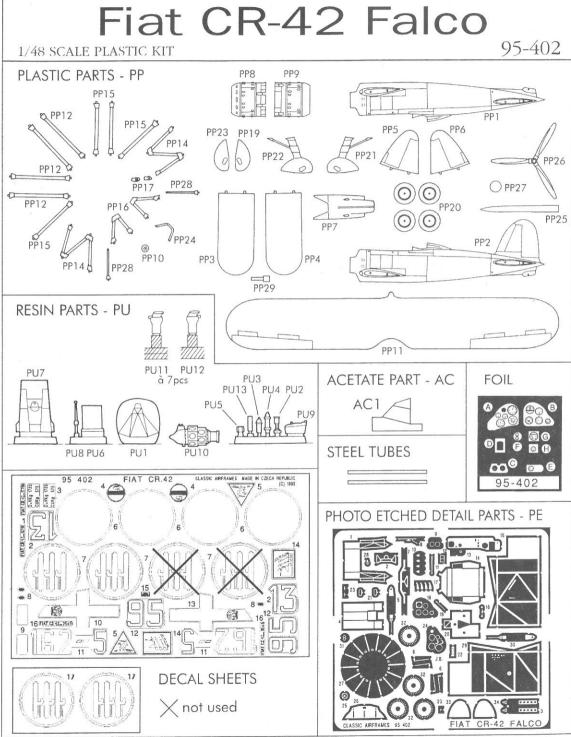




Classic Airframes









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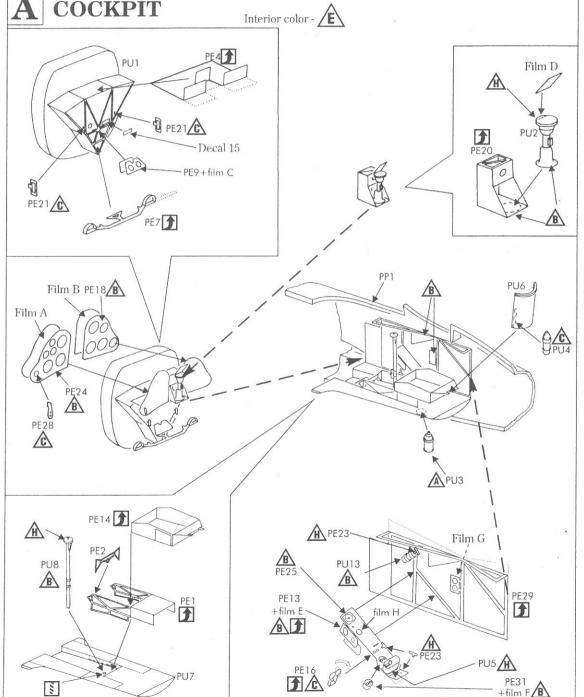


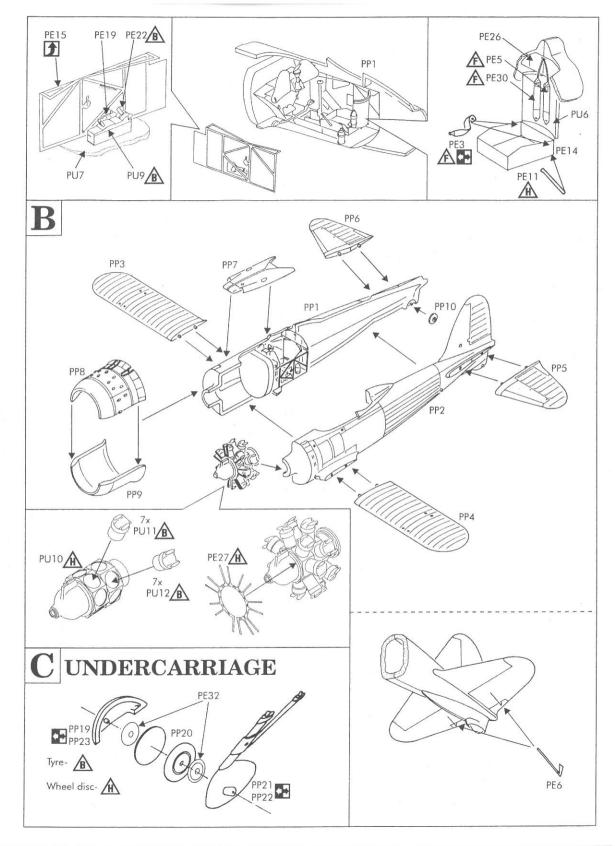




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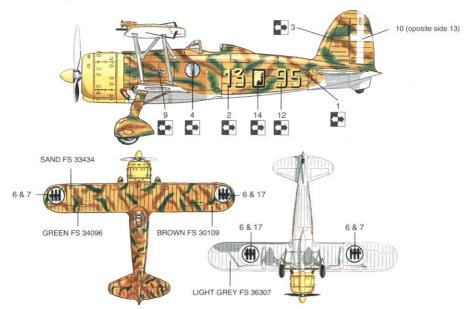




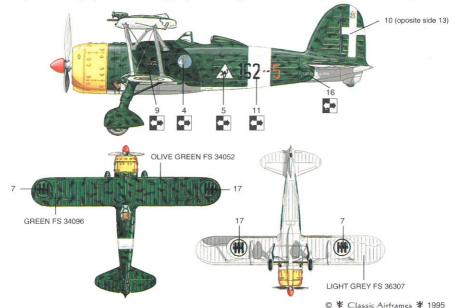
FIAT CR.42

PAINTING & MARKING GUIDE

A. CR.42, 83^a Sqd., 18° Gruppo, 3° Stormo, Belgium, Autumn 1940.



A. CR.42, 162^a Sqd., 161° Gruppo, the Aegean theatre, Isle of Scarpanto.



FIAT CR.42

The Fiat CR.42 was the last biplane fighter to be manufactured during the Second World War. Entering service with the Regia Aeronautica in late 1939, the plane was praised by its pilots for its exceptional maneuverability and flying characteristics.

However the nimble CR.42 was a classic example of pushing a good idea too far. Italy's experience with its predecessor, the CR.32 during the Spanish Civil War had been outstanding. It led to the flawed conclusion that the biplane fighter was still an effective weapon. It was to be the last of Celestino Rosatelli's biplane fighters.

The CR.42 was structurally very similar to its predecessor, a combination of metal and fabric skinning on the fuselage, with fabric covered flying surfaces. It was powered by one 840 h.p. Fiat A 74 R.C. 38 fourteen-cylinder radial air-cooled engine. Armament, two 12.7 mm Breda-SAFAT machine guns with 400 r.p.g.

Several other nations purchased the CR.42. Hungary ordered 52, these being employed primarily in the home-defence role, they also briefly participated in the opening stage of Barbarossa. Belgium ordered 34, in May 1940 these Fiats were the first to see action, albeit on the allied side, about half of them were destroyed on the ground and the survivors played little part in the fighting over Belgium. Sweden ordered 72 aircraft and these served until 1945, a few were employed as target tugs.

The Regia Aeronautica used the CR.42 as part of it's contribution in the Battle of Britain, but over the Channel, facing modern fighters, lacking even radio equipment, its obsolescence was exposed and it was quickly withdrawn. However in the more primitive conditions found over the Balkans, Africa, the Mediterranean and Middle East, the CR.42 soldiered on as fighter-bomber, night-fighter and bomber escort.

The end of the war found the CR.42 in the hands of the Luftwaffe, used as anti-partisan and night-ground-attack fighter, over the Balkans.

Technical data: Power Plant one 840 h.p. Fiat A 74 R.C. 38

Span 31' 9 3/4'' Length 27' 2 3/4''

Max. speed 267 mph at 16405 ft.

Range 481 miles

Armament two 12.7 mm Breda-SAFAT machine guns

For additional technical and operational details, we recommend: Nicola Malizia's IL FIAT CR.42 (1977) Aircraft in Profile The Fiat CR.42 Doubleday (1969) La Bancarella Aeronautica (1995)

A SPECIAL THANKS MUST GO TO "LA BANCARELLA AERONAUTICA" PUBLISHING HOUSE OF TORINO FOR THEIR HELP IN PREPARING THIS KIT.

