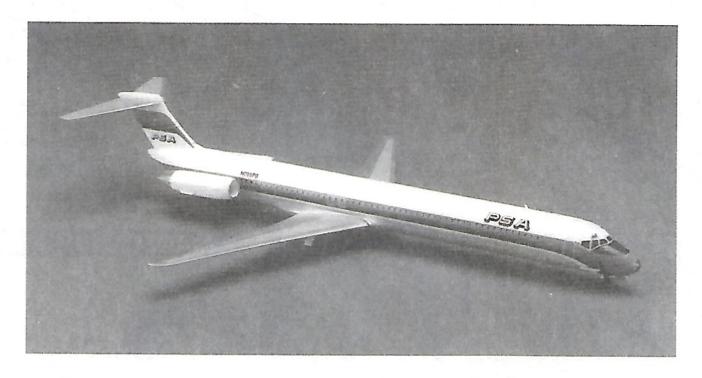
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST AIRLINES in 1/144 scale MD-80





As aviation progressed through the 1930's, many aircraft manufacturers could see a bright future for personal aircraft, such as Pipers, Cessna and Luscombes. Even giants such as Lockheed, Republic and North American envisioned small, sport-type private planes. Popular magazines featured futuristic scenarios with dad flying off to work, and Mom hopping into her own helicopter for a trip to the supermarket. These same magazines carried advertisements for flight training schools, and when World War II broke out, these schools began training pilots and mechanics for the war effort. Looking toward the future, they felt they were in the perfect position to teach the post war generation of private pilots. However, following the end of the war, pilots were plentiful. Surplus airplanes were inexpensive enough that the proposed new generation of "everybody's airplanes" were not built. This also meant few new students for the schools. For one group of flight instructors in San Diego, California, it was clear that to survive, they must re-examine their position. Since they could fly, why not fly people, instead of train them? Friedkin Aeronautics, based at Lindbergh Field, already had a charter service, so they set out to develop a commuter airline service between San Diego and San Francisco. As Pacific Southwest Airlines, the group leased a surplus DC-3, and having acquired an unused ex-Marine building for ticketing and check-in, service began on May 6,1949. The fare was \$15.00!

Within seven months a second plane was added. In 1951, still with two DC-3s, PSA showed a modest profit. Two more planes were added in 1952, and two years later these were replaced with two DC-4s. The added capacity helped

increase the profit and soon two more DC-4s went into service. These planes were ideal for the route structure that consisted of San Diego, Los Angeles, Burbank and San Francisco. The passenger base was formed of business people who relied on PSA's reliable service. The addition of three Lockheed turboprop Electras in 1959 brought the little airline into the jet age, and soon five 727-100 jets joined the fleet. In 1980, with the addition of a dozen MD-80s, PSA's route was extended to Mexican resort cities and Arizona.

PSA was noted for its humor. Flight attendants wore sleek, attractive outfits, but are best remembered for jokes they played on themselves and the passengers. They often decorated the cabins with streamers and passed out party hats, or told a passenger that they had a phone call, and then plugged the cord into the overhead air conditioning nozzle. When the passenger complained he could not hear, the attendant yelled "Gotcha" to the delight of the other passengers. One attendant was often stuffed into the overhead baggage compartment, and when a passenger opened the door was greeted with "Sorry, occupied". There really was a reason for the famous PSA smile on their new planes.

In December 1986, USAir purchased PSA and Piedmont Airlines. In 1988, PSA's smile was replaced by the more conservative USAir schemes, and on April 8, 1988 the colorful Pacific Southwest Airlines faded entirely into the California sunset.

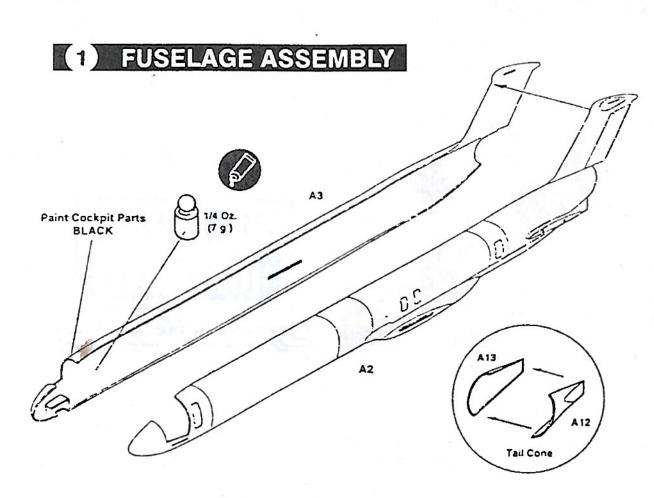






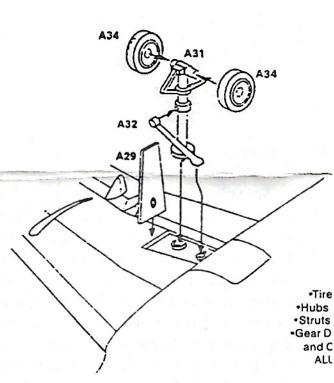


2 ENGINES

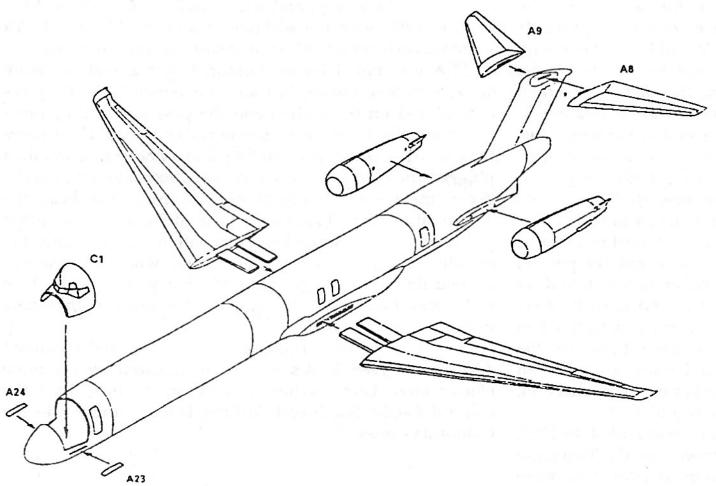




5 MAIN LANDING GEAF



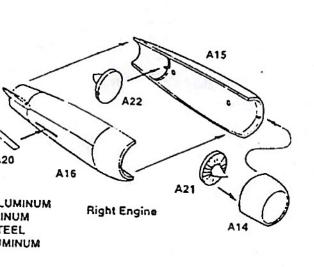
(4) MAIN COMPONENT ASSMBLY

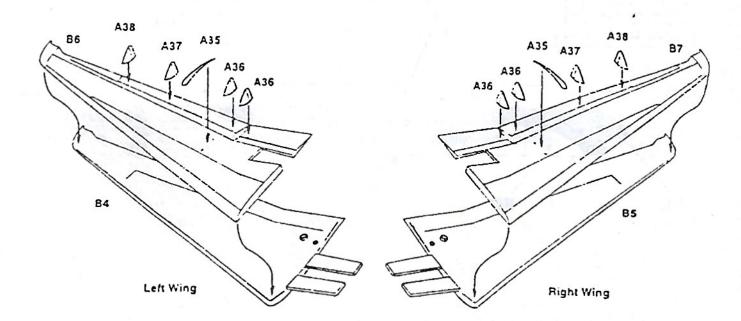


6 NOSE LAND

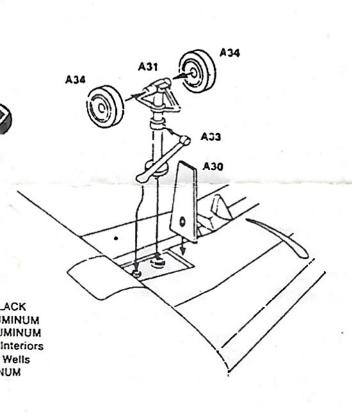


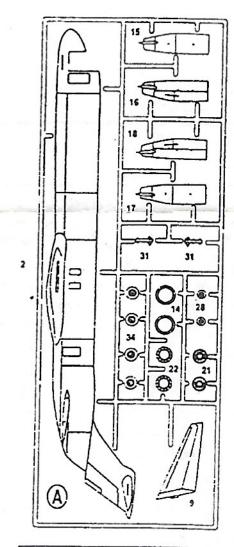
(3) WINGS

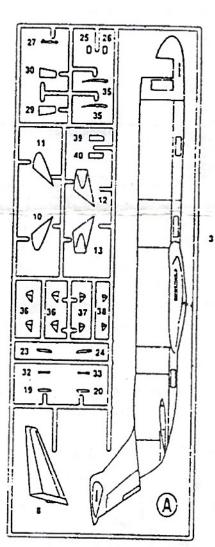




PARTS LAYOUT DIAGRAM







C1

IG GEAR

