MITSUBISHI ZERO FIGHTER (A6M3)



MITSUBISHI A6M3 ZERO-SEN TYPE 22 (ZEKE)

HISTORY

As the successes of the Japanese Zero-Sen mounted, attention was given toward improving its already impressive performance. As a fighting machine, the Zero-Sen was tops and in nearly every engagement it was emerging as the superior aircraft. It was clear that the Allies would not be long in introducing newer and better types which would eclipse the Zero-Sen's superiority. The first A6M3 had a shortened wingspan with clipped wingtips, but less than a year later the full span folding tips were reinstated and additional fuel tanks were added. With these features and a supercharged engine, the Zero-Sen still maintained a slight edge over its Allied opponants as the Model 22. In this form it became the basic Japanese naval fighter. The Model 22 replaced the short winged Model 32 early in 1942 and 560 of the type were built by Mitsubishi before even more advanced Zero-Sens began to fill the war-clouded skies.

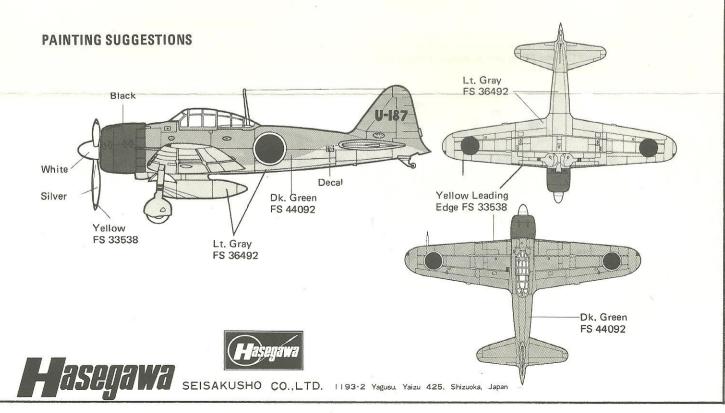
CHARACTERISTICS

Wingspan: 39 feet 4½ inches Length: 29 feet 9 inches

Powerplant: One Nakajima Sakae 21 fourteen cylinder 1,130 hp engine

Maximum Speed: 334 mph at 16,500 feet

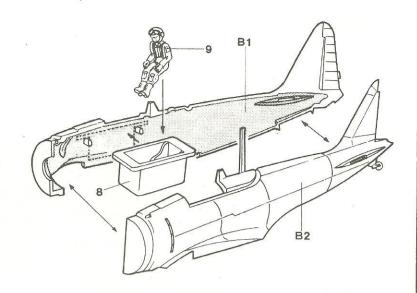
Armament: Two 7.7 mm Type 97 machine guns, two 20 mm Type 99 cannons and two 66 lb or 132 lb bombs

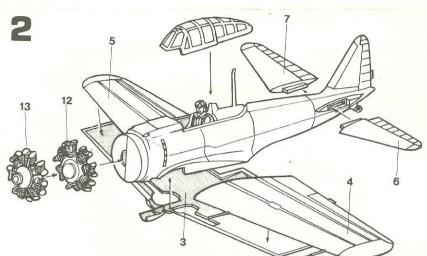


Cement pilot figure (9) into seat in cockpit (8) and cement cockpit to right fuselage side (B1). Cement left fuselage side (B2) to right side.

All interior surfaces are Metallic Blue (Cockpit, wheel wells, etc.)







Cement clear canopy over cockpit. Cement upper wing halves (4 and 5) to lower wing section (3) and cement wing to fuselage. Cement stabilizers (6 and 7) to fuselage as shown. Cement engine front (13) to engine rear (12) and cement engine to fuselage.

Engine = Dk, Gray front Black cylinders

Cement exhaust stacks (19) to cowling (15) and cement cowling to fuselage. Cement spinner (18) to propeller (17) and cement propeller to engine. Place wheel (22) over axle on gear strut (21). Cement gear door (25) to strut, trapping wheel. Cement gear into right wheel well and cement small door (23) in place as shown. Repeat with parts (20, 22, 23 and 24) for left gear. Cement inner gear doors (26 and 27) to well as shown. Cement fuel tank halves (28 and 29) together and to fuselage. Cement arresting hook (35) in place as shown.

