

GRUMMAN

Stock No. 8843



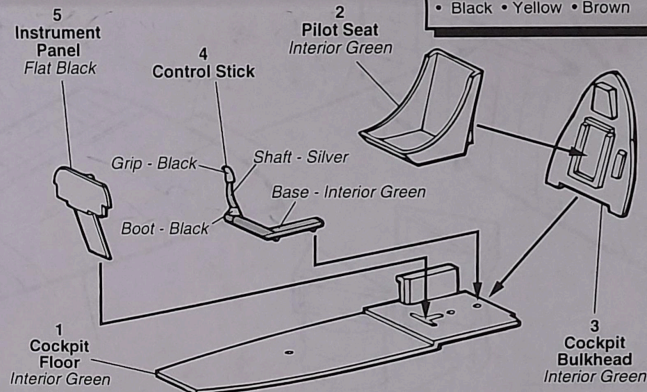
F7F-3

TIGERCAT

1 Cockpit Assembly

Assembly Note:

- 1...Cement Pilot Seat (2) to Cockpit Bulkhead (3).
- 2...Cement Control Stick (4) to Cockpit Floor (1).
- 3...Cement Seat/Bulkhead Assembly to the Cockpit Floor.
- 4...Cement Instrument Panel (5) to Cockpit Floor after the Cockpit Assembly has been cemented into the Fuselage in Step 5.



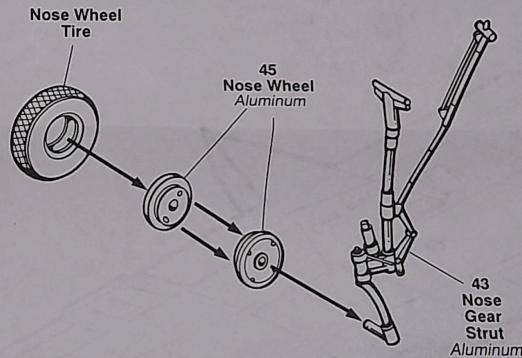
Paint Colors Required For This Model:

- Dark Sea Blue FS-15042
- Interior Green FS-34151
- Olive Drab FS-34087
- White • Aluminum • Gray
- Black • Yellow • Brown

2 Nose Gear Assembly

Assembly Note:

- 1...Cement the two Nose Wheel Halves (45) together.
- 2...Cement the completed Nose Wheel to the Nose Gear Strut (43).
- 3...Slip the Nose Wheel Tire onto the Nose Wheel.
- 4...DO NOT cement Nose Gear Door (44) (not shown) into position until Step 12.

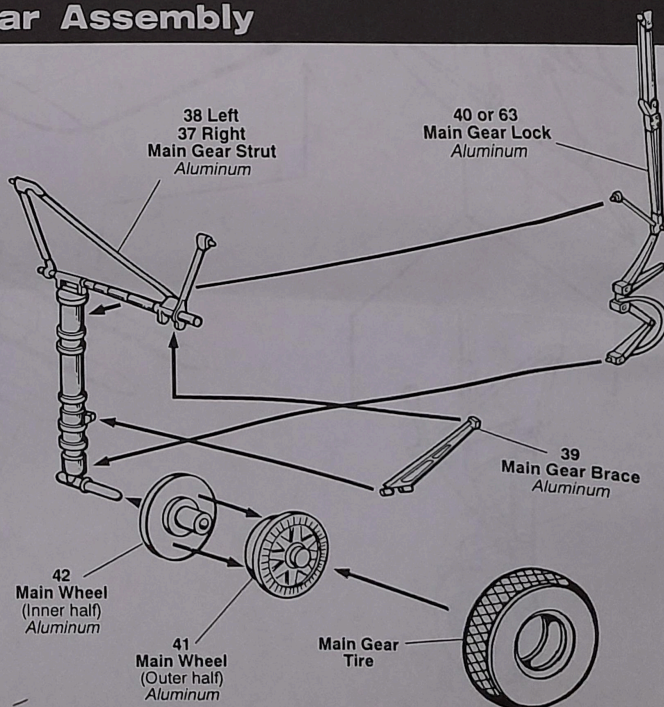


3 Main Gear Assembly

Assembly Note:

The left Main Gear assembly is shown. Construct the right Main Gear in similar manner.

- 1...Cement the Main Wheel halves (41 & 42) together. Make two wheel assemblies.
- 2...Cement completed wheels to the Main Gear Struts (37 & 38).
- 3...Cement a Main Gear Brace (39) to each Main Gear Strut as shown.
- 4...Cement one Main Gear Lock, either (40) or (63), to each Main Gear Strut as shown.
- 5...Push a Main Gear Tire (202) onto each Main Gear Wheel assembly.



4 Fuselage Assembly

Assembly Note:

- 1... Cement Cockpit Assembly from Step 1 to the Fuselage (Right Side)-(14).
- 2... Apply cement to the edges of the Cockpit Assembly where it will contact the Fuselage (Left Side)-(13).
- 3... Cement Fuselage halves (13 & 14) together. You may need to clamp the Fuselage Assembly with rubber bands or clothes pins. Set assembly aside to dry.

14
Fuselage
(Right Side)
Dark Sea Blue

13
Fuselage
(Left Side)
Dark Sea Blue

Interior
Green
(Both Sides)

Cockpit
Assembly

49
Sway
Braces (2)
Dark Sea Blue

5 Wing Assembly

Assembly Note:

- 1...Left wing assembly is shown. Build the right wing in the same manner using the appropriate parts.
- 2...If you are going to hang the bomb and rocket armament as shown in Steps 9 and 10, use your hobby knife to drill open the holes indicated in the illustration.
- 3...Cement Wing (Top left)-(15) to Wing (Bottom left)-(17).
- 4...Cement Wing (Top right)-(16) to Wing (Bottom right)-(18).
- 5...Set both wing assemblies aside to dry thoroughly.

15
Wing
(Top left)
Dark Sea Blue

17
Wing
(Bottom left)
Dark Sea Blue

Drill open these holes
with your hobby knife
to mount bombs and
rockets. See Step 10.

6 Engine Nacelle Assembly

Assembly Note:

- 1...The left Wing/ Nacelle Assembly is shown in this step. Build the right Wing/ Nacelle Assembly using parts (22, 24, & 20) and the right wing.
- 2...Cement Nacelle halves (21 & 23) together.
- 3...Cement the Nacelle Bulkhead (19) between the nacelle halves as indicated.
- 4...When dry, cement nacelle assembly to the wing as shown.

21
Nacelle
Exterior - Dark Sea Blue
Interior - Interior Green

19
Nacelle Bulkhead
Interior Green

Cement landing gear strut
pins here on both nacelle
halves and nacelle roof
when installing gear in
Step 12.

104
Landing Light
Clear

23
Nacelle
Exterior - Dark Sea Blue
Interior - Interior Green

52
Pitot Tube
Silver

103
Leading Edge Light
Clear

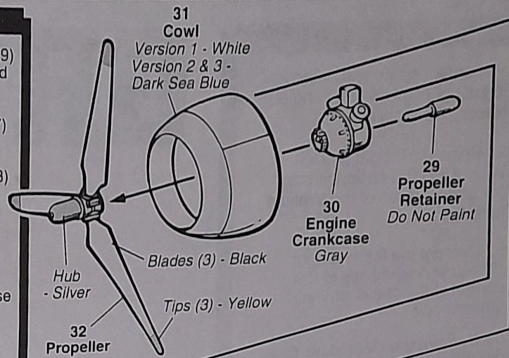
Wing Assembly

51
20mm Wing
Cannons
Gray
(Shown in position)
(Two cannons on each wing)

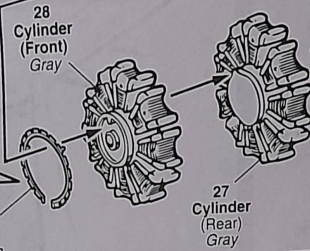
7 Engine Assembly

Assembly Note:

- 1... Place Propeller Retainer (29) through the Crankcase (30) and press into Propeller (32).
- 2... Cement Rear Cylinders (27) to Cowl Flaps (26).
- 3... Cement Front Cylinders (28) to Rear Cylinder/Cowl Flap assembly.
- 4... Cement Cowl (31) to Cylinder/Cowl Flap assembly.
- 5... Cement Propeller/Crankcase assembly to Cylinder/Cowl Flap assembly.
- 6... Repeat Steps 1 thru 5 for second Engine Assembly.



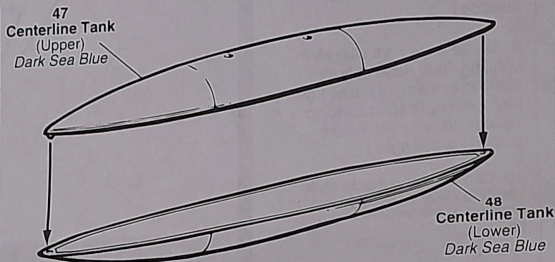
49 Ignition Harness
Aluminum



8 Centerline Tank Assembly

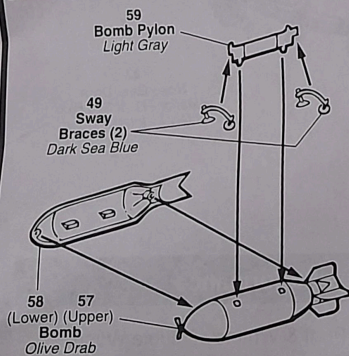
Assembly Note:

- 1... Cement Centerline Tank (Upper half) (47) to Centerline Tank (Lower half) (48).
- 2... Set assembly aside to dry thoroughly.
- 3... Cement two Sway Braces (49) to the top of the Tank Assembly as shown.



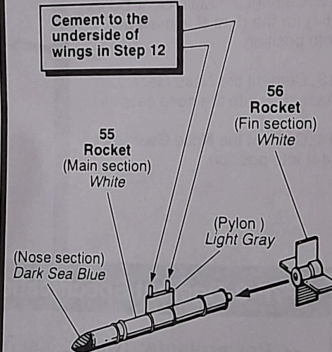
9 Bomb Assembly

Make two of these 1000lb. bomb assemblies.



10 Rocket Assembly

Make eight of these 5" rocket assemblies.

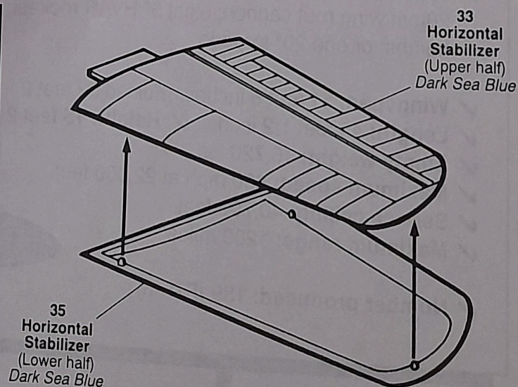


11 Stabilizer Assembly

Assembly Note:

The left Stabilizer assembly is shown at the right. Build the right Stabilizer using parts 34 & 36.

- 1... Cement Stabilizer (Upper half) (33) to Stabilizer (Bottom half) (35).
- 2... Set assembly aside to dry thoroughly.

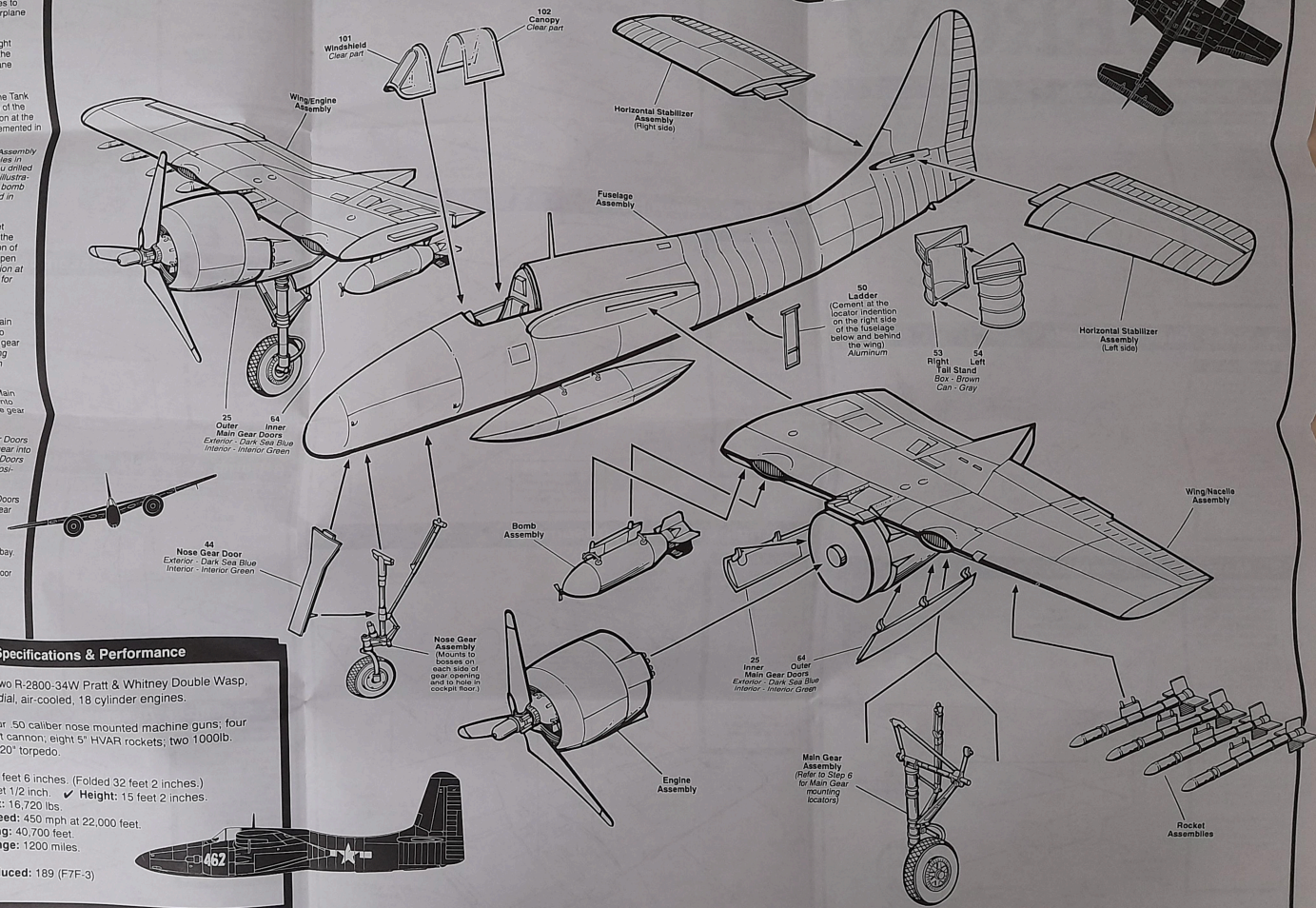


12 Final Assembly

Assembly Note:

1. Cement an Engine Assembly to the right and the left Wing & Nacelle Assemblies.
2. Cement the right and left Wing & Engine Assemblies to the correct sides of the airplane fuselage.
3. Cement the left and right Stabilizer Assemblies to the correct sides of the airplane empennage.
4. Cement the Centerline Tank Assembly to the bottom of the fuselage. (The illustration at the right shows the tank cemented in position.)
5. Cement each Bomb Assembly into position using the holes in the wing root area that you drilled open during Step 6. (The illustration at the right shows the bomb for the right wing cemented in position.)
6. Cement the eight Rocket Assemblies into position in the holes in the outboard section of each wing that you drilled open during Step 6. (The illustration at the right shows the rockets for the right wing cemented in position.)
7. Cement the right side Main Landing Gear Assembly into position in the right nacelle gear bay. (The right Main Landing Gear is shown cemented in position at the right.)
8. Cement the left side Main Landing Gear Assembly into position in the left nacelle gear bay.
9. Cement the Main Gear Doors (25) for the left side main gear into position. (Right Main Gear Doors are shown cemented into position.)
10. Cement the Main Gear Doors (64) for the right side main gear into position.
11. Cement the Nose Gear Assembly into the nose gear bay.
12. Cement the Nose Gear Door (44) into position.

GRUMMAN F7F-3 TIGERCAT



F7F-3 Tigercat Specifications & Performance

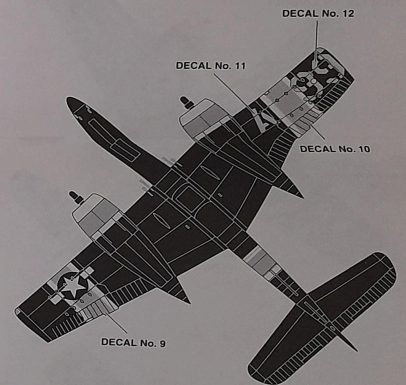
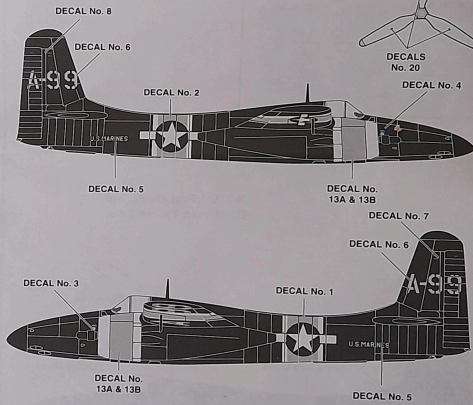
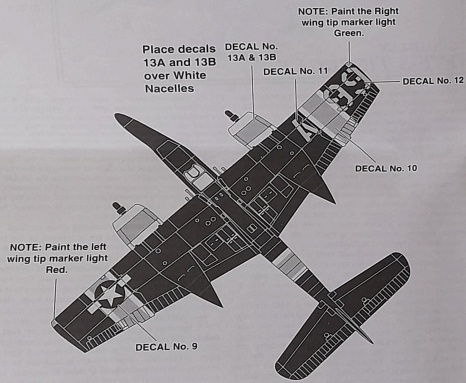
- ✓ **Powerplants:** Two R-2800-34W Pratt & Whitney Double Wasp, 2100 hp, twin radial, air-cooled, 18 cylinder engines.
- ✓ **Armament:** Four .50 caliber nose mounted machine guns; four 20mm wing root cannon; eight 5" HVAR rockets; two 1000lb bombs; or one 20" torpedo.
- ✓ **Wingspan:** 51 feet 6 inches. (Folded 32 feet 2 inches.)
- ✓ **Length:** 45 feet 1/2 inch. ✓ **Height:** 15 feet 2 inches.
- ✓ **Empty weight:** 16,720 lbs.
- ✓ **Maximum speed:** 450 mph at 22,000 feet.
- ✓ **Service ceiling:** 40,700 feet.
- ✓ **Maximum range:** 1200 miles.
- ✓ **Number produced:** 189 (F7F-3)

1 F7F-3 BuNo. 80405
VMF-312
October 1946

NOTE: Paint Aircraft Sea Blue Gloss Overall except: Nacelles and Cowl Flaps (White).

NOTE: Propellers are Black with Yellow Tips.

NOTE: See other side for decal application instructions.

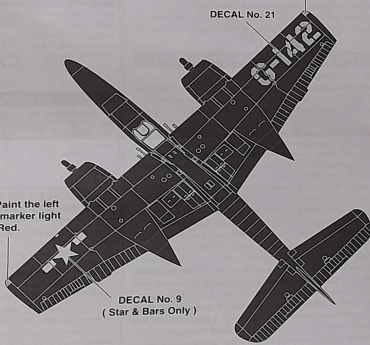


2 F7F-3 BuNo. 80524
US Marine Corps
June 1946

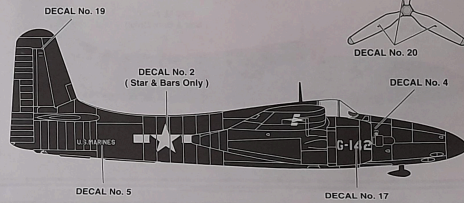
NOTE: Paint the aircraft
Sea Blue Gloss Overall.

NOTE: Paint the Right
wing tip marker light
Green.

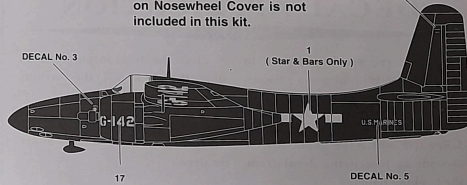
NOTE: Paint the left
wing tip marker light
Red.



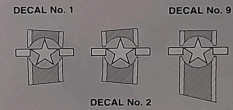
NOTE: Propellers are
Black with Yellow Tips.



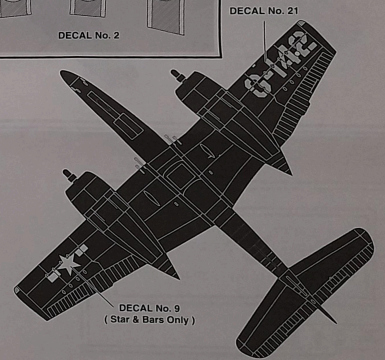
NOTE: ADF Antenna shown
on Nosewheel Cover is not
included in this kit.



NOTE: Separate Stars & Bars from
Bands on DECALS No. 1, No. 2 and
both No. 9's.



NOTE: See other side
for decal application
instructions.



3 F7F-3 BuNo. 80462
Delivery Scheme
US Navy 1945

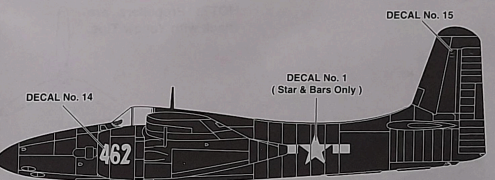
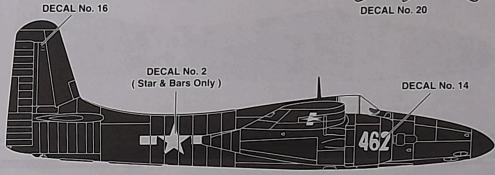
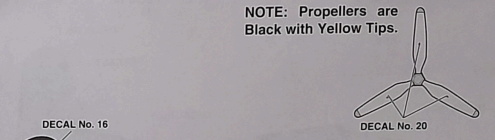
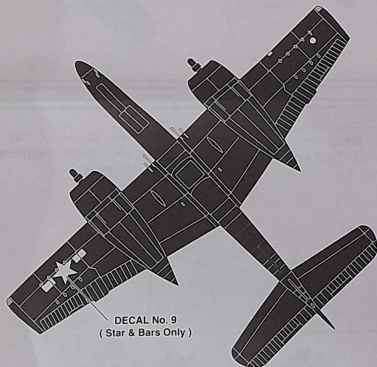
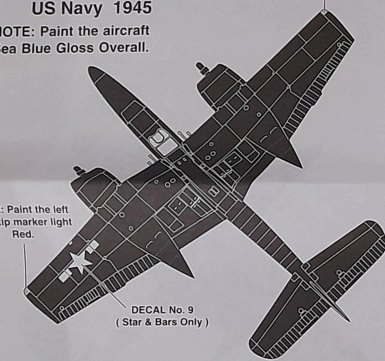
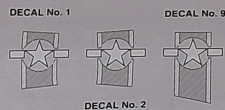
NOTE: Paint the aircraft
Sea Blue Gloss Overall.

NOTE: Paint the Right
wing tip marker light
Green.

NOTE: Paint the left
wing tip marker light
Red.

NOTE: Separate Stars & Bars from
Bands on DECALS No. 1, No. 2 and
both No. 9's.

NOTE: See below for decal
application instructions.



GRUMMAN F7F-3 TIGERCAT

Extensive analysis of weapons and tactics made by U.S. military observers in the early days of WWII caused the U.S. armed forces to seriously re-evaluate not just their current generation of combat aircraft, but those in design and prototype stages as well. Grumman's XF5F Skyrocket design of 1938, while ultimately unsuccessful (also losing out to the XF-50 in USMC competition to the XF-58), had a number of powerful arguments in favor of its then radical twin-engine configuration: Enhanced safety with two engines, greater speed, longer range, heavier weapons load. Rapid progress in virtually every aspect of aircraft and powerplant design brought on by the war soon made the XF5F obsolete, as did the technical problems which plagued its 4 1/2 year test life. Grumman used its experience with the aircraft well and, when it proposed a more modern, more powerful twin-engine, bicycle-gear fighter to the U.S. Navy, the Navy enthusiastically approved the project, designated the XF7F.

Major changes were instituted early on as wind tunnel tests indicated a need change from a mid-wing design to a shoulder-mounted configuration. In addition, the engines were changed from Wright R-2600's to the classic Pratt & Whitney R-2800. Also, the original requirement for counter-rotating props was dropped. On November 2, 1943, the first prototype flew, featuring large spinners over the propellers. Flight testing indicated a tendency to flat spin and thus intentional spins were prohibited. Continued testing indicated that a revised tail would improve stability and control. This taller tail was incorporated into the -3 production version. Problems with the Y-shaped frame tailhook resulted in the F7F being rated as "unsatisfactory for carrier landings." Thus, Tigercats were to be assigned to shore-based Marine units.

Early in the production run Grumman was directed by the Navy to modify a -1 airframe into a -2 configuration. Most F7F-2's were delivered as night fighters. 2Ns. A Marine night-fighter unit equipped with 2Ns, VMF(N)-521, was at sea near the island of Guam when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Upon unloading, they flew to Okinawa, serving the day before the end of the war. Following the war, F7F-2Ns flew several reconnaissance patrols in Okinawa, staying until early 1947.

The F7F-3 was the most-produced version of the Tigercat with some 250 being produced, most having the taller tail. At least one -3 (BuNo80472) was delivered to the USAAF for testing. Ultimate disposition of this aircraft is unknown. The -3 had significantly improved performance, with a top speed of 450 mph @ 21,500 feet and 420 mph @ sea level. Range was 1900 miles on internal fuel.

The Tigercat presents an amazing visual contrast. When looked at from the side you are impressed by the height, length and size of the beast - from the top by the wide expanse of wing. But from the "business end" you are overtaken by its razor-thin fuselage dwarfed on either side by the massively powerful R-2800 engines. One can only wonder about its impact on the war had it been a year earlier.

Your AMT kit represents the day-fighter version of the F7F-3. Markings are provided for three aircraft: #482, a production and test scheme; G-142, from an unidentified Marine unit in 1946; and A-99, a colorful instrument flight trainer from Hedron One circa 1946-47. In addition to the fine scribing and impressive level of detail throughout, AMT has provided soft vinyl tires which feature an amazing level of tread pattern detail. We hope you enjoy your Tigercat kit and encourage you to take a look AMT's other exciting aircraft kits.



IMPORTANT

Before you begin to assemble your model kit, study the instructions carefully. This will help you to familiarize yourself with the part locations as you proceed. Prior to cementing parts together, be sure to "TEST FIT" them in order to assure proper alignment and also to check for excess "FLASH" that may occur along parting lines. Use a sharp hobby knife or file to remove flash if necessary.

If you wish to paint your model, various sub-assemblies and components should be painted before any parts are attached. During assembly, you may note that the recommended color is stated after the part name.

This model kit is molded from the finest high-impact styrene plastic. Use only paints and cements which are specifically formulated for styrene. Read all labels and warnings carefully.

Because the cement will only adhere to bare plastic, it is necessary to remove any paint or "plating" from the area to which the cement is to be applied.

BUILDING TIPS FOR THE ADVANCED MODELER

For the best possible finish, your kit should be painted, even if molded in color. Paint should be applied evenly, in several thin coats rather than one heavy coat. The first coat should not completely cover the surface. Each layer should be allowed to thoroughly dry before the next is applied.

It is important to keep your hands clean when working with your model and wash parts thoroughly before painting to remove any mold release agent that may have been used during manufacture, body oil from your hands, sanding residue, and dust, which is naturally attracted to plastic by static electricity. Use a mild solution of dishwashing detergent and water. A tack rag should be used to dry the parts. DO NOT use paper towels or tissues, since they will leave lint on the part.

Parting lines and glue joints should be sanded or filed prior to painting. Because paint has a tendency to draw away from sharp edges, they should be lightly filed. Use filler putty designed for plastic to fill small gaps that may occur between parts and to blend contours. This should be done only after the first, or "primer," coat of paint is applied. When painting a multi-color scheme, the lightest color should be painted first. Use frosted, or "magic," tape to mask off the area you do not want painted. After the second color is dry to the touch, the tape can be removed. Use a very fine brush to touch up edges if necessary. If decals are to be added, do so before adding any gloss coat. A gloss coat will help even out the edges between the two colors as well as set the decal.

NOTE: The United States military services use standardized colors known as Federal Standard or FS colors. Each Color receives a specific five digit identification number. Grays, for instance, are all 600, and gloss paints begin with a 1, semi-gloss 2, Flat 3. Thus a gray color can be gloss (16251), semi-gloss (26251) or flat (36251).

RECOMMENDED TOOLS

- HOBBY KNIFE**
Use a sharp hobby knife to remove parts from the trees. The knife may also be used to remove parting lines and flash.
- TWEEZERS**
Use tweezers to hold small parts during assembly, painting and when applying cement.
- BRUSH**
We recommend the use of liquid polystyrene cement. Apply with a Fine brush. Use sparingly or a sloppy job will result.

READ ALL LABELS AND WARNINGS CAREFULLY

We take great pride in providing the finest model kits available, giving strong attention to detail and craftsmanship. Should you have any difficulty with assembly or missing parts, please call the appropriate number listed below between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm central time, Monday through Friday.

In the U.S.A., call toll free
1-800-553-4836
Outside of the United States call
1-319-872-2000
Please visit the ERTL Company for a free tour of the AMT production facilities in Dyersville, Iowa. Tours Daily - Reservations suggested. Call (319) 872-5899

DECAL APPLICATION

- 1: Choose the decals you want to put on your kit and use a scissors to cut it from the decal sheet.
- 2: Dip the decal in a cup of lukewarm water for about fifteen seconds to loosen the decal from the backing paper.
- 3: Place the decal in position and slide the decal off the backing paper and onto the model.
- 5: Use a soft, damp cloth to gently rub away any water bubbles under the decal.

The ERTL COMPANY, Inc.
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Dyersville, Iowa 52040 - 0500