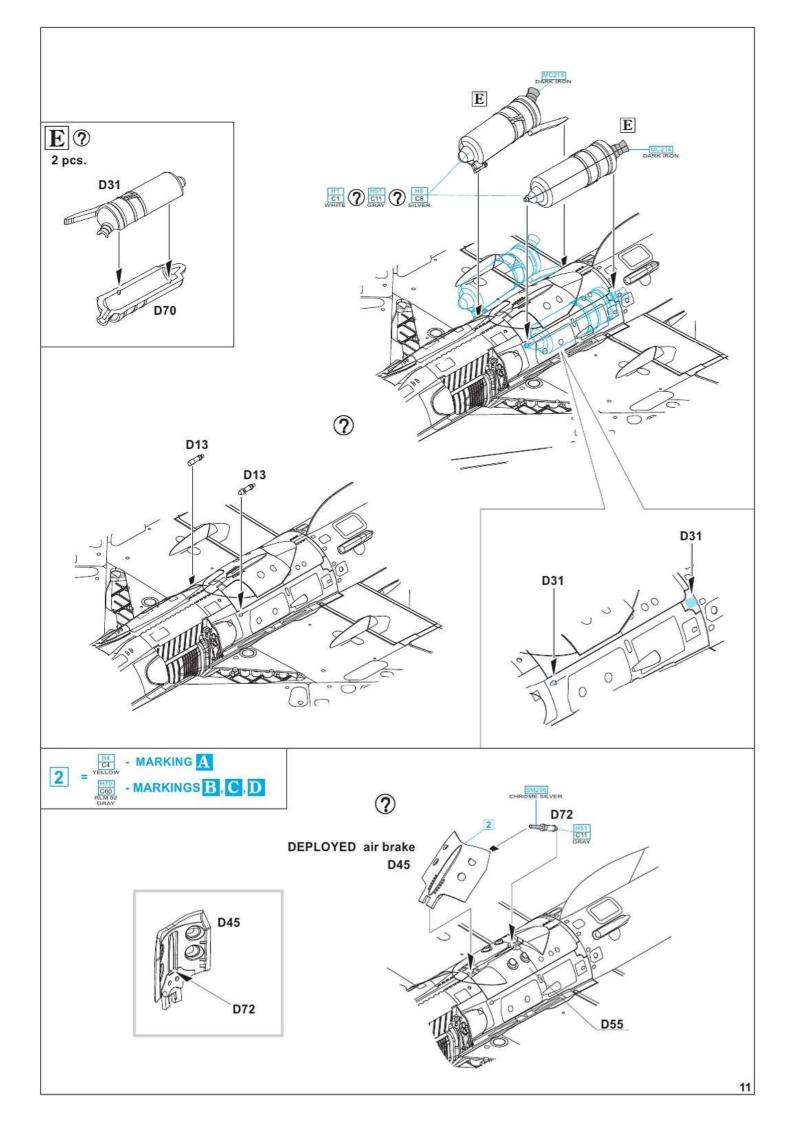


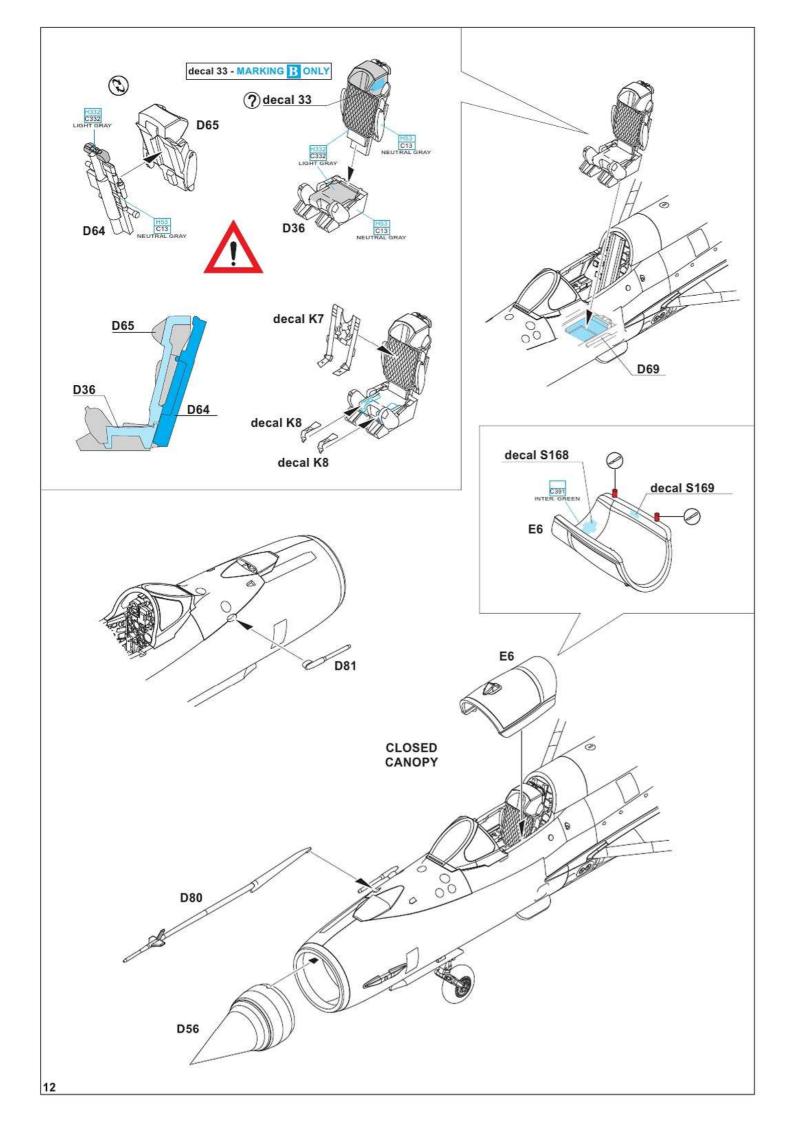


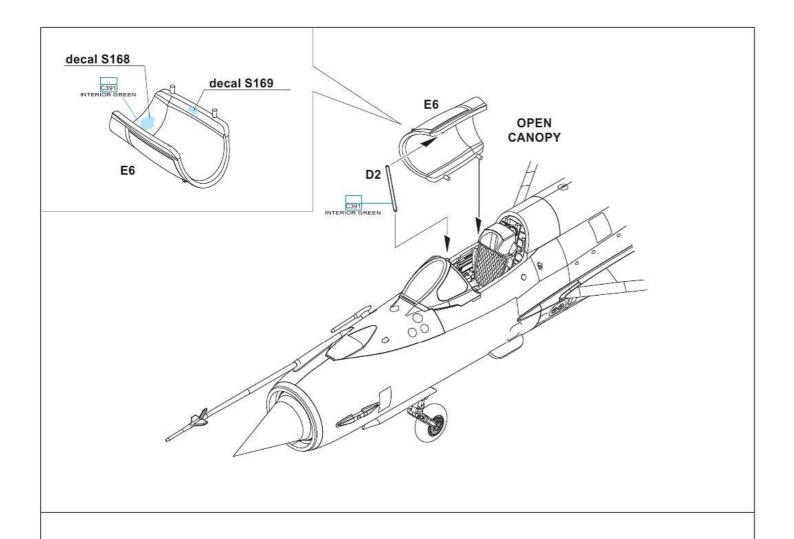


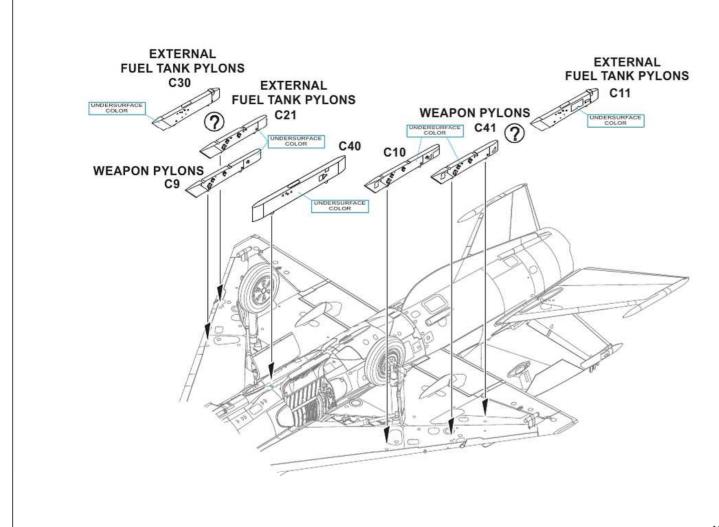


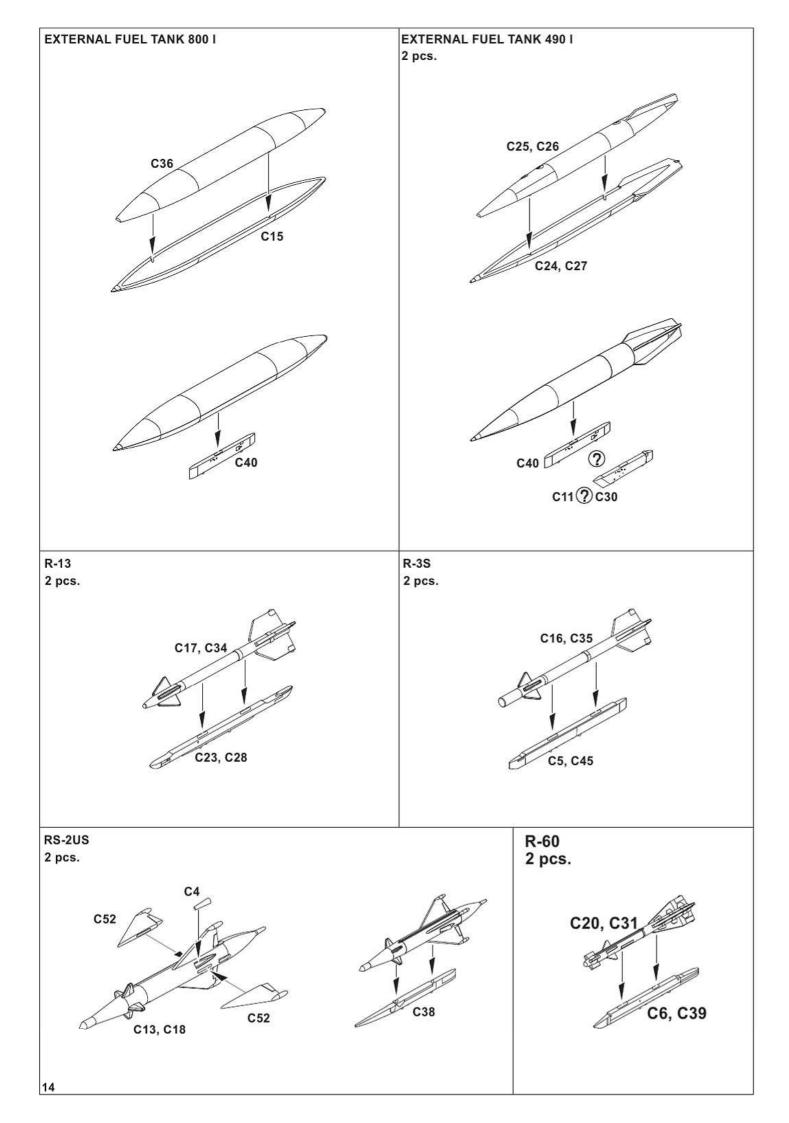


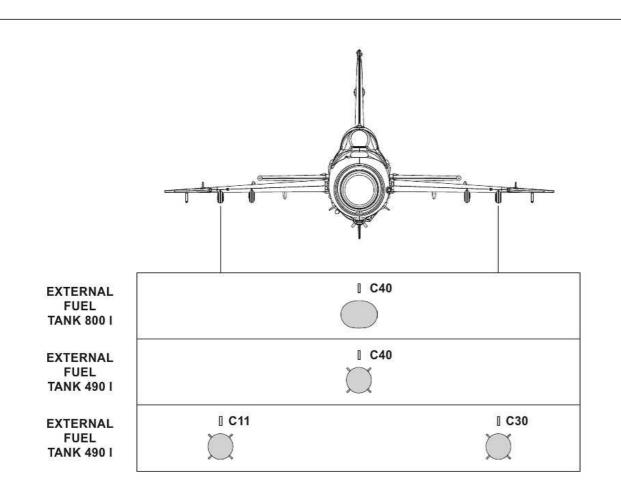




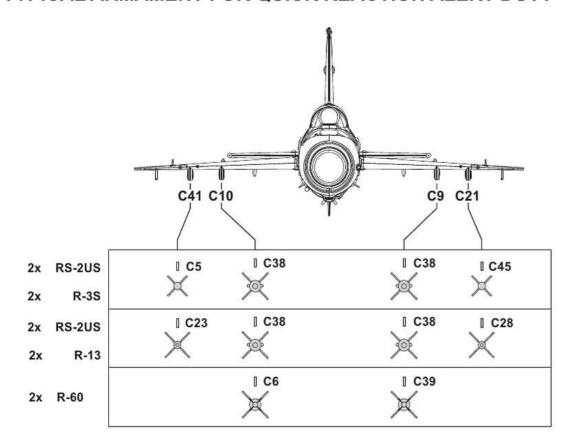








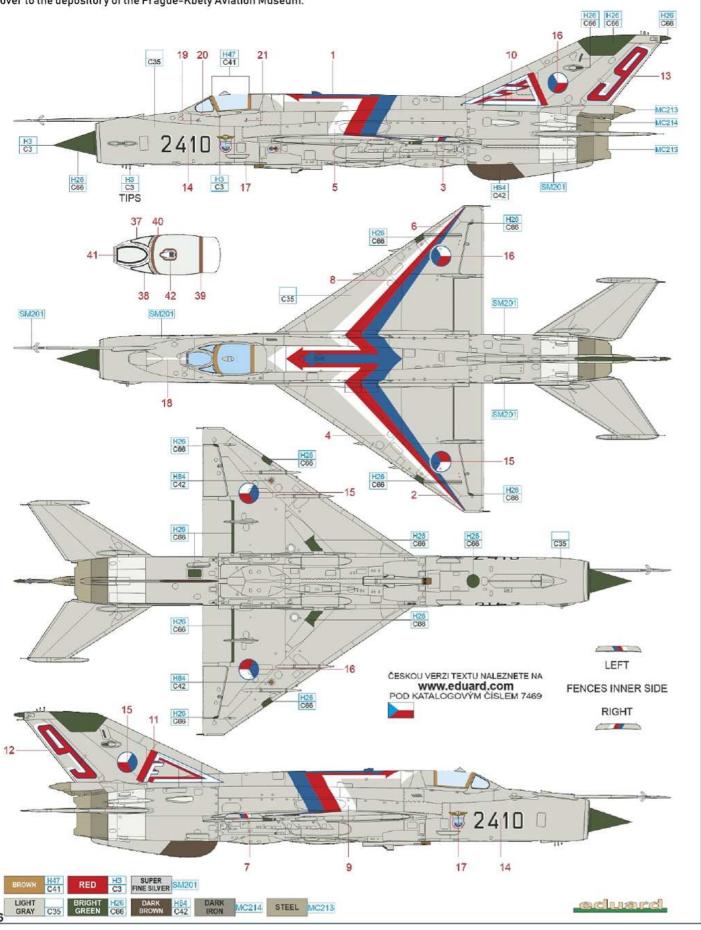
TYPICAL ARMAMENT FOR QUICK REACTION ALERT DUTY



TO CHOOSE WEAPON AND EXTERNAL FUEL TANK OPTION PLEASE FOLLOW YOUR REFERENCE.

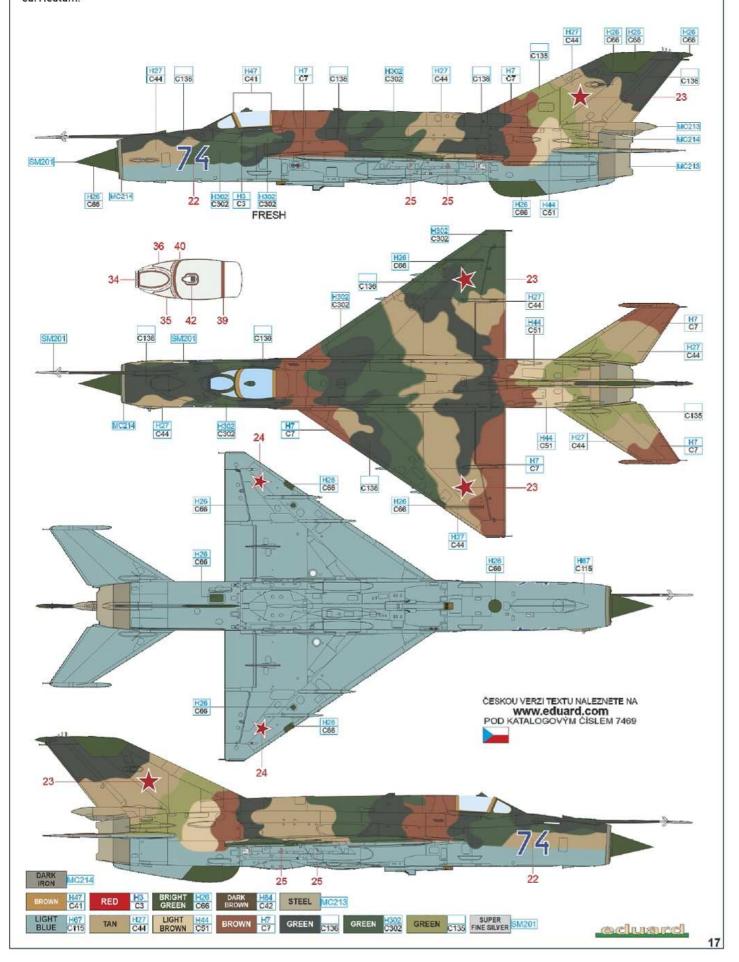
🛕 1 Squadron, 9 Fighter Bomber Air Regiment, Bechyně, Czech Republic, September 1993

MiG-21MF serial number 96002410 was manufactured on June 25, 1975. It flew with the 1 Fighter Air Regiment, 4 Fighter Air Regiment and for a longest time with the 9 Fighter Air Regiment, respectively the 9 Fighter-Bomber Air Regiment. In 1992 the striking colorful markings were applied on this airframe consisting of the white triangle shaded in red and number 9 on the rudder in reverse colors. The stripe in the colors of the Czech tricolore (blue-red-white) was spanning across the wing and widening toward the fuselage. On its ridge it was shaped into an arrow. The "Twenty-ones" painted this way were part of the display unit Delta Team. On September 10, 1993, this MiG flew its last sortie and then flew over to the Plzeň-Líně airport for permanent storage. Consequently, it was struck off the military register and handed over to the depository of the Prague-Kbely Aviation Museum.



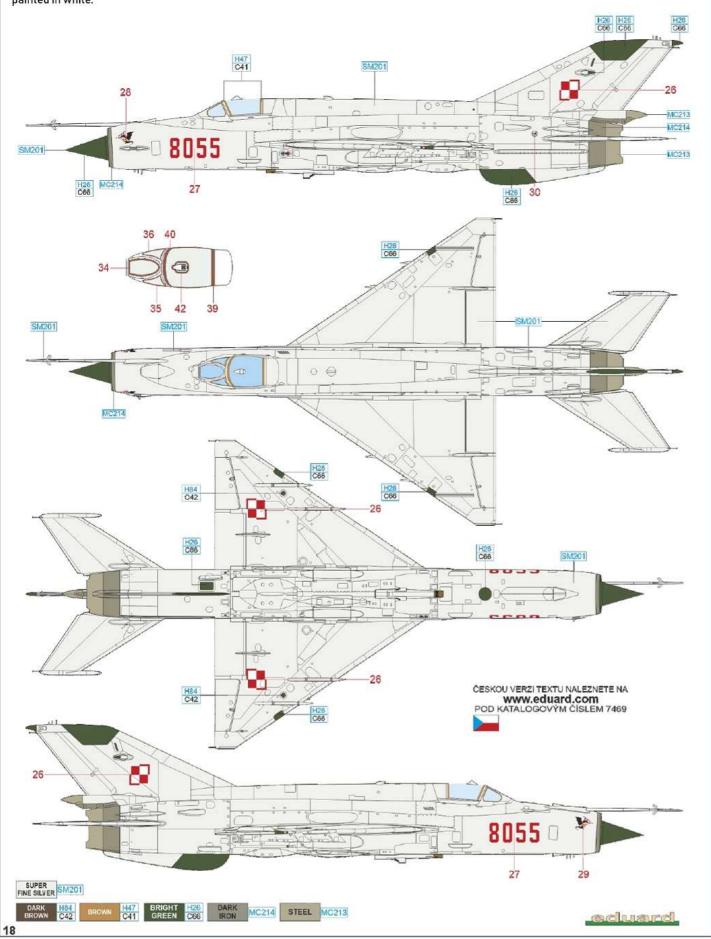
116 CBP (116 Combat Training Center), Privolzhsky, Soviet Union, May 1990

Despite the MiG-21MFs manufactured at Gorky were intended for client states of the Soviet Union several of these aircraft made it into Soviet service, nonetheless. The only unit known to have flown the type was the 116 Combat Training Centre, based at Privolzhsky Air Base, near Astrakhan. The aircraft was camouflaged on the upper surfaces in two shades of green and brown, supplemented by a sand shade. The bottom surfaces were in blue-grey. This unit used the aircraft for combat training of pilots on completion of their basic part of the curriculum.



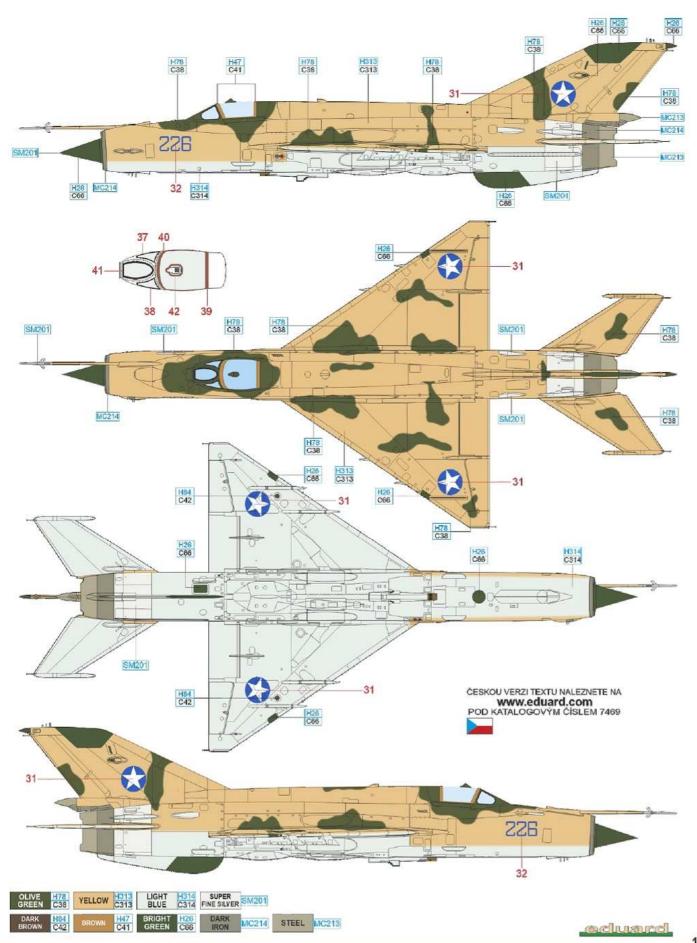
C 10 Pułk Lotnictwa Myśliwskiego, Airport Łask, Poland, 1986–1993

The coloration of MiG-21MF number 8055 reflects the customs from 1980s. On the nose it is decorated with the insignia created in 1986 by the initiative of the 10 Regiment's Headquarters. The regimental insignia adopts its symbolism from the "Cracowian" times and depicts the stylized dragon with hat Krakushka (a part of the Polish national costumes). The dragon also holds the shield with the white-red checkerboard and a yellow light bolt. The insignia was painted on both sides of the aircraft nose. Over the time several modifications appeared differing from each other by small details such as missing eyes, teeth, white mottles painted on the wings or dragon's body painted in white.



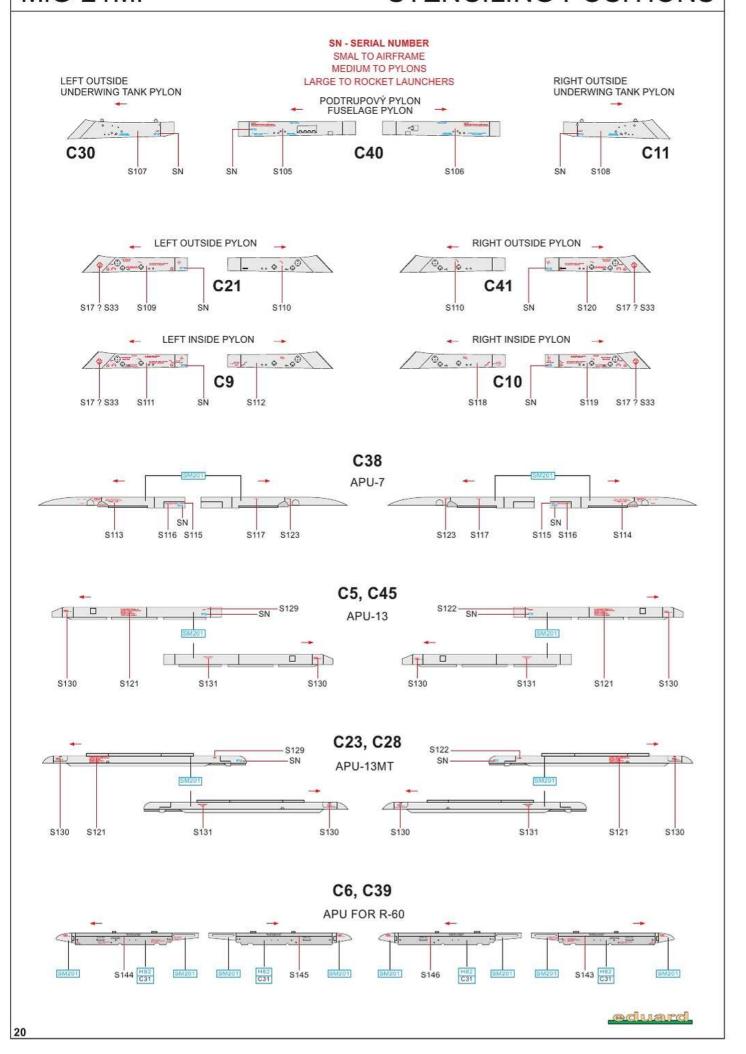
Mogadishu Airport, Somali Air Force, Somalia, 1991

Somali AF MiG-21MFs sported the standard camouflage of the Soviet aircraft delivered to Near East and North Africa – the upper surfaces painted in light sand color with green mottles and lower surfaces in light blue color. The MiG-21MF carrying bort number 226 was among a few survivors of the Ogaden war and was fairly well preserved until the beginning of 1990s. In 1992 the international forces found it abandoned at the Mogadishu airport.



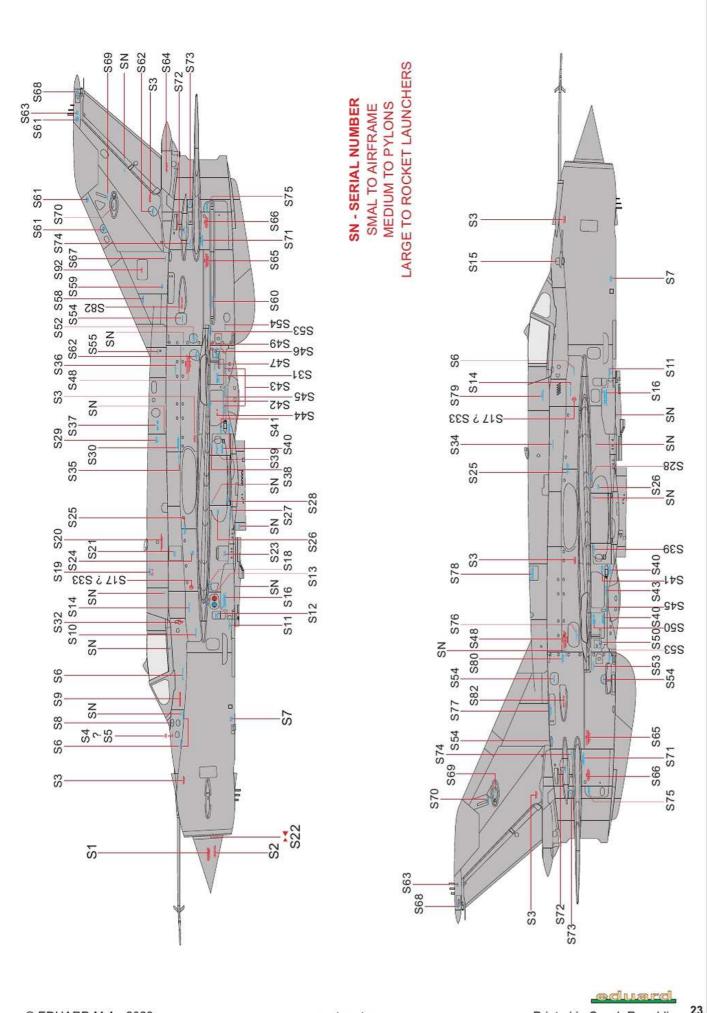
MiG-21MF

STENCILING POSITIONS



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Eduard goodies for MiG-21MF Interceptor 1/72

