

De Havilland Twin Otter "Dutch Antilles"

Windward Islands Airways (WIA) / Winair St. Maarten

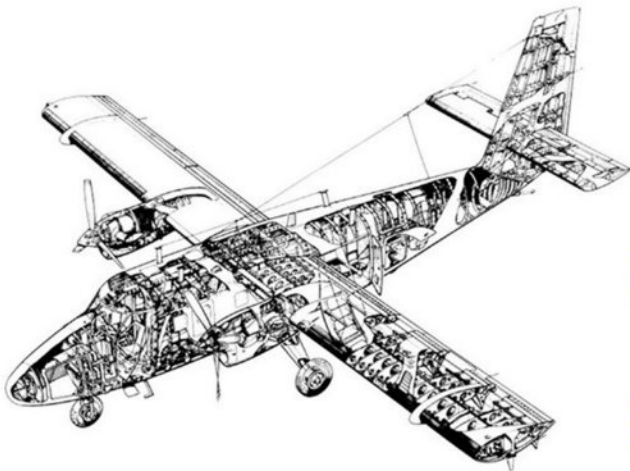
The De Havilland Canada DHC-6 Twin Otter was designed as a 19 passenger STOL (Short Take-off and Landing) utility aircraft at De Havilland Canada. First flight was May 1965 and it was fitted with Pratt and Whitney PT-6A engines which later proved to be reliable engines.

The Twin Otter could be fitted with wheels, skis as well as large floats. Some different noses could be fitted that could be turned open and usually had electrical systems fitted and could accommodate some luggage.

It was an excellent aircraft that could be flown in difficult circumstances and by bush pilots. The type was widely used in particularly North America.

Nearly a 1,000 Twin Otters were manufactured (including "Viking air" made aircraft after 2006).

Wing span 65 ft (19,81 m)
Length -100 version 49 ft 6 in (15,09 m) and -300/400 version 51 ft 9 in (15,77 m).



KITS

In 1/72 scale Matchbox released in 1983 a Twin Otter kit #40127 that was also released later by Revell Germany kit #04901 / #03954. In the kit parts for the short -100 nose and the longer -300/400 nose is provided.

DECALS SYSTEM

The laser printed decal sheet has ONE continuous print film, so EACH decal needs cutting out with fine scissors. No other prior decal preparation is needed.

Note that a decal that contains a white section is often split in two sections. To apply the full decal marking, first set the white decal section at correct position and on top of that the coloured section. On the decals sheet you will often see an "arrow" to indicate this way of application (on white surfaces, the white section is optional).

Each cut out decal can be applied as usual after soaking it a short while in water. Decals are EXTREMELY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on the model surface. Do not use tweezers! They will fold doubled!

Some tiny white borders may appear at a particular decal. Cut these off with fine scissors or over paint.

After all decals have been applied, finish the model with your preferred final gloss or semi-matt varnish coats. This will also protect the decals.

REFERENCES:

Internet websites:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_Havilland_Canada_DHC-6_Twin_Otter

See for a few Twin Otter models website:

<https://aircraftinplastic.com/models/twin-otter/twin-otter-1.htm>

On internet it is very easy to find photos by searching twin otter + registration PJ-...

For latest WIA paint schemes, please see aircraftinplastic.com AIP-123 decals sheet.

Dutch Antilles

Six islands in the Caribbean are part of the Kingdom of The Netherlands since first Dutch settlers arrived from The Netherlands/ Holland and a Colony was established in the 17th Century. The Dutch West Indies Trading Company was set up.

The islands are Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao in the Leeward Antilles off the coast of Venezuela and the smaller islands Saba, St.Eustatius ("Statia") and St.Maarten ("Sint Maarten") in the Windward Antilles. On the Windward Antilles the official languages are English and Dutch and on the lower Leeward islands Dutch and Papiamentu.

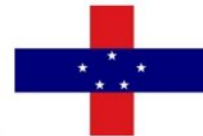
The islands after the Second World War were referred to as The Netherlands Antilles. In 1986 Aruba got bigger independence as "country" within the Kingdom and in 2010 Curaçao and St.Maarten also became "countries" as well and Bonaire, Saba and St.Eustatius became special Dutch Municipalities.

Aviation in the Dutch Antilles started already in the 1930s with a large role of Dutch **KLM** Airlines that started local flight services on routes between the islands and neighbouring regions. The main airport was Hato at Curaçao.

The Dutch Antilles were important during the Second World War as oil refineries on Aruba and Curaçao provided refined oil products and particularly aircraft fuel for the Allies. These were shipped with tankers that were under constant threat of German U-boats.

Particularly after the Second World War KLM expanded services through their West Indies Division (KLM-WIB*). But several airlines were also started by local Antillean business men and island Governments.

* KLM-WIB decals are also available, check website



Winair (short for Windward Islands Airways company) is the regional airline based in St.Maarten, Dutch Antilles. It was founded in 1961 by Georges Greaux and Hippolyte Ledee.

It still flies small regional commuter aircraft mostly between the North East Caribbean Windward islands. Headquarters are at Princess Juliana International Airport at St.Maarten.

The airline and its pilots are specialized in short take-off and landing operations as many islands have a small runway and mountains. Flights are made also to the World's shortest commercial airport runway at Juancho E. Yrausquin Airport on Saba, a Dutch vulcano island.

Small aircraft are flown including De Havilland Twin Otters.



later/ current island flags



Windward Islands Airways (WIA)

Scheme [1] PJ-WIA

Twin Otter DHC-6-100 c/n 22 was one of the first series produced at De Havilland plant in Downsview Ontario, Canada and it first flew December 1966.

With registration PJ-WIA it entered service January 1967 with Windward Islands Airways St.Maarten (WIA) and it was their first Twin Otter.

The WIA Head technical services Mr. Casius quickly designed the paint scheme in his hotel room; it was painted at Downsview before he accepted the aircraft for WIA. His design had a black tail WIA logo with 6 stars of The Netherlands Antilles reflecting the 6 islands.

PJ-WIA flew nearly ten years with WIA from St.Maarten in the region until December 1977.

Note that this -100 series Twin Otter has the short bold cargo nose and that in one of the port rear doors, a window is not present. Note the long antenna wires.

The overall colour is gloss white with cheatlines for which decals are provided. Trim the cheatlines and try to let them follow the curved nose.

RECOMMENDED COLOURS:

White about RAL 9016
Blue about RAL 5002
Red about RAL 3001 signal red

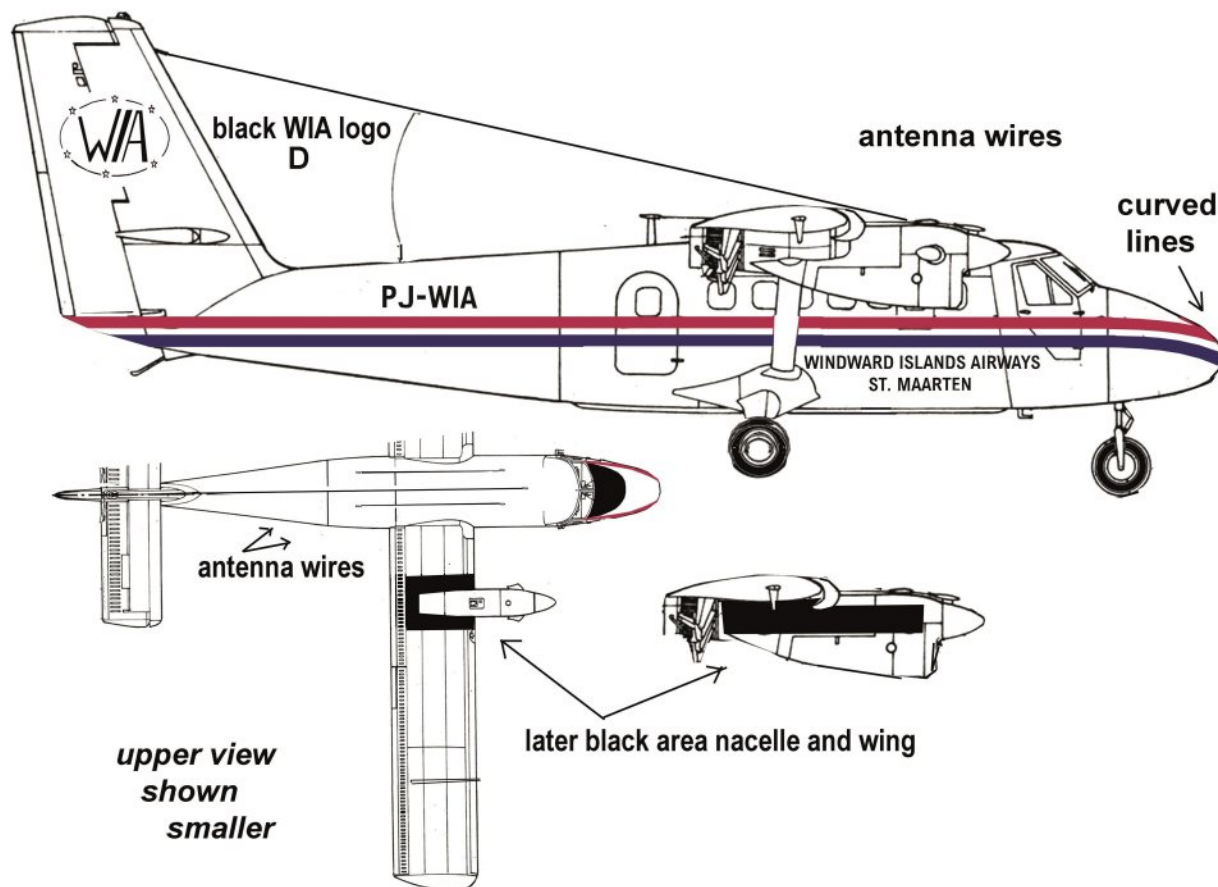
Scheme starboard and port is symmetrical.

The propellers have white spinners, black blades with yellow tips.

Black anti-glare panel in front of wind shield.

Soon after the plane was put into service some nacelle and wing areas were painted black to hide the black smoke dirt.

Large registration only on lower port wing.



Scheme [2] PJ-WIF

Twin Otter DHC-6-300 c/n 543 was produced at De Havilland plant in Downsview Ontario and flew first June 1977. It was first delivered to ALM Antillean Airlines at Curaçao with registration PJ-WIF.

PJ-WIF was transferred to Windward Islands Airways (WIA) at St.Maarten June 1978. It flew with WIA until July 2002 after it had made thousands of landings!

Note that in one of the port rear doors, a window is not present.

The overall colour is gloss white with cheatlines for which decals are provided. Tail logos style [C] and **blue WINDWARD** titles on fuselage.

Scheme starboard and port is symmetrical.

The rudder needs to be painted red to match the cheatline colour.

RECOMMENDED COLOURS:

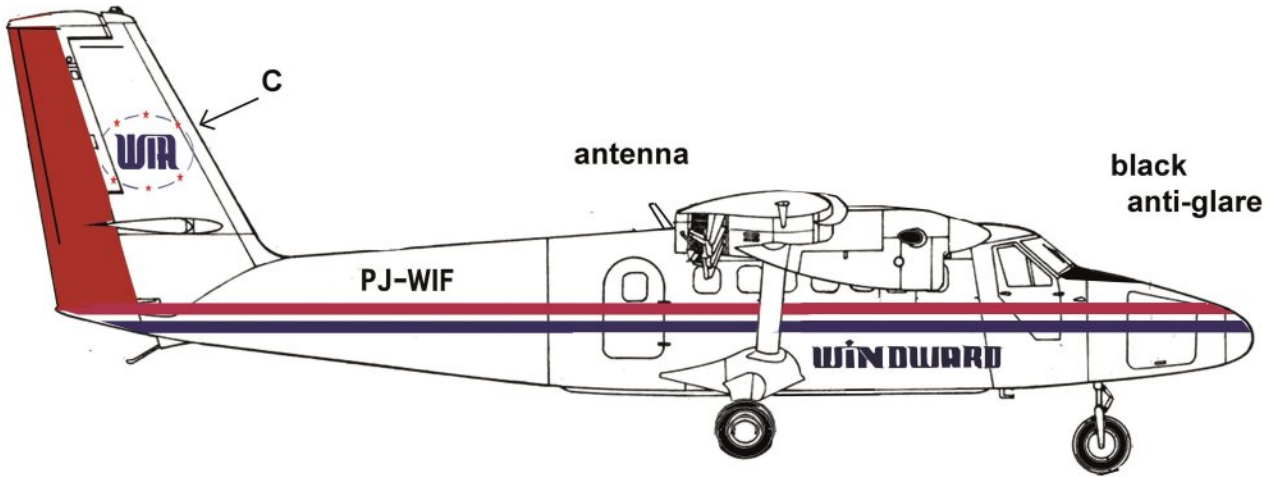
- White about RAL 9016 (to be applied overall first)
- Blue about RAL 5002 (decals)
- Red about RAL 3001 signal red (decals + rudder)

The propellers have white spinners, black blades with yellow tips.

Black anti-glare panel in front of wind shield.

Aft of the engine exhausts often black smoke dirt is seen on the wing and nacelles.

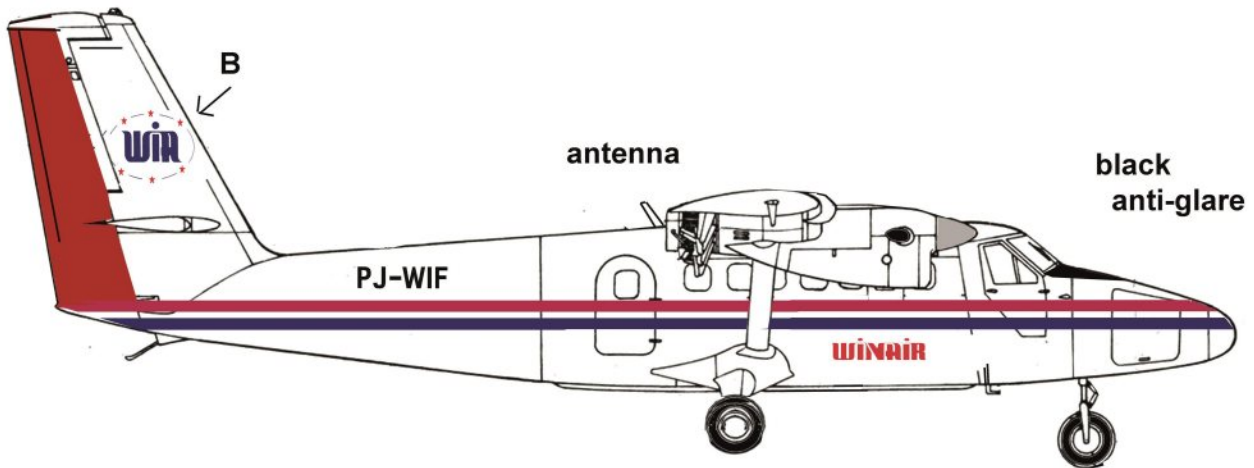
Large registration only on lower port wing.



Scheme [3] PJ-WIF

This same Twin Otter with registration PJ-WIF is shown here with now the **red WINAIR** logo and slightly smaller tail logos [B].

Scheme is otherwise similar as scheme [2].



Scheme [4] PJ-WIU

Twin Otter DHC-6-300 c/n 831 with registration PJ-WIU was put into service July 2017 with Winair.

Note that in one of the port rear doors, a window is not present. Several antennas on fuselage spine.

The overall colour is gloss white with cheatlines for which decals are provided. Scheme starboard and port is symmetrical.

It has the name Chester Wathey on the port nose side and the small WIA logos [E] on the tail.

The registrations on the tail also sport the St.Maarten flag.

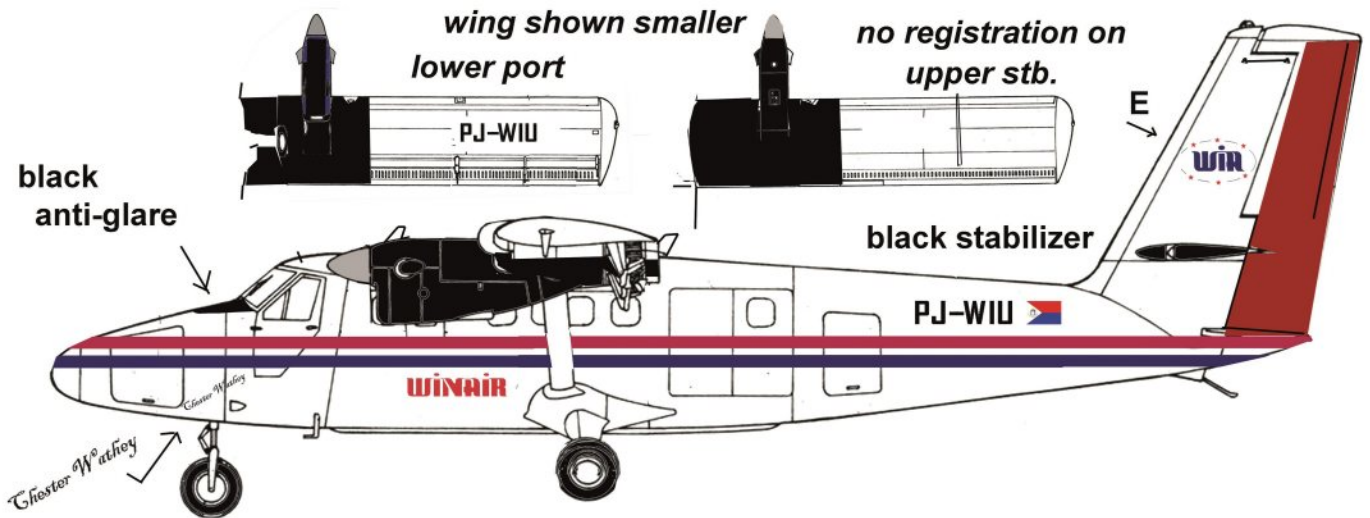
The rudder needs to be painted red to match the cheatline colour.

Gloss black are now the entire lower and upper horizontal stabilizer areas as are the nacelles and sections of the lower and upper wing including flaps.

The propellers have with chrome metal spinners, dark grey blades with white tips.

Black anti-glare panel in front of wind shield. Aft of the engine exhausts often black smoke dirt is on the wing.

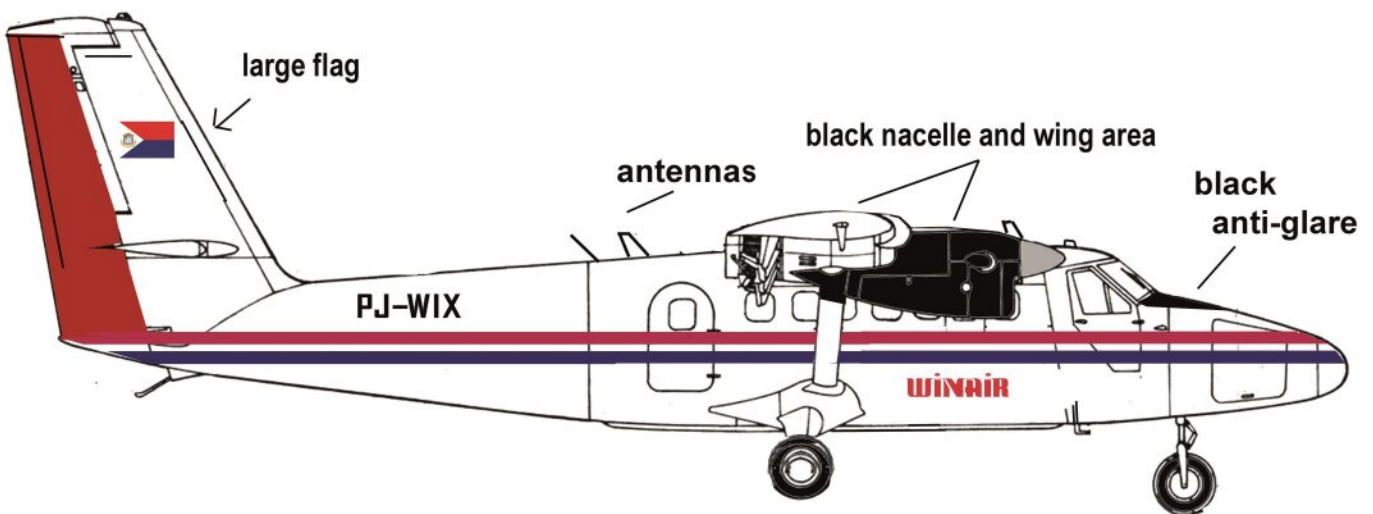
Large registration only on lower port wing.



Scheme [5] PJ-WIX

Twin Otter DHC-6-300 c/n 238 is an old Twin Otter. With registration PJ-WIX it was put into service June 2023 with Winair. Several antennas on fuselage spine.

Paint scheme is similar to scheme [4] but now with St.Maarten flag on tail(both sides).



Please visit website: www.aircraftinplastic.com