In early 1941, Saab and the aircraft designer Frid Wänström accompanied by his team, started the study of a new fighter for the Swedish Airforce. This new fighter utilized the powerful German engine DB 605B as a pusher mounted between twin booms. The pushing propeller however, created a need for the designers to develop an ejection seat, which made the J21 one of the first fighter aircraft in production to be fitted with an ejection seat.

The J21 was Sweden's first fighter aircraft with "tricycle landing gear". The heavy armament of one 20mm cannon was mounted in the nose together with two 13mm machine guns, and two 13mm machine guns were mounted in the wings. This provided several key advantages.

The first J21A took flight in July 1943 with SAAB chief test pilot Claes Smith at the controls which was followed by operational service into late 1945.

A total of 297 J21 aircrafts fitted with the V-12 engine were delivered from 1945 in 3 versions, 21A-1, A-2 and A-3. This kit depicts the J21A-3 version which utilized updated machine guns and a cannon made from Bofors. The updated J-21 also carried rockets and bombs and included other updates.

The performance on the V-12 powered J21 was generally good with very tight turning circle on low altitudes while featuring heavy and concentrated firepower from the massive guns. Limitations were with poor rearward visibility and heavy controls, making air combat tiring.

The SAAB J 21A was phased out from service after 1954 with most of the airforce aircrafts being replaced with the jet-powered deHavilland J28 Vampire and SAAB J29 Flying Barrel.
How to read the instructions.

This is the plastic part number → 1 1 ← This is the recommended color

Remember that the colors of the aircraft are depending on age and wear. These color recommendations gives the builder an idea about the level of tint. It is important to have a gloss or semi-gloss surface to get the best result when applying the decals. Apply another coat of appropriate varnish after decal application.

Please visit www.pilot-replicas.com or our facebook page pilot-replicas for reference pictures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pilot replica color code</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Tamiya</th>
<th>FS595</th>
<th>Humbrol</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Blue-Gray</td>
<td>XF-66</td>
<td>36329</td>
<td>HU124</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Dark Green</td>
<td>XF-61</td>
<td>34096</td>
<td>HU116</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>HU33</td>
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<td>HU62</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tan</td>
<td>XF-24</td>
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<td>HU237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional photoetched parts

Add 20 gram (0.7 ounce) of ballast here to prevent plane from tipping backwards.
Optional PE parts

The colors could vary. See colors & marking instructions.

Optional PE part

in landing gear well

in landing gear wells

Wingtip tanks are optional
Remember that the colors of the aircraft are depending on age and wear. These color recommendations gives the builder an idea about the level of tint.

- Close FS number: 34096
  - Close Tamiya: XF-61
  - Close Humbrol: 116

- Close FS number: 36329
  - Close Tamiya: XF-66
  - Close Humbrol: 124

21377 "Blå Cesar"
In service at 2nd division F15 wing in Söderhamn from August 1950 to December 1952.
National insignias on the top of the wings were aside from the other national insignias not painted at the SAAB factory. Some of the J21 had their national insignias on top of the wings painted at their squadrons. This is probably the cause of having them slightly rotated against each other which was not common. See our profile below.

21394 “Röd Martin”
In service at 1st division F12 wing in Kalmar from November 1950 to February 1952.
21397 "Gul Petter"
In service at 3rd division F9 wing at Säve from December 1948 to March 1951.

According to an maintenance engineer, the delivery color of the spinner was black brown. Propeller blades were black according to the same source. Black green has also been discussed as spinner color since this was the usual VDM manner of painting spinner and propeller blades and can be seen on Bf 109 (some versions of which used the same engine and propeller as the J21).