

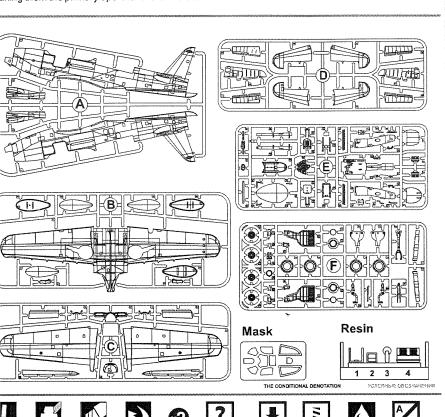
Bell P-63C Kingcobra

The P-63 KINGCOBRA fighters were developed from some of the generated during the XP-39E RACOBRA project. Production for P-63 aircraft began in 1943, and the first examples were diversed in october of that year.

The Soviet Union AF was in dire need offighter aircraft and were already a prime operator of the 39 series. The P-63 seemed like another good match for the VVS RKKA arsenal and, with input im Soviet test-pilot A Kochetkov, the P-63 Kingcobra was modified for the better and ultimately ipped to the Soviet Union from Nome, Alaska, to be used solely against Japanese forces in the ist. Despite this "agreement" on the part of the USSR, P-63 air groups were set up in the West to ttle the Germany.

The P-63 exelled in the ground attack role, providing for adequate low flying characteristics and a ncentrated dose of lethal armament making them ideal tank busters. Engaging and downing lemy fighters also something of a rarity but still possible.

Soviet use of the P-63 amounted to over 72% of all Kingcobras produced (3303 were built), aking them the primary operator of the aircraft.



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