

United Airlines flew the venerable Douglas DC-6 well into the jet age. This decal depicts the final scheme worn by United's DC-6 fleet before being replaced by jets. United operated several DC-6s, DC-6Bs, and seven DC-6A Cargoliners in it's 96-strong fleet. The majority of them being the DC-6B version.

After assembly of the model, start by painting the entire fuselage gloss white. Mask off and paint the lower belly, and wings in natural baremetal. Use the copy of the gold stripe (provided below) as a guide to mask off for the bare-metal areas. Paint the areas on the wings and under the tail gray according to the drawings on the opposite side. The horizontal stabilizers should be natural-metal as well.

Before beginning to apply the decals, decide which version of the DC-6 you wish to model. Start by applying the stripe for the front section first. Then, apply the aft stripe according to the series you wish to model. If you are building the DC-6A Cargoliner apply the "DC-6A" logo to the tail as well. Leave off all the windows but the "Emergency Exit" on each side, which is the 5th window in the second section. Notice that the gold stripe does not continuously wrap around the nose. It is cut off by the nose-gear-bay doors. Apply the small fleet number to the nose-gear doors. Door outlines were not mandated by the FAA until 1966, so feel free to leave them off if you wish to model a plane of an earlier era. Apply the smaller white stripes over the black once it has completely dried. Apply other decal parts as shown in the drawings and as indicated on the decal sheet. This scheme had no markings on the wings, top or bottom.

Registrations ran consecutively from N37501 to N37596. The break-down according to the type was as follows:

N37501-N37546 DC-6 N37547-N37589 DC-6B Mainliner N37590-N37596 DC-6A Cargoliner

The fleet number is determined by taking the last 3 digits of the registration number and placing a 6 in front of it. For ex. the fleet number for N37596 is 6596. Using the two train of numbers on the decal sheet you should be able to model any DC-6 operated by United.