# MiG-21SMT

#### 1/48 Scale Plastic Model Kit



eduard.



The MiG-21 was the most-produced supersonic fighter in the world and served with more than fifty Air Forces over four continents. This tiny interceptor or fighter-bomber played remarkable role in many wars and local conflicts from sixties to eighties, allowing many pilots to achieve their ace combat status.

The MiG-21 was one of a long-list of Mikoyan-Gurevich designs integrated into the armed forces of the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact, and allied client states. Its predecessors included such notable types as the MiG-15, MiG-17, and the supersonic MiG-19.

The roots of MiG-21 project reach back to the first half of the fifties. In 1954, when the preliminary design study Ye-1 came to its end and was quickly replaced by the reworked Ye-2 prototype. Both had a swept wing. The first MiG design to feature the delta wing was the Ye-4 prototype, which took to the air for the first time on June 16, 1955. It was also demonstrated a year later at the Moscow airfield Tushino.

The new aircraft with the MiG-21 designation was the first successful Soviet design integrating fighter and interceptor characteristics. It was also quite light Mach 2 aircraft, although the long-lasting development was adding weight gradually. The design featured sleek fuselage with the front air intake and shock cone. This feature later limited future development due to the very small space available for the radar.

#### **Cold War warrior**

The first of the new line to enter production was the MiG-21F, which together with the MiG-21P and MiG-21F-13 represented the first generation of this line. These versions were in production through the end of the fifties and the beginning of the sixties. Subsequent versions included the PF, FL, PFM and R with production of these peaking at the end of the sixties. The production of third generation of the MiG-21 started in 1968 and included the most advanced versions of the type like the M, SM, MF, SMT or bis among others. Simultaneously, two-seat training versions were also produced designated MiG-21U, UM and US.

Production of the MiG-21 ended in 1985. The new aircraft came off Soviet production lines in Moscow, Gorky and Tbilisi, the Mi-G-21F-13 was also built under license in Czechoslovakia and the MiG-21FL, M and bis in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. The Soviet Union produced 10,645 examples of all versions, 194 were built in Czechoslovakia and 657 in India. That counts 11,496 aircraft produced.

Over the course of the Cold War, the opponents of the MiG-21 included the likes of the Northrop F-5 Freedom Fighter or the Dassault Mirage III. NATO assigned MiG-21 code reporting name "Fishbed", while the Soviet pilots called it "Balalaika" due to the shape resembling it with the Russian musical instrument.

#### Aces from Asia, Middle East or Africa

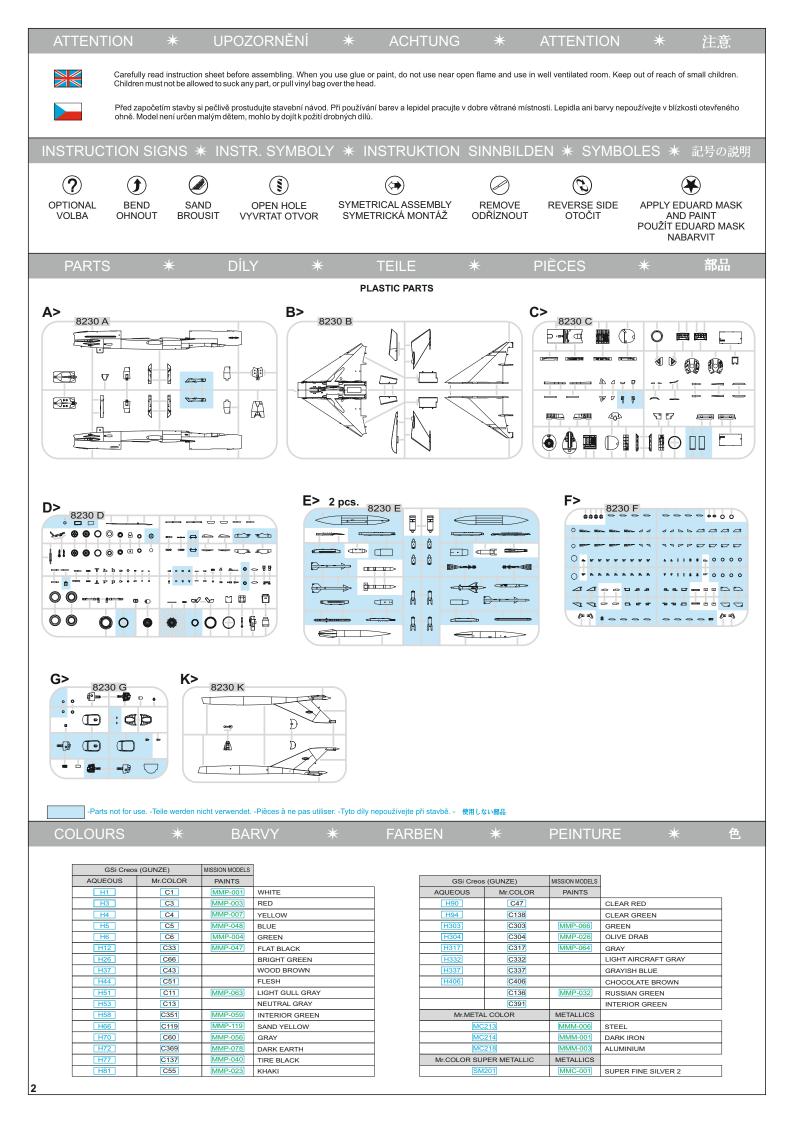
Outside of the Soviet Union, the type flew with a long list of nations on four continents (Europe, Asia, Africa and South America) and participated in many conflicts and wars. The most remarkable combat use includes the Vietnam war, the Indo-Pakistan wars, the Cuban participation in Angola and in the Arab world's attempts to eliminate Israel. It is no wonder there were many pilots achieving their ace status flying one or more variants of MiG-21.

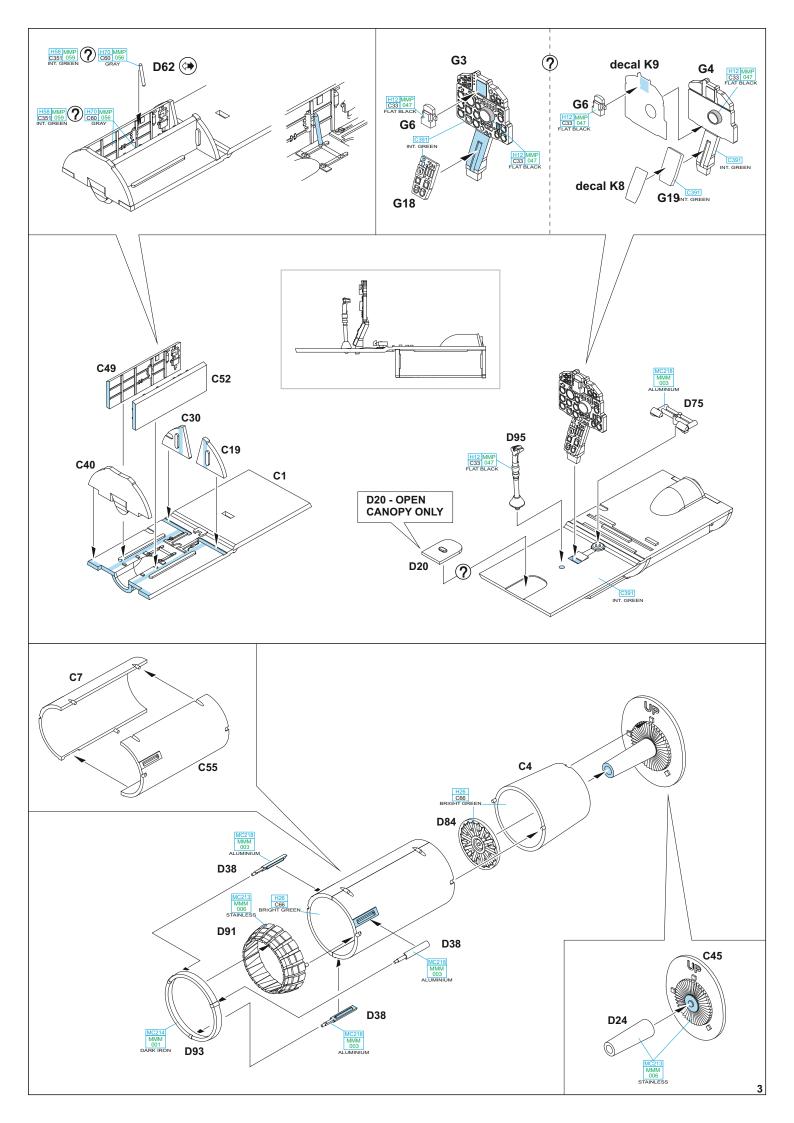
Thanks to the high volume of use and intensive combat actions, the Vietnamese pilots are topping the list of aces of MiG-21. The top of the ladder is occupied by Nguyen Ven Coc[ with nine kills with three eight-victory aces following: Mai Van Cuong, Nguyen Hong Nhi and Pham Thanh Ngan. Of the other nations the Syrian pilots Bassam Hamshun and Majid Zugbi both achieved seven kills flying MiG-21MF, while Adeeb Al-Jarf had the same score with MiG-21FL and Egyptian pilots Ali Vajai, Sami Marei and Sami Marei scored five times.

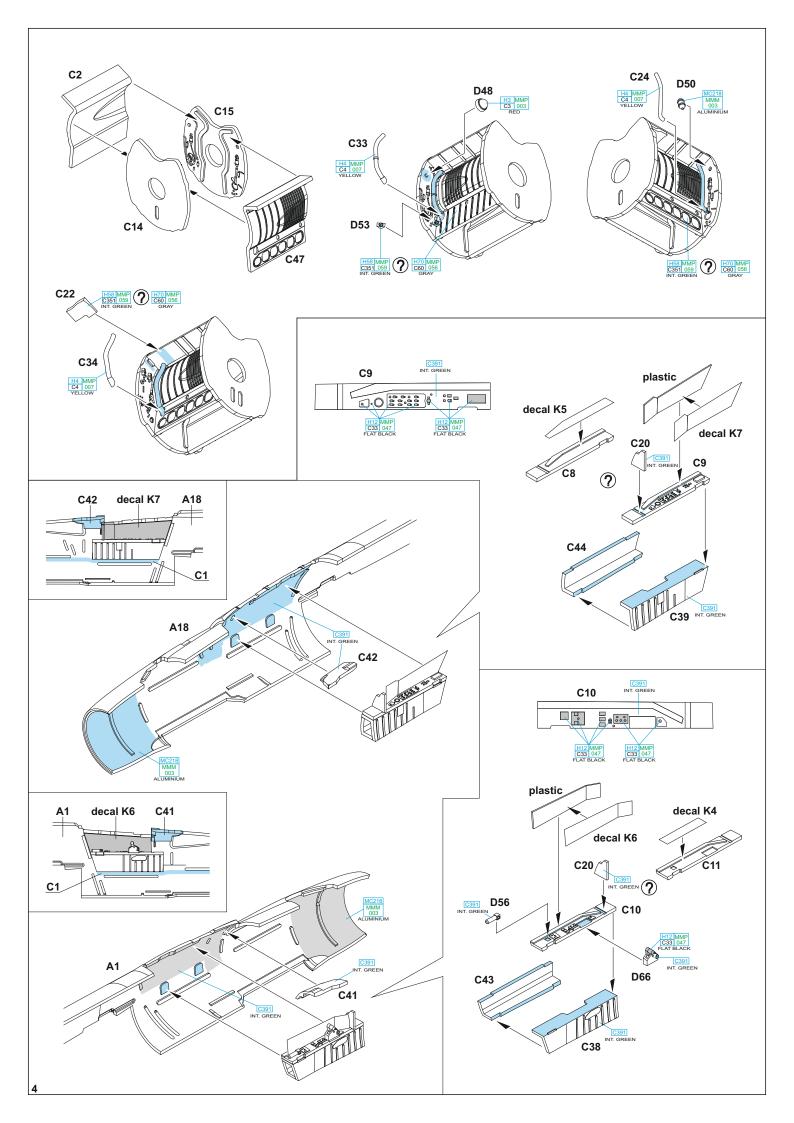
In the interceptor role the MiG-21 served with the Soviet Union and other nations of the Warsaw Pact into the eighties when it began to be replaced by the MiG-23 in seventies and MiG-29 Fulcrum in eighties.

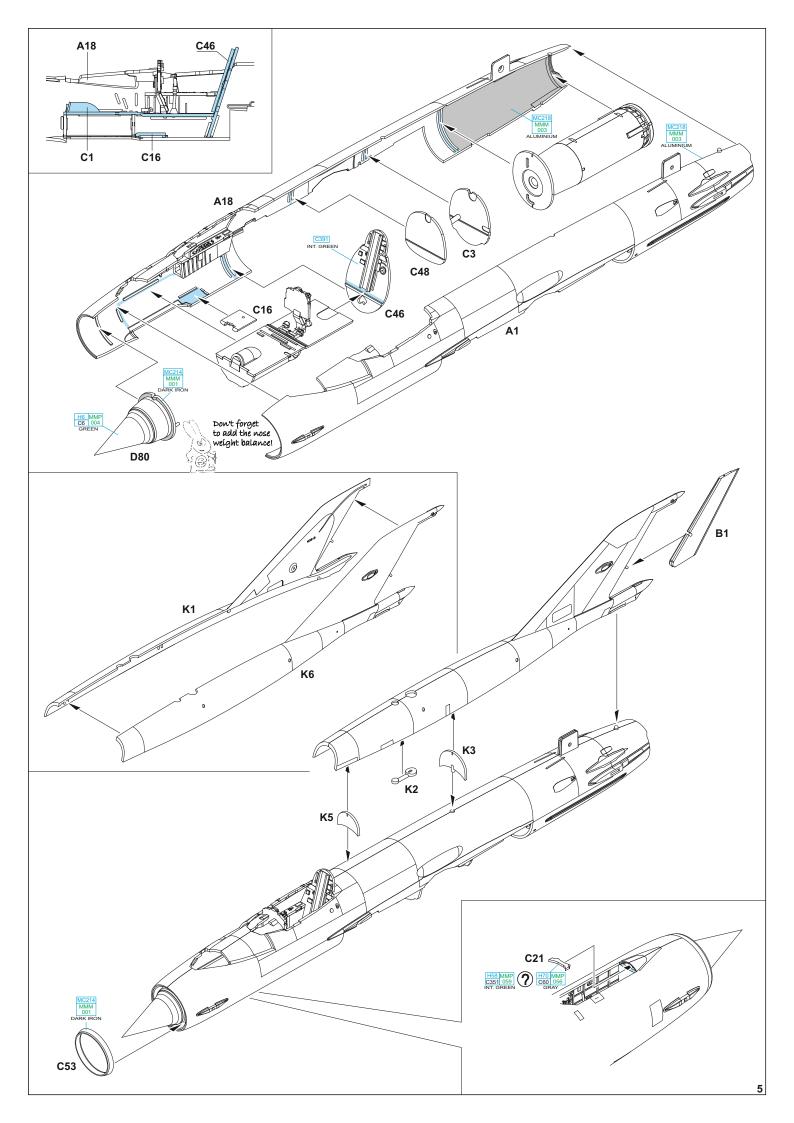
#### This kit: MiG-21SMT

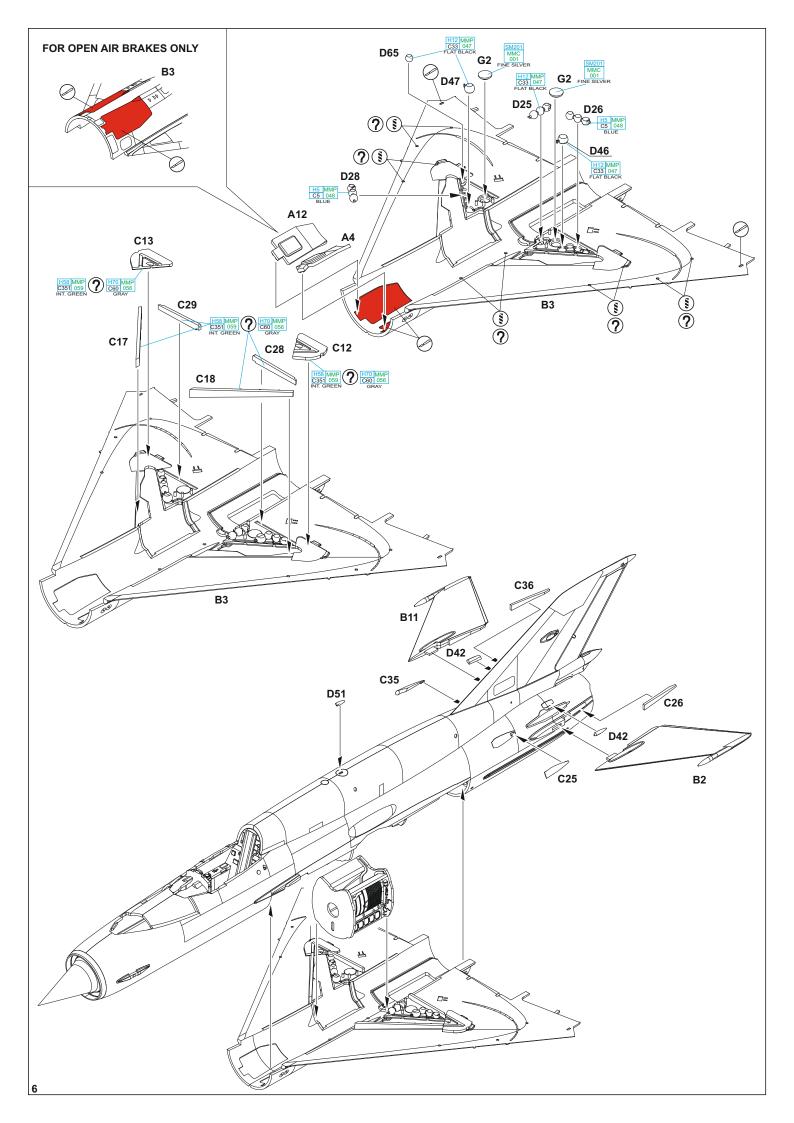
This plastic model kit represents probably the least successful version of MiG-21. It was developed due to the requirements of some foreign users, asking for longer range than version MF provided. The more powerful engine R-13F-300 was installed, and the inner fuel tank No.7 located in fuselage ridge was enlarged in volume (900 l instead of 510 l). Due to that the fuselage ridge had to be enlarged, giving this new version MiG-21MT (Fishbed K) its specific shape. The range was lengthened by some 250 km but on expense of performance. Due to that only 15 of MiG-21MTs were built at the Moscow factory No.30 and none was ordered by foreign customers. Although its shortcomings, the production of MiG-21SMT, identical to MT, but produced by factory No. 21 at Gorkyi, was started in 1971. As the pilots complained about the performance, the production was ended after 116 were built. Deemed unsuitable for pursuit tasks, the MiG-21SMTs were serving as fighter-bombers. For this purpose, up to 1300 kg of various weapons could be fitted to four underwing pylons. The GSh-23 20mm twin-barrel cannon was also retained.

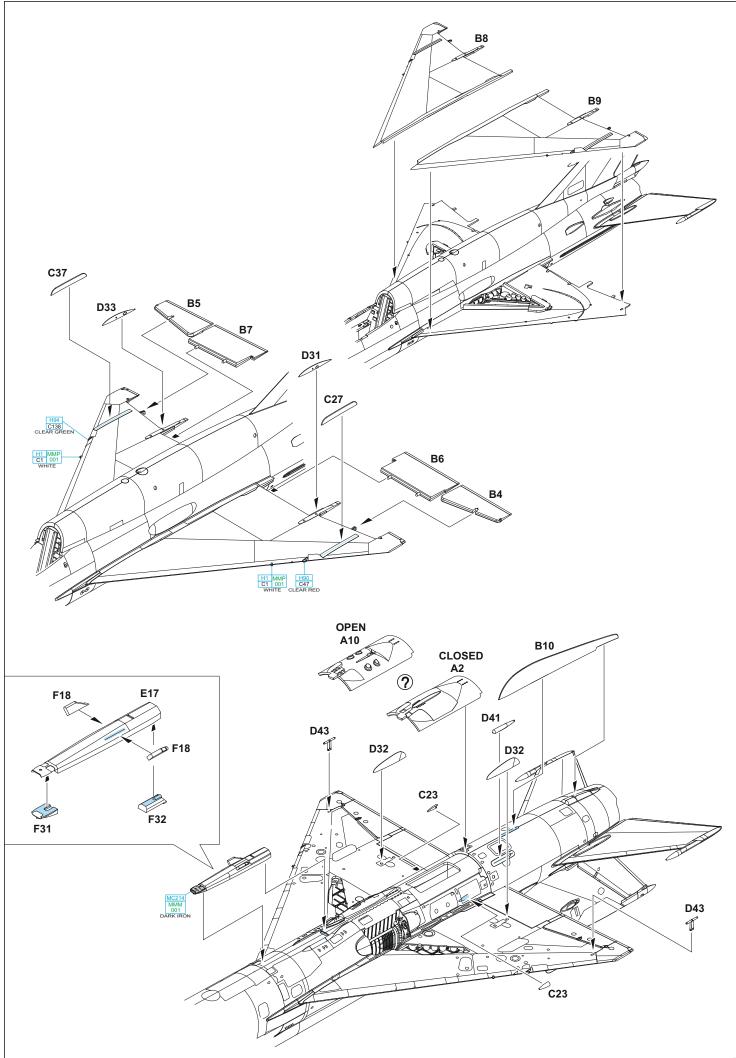


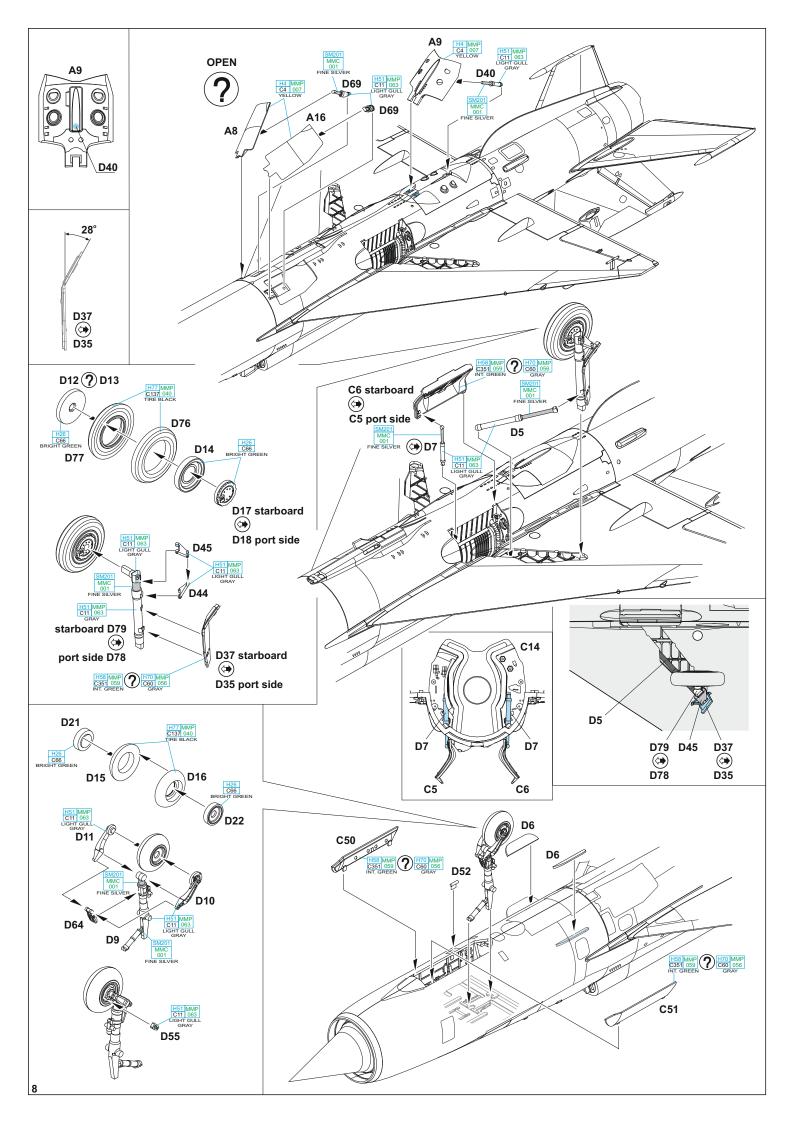


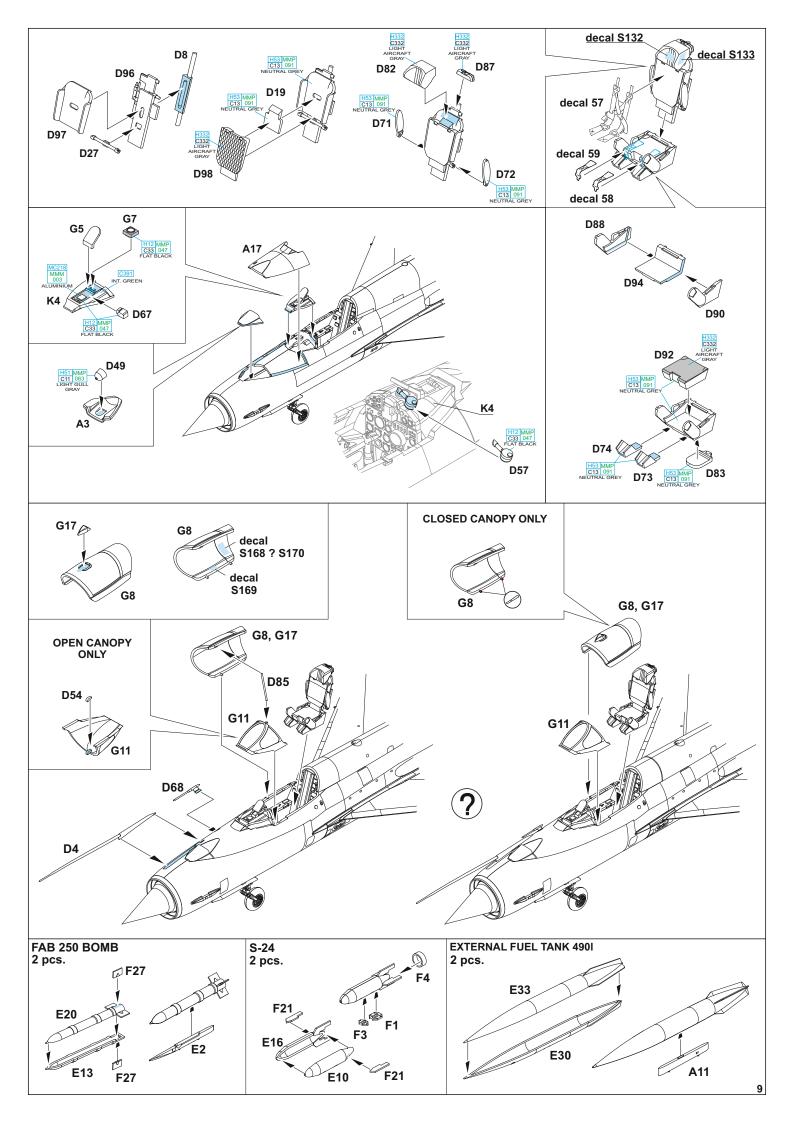


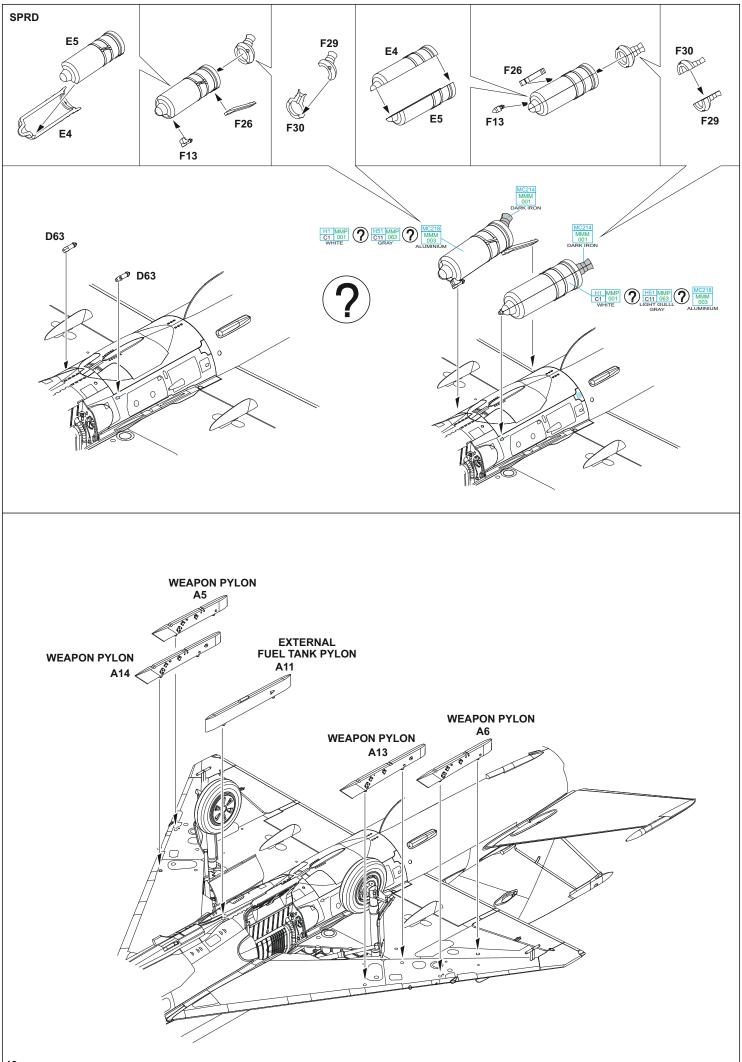


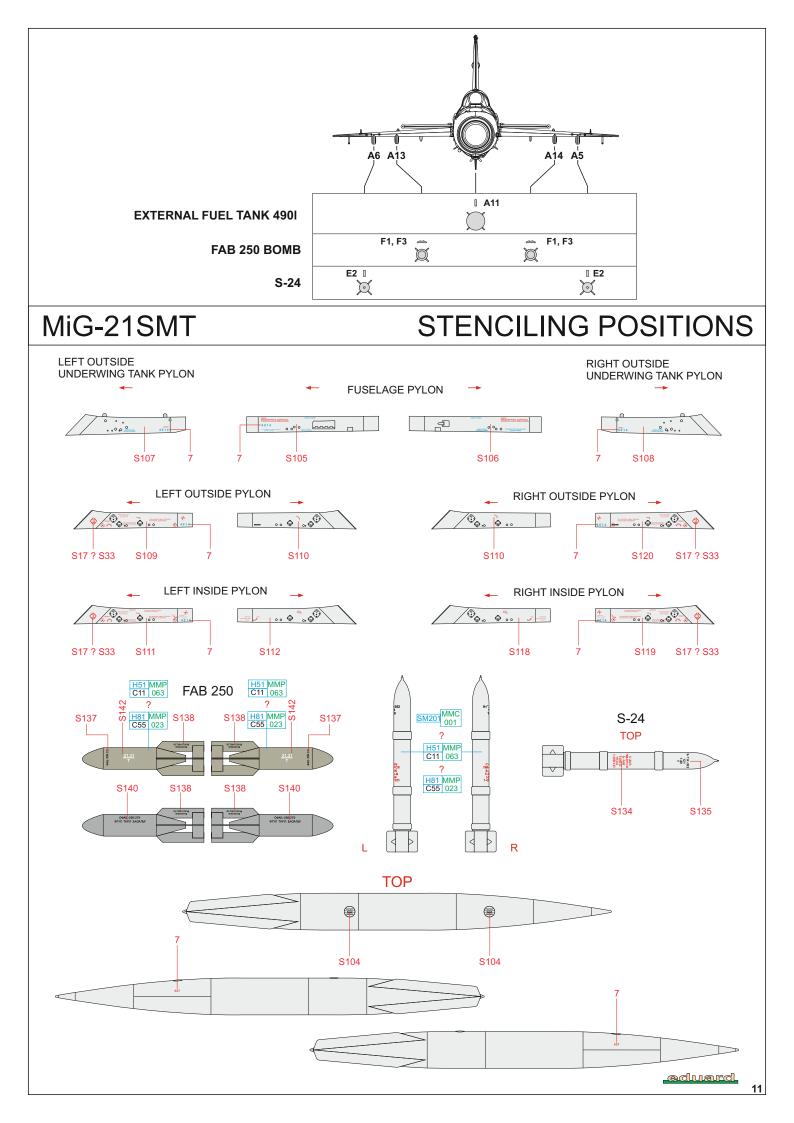






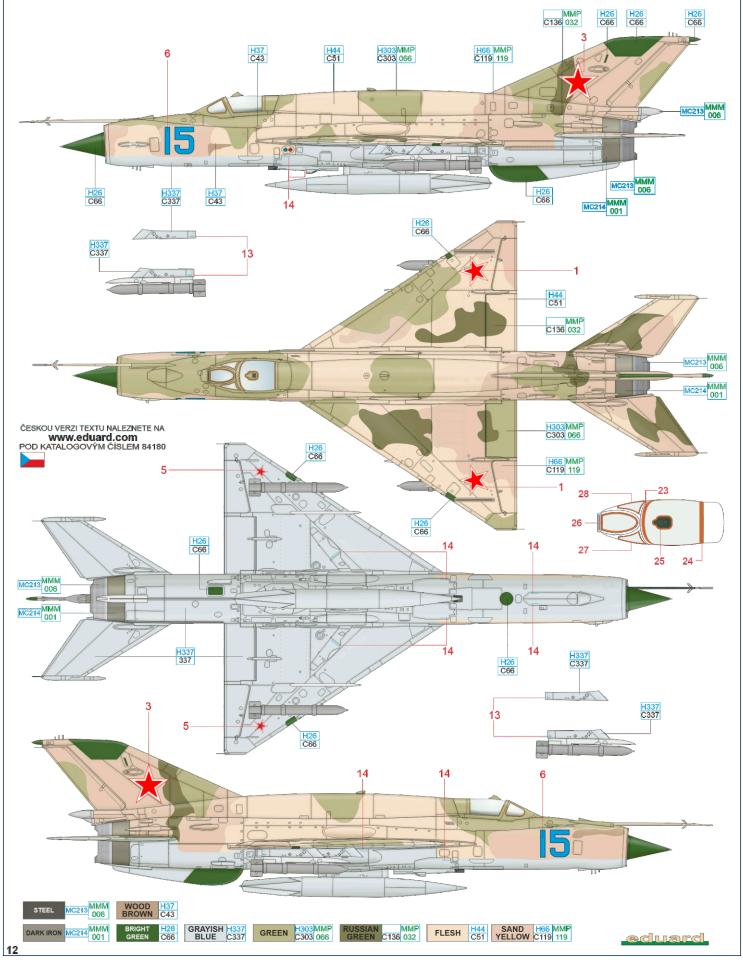






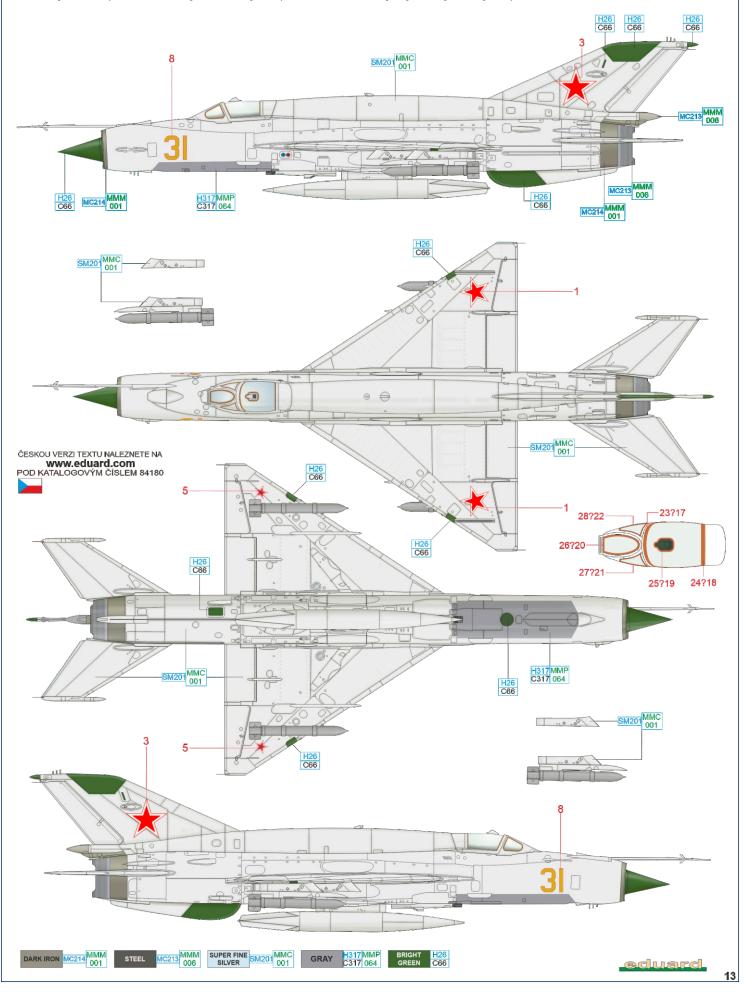
#### A MiG-21MT, No. 96.40.15, Dolgoye Ledovo, Russia, early 1980´s

This aircraft can be currently found at Dolgoye Ledovo on display, but the unit it served with is uncertain. The MiG-21MT (NATO code Fishbed K) was produced by the Moscow plant Znamya Truda in 1971, but only 15 of these aircraft were built, because pilots were very unsatisfied with performance and flying characteristics of the plane. It was developer as a response to foreign customers calling for longer operational range. More powerful R-13F-300 engine was installed as well as a big internal fuel tank of 900 liters volume in the fuselage ridge. This gave the MiG-21MT its characteristic hump appearance. Although the MT version was intended to be an export version, no customers were ever found.



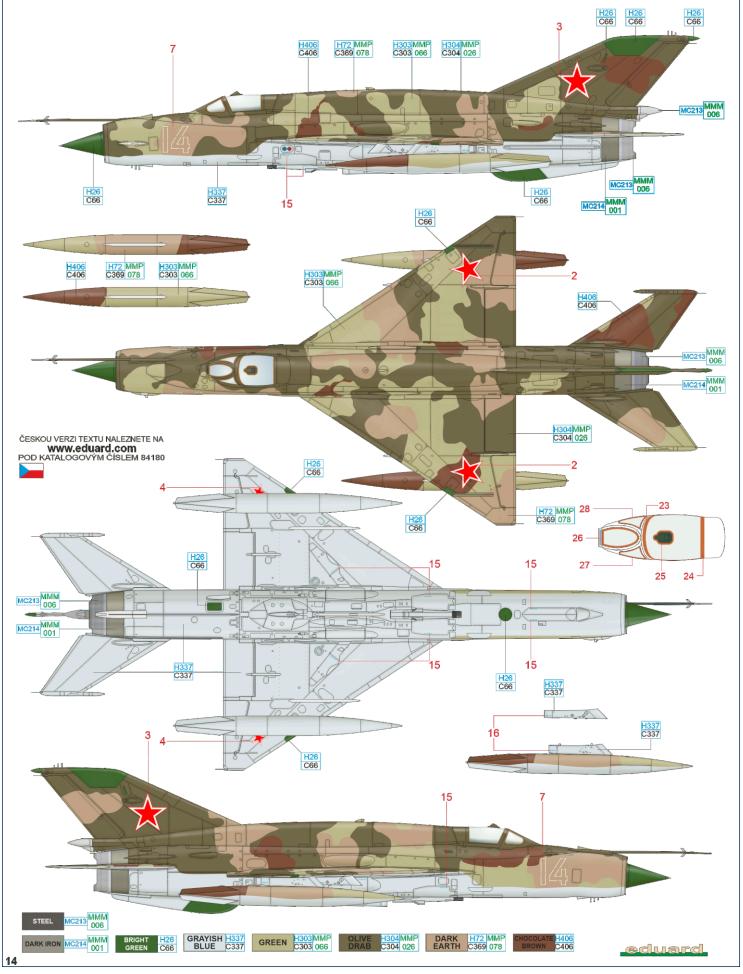
### B MiG-21SMT, 515 IAP, Tököl, Hungary, late 1970´s

Yellow 31 was serving with the 515 Fighter Regiment in Tököl. The aircraft was delivered in natural metal finish, later on the aircraft of the unit were given camouflage and the tactical numbers were painted with white outline only. The aircraft was given protective grey painting on the bottom of the front section of the fuselage and was presented to delegation of Hungarian pilots, who were undergoing training for usage of special bombs at the time.



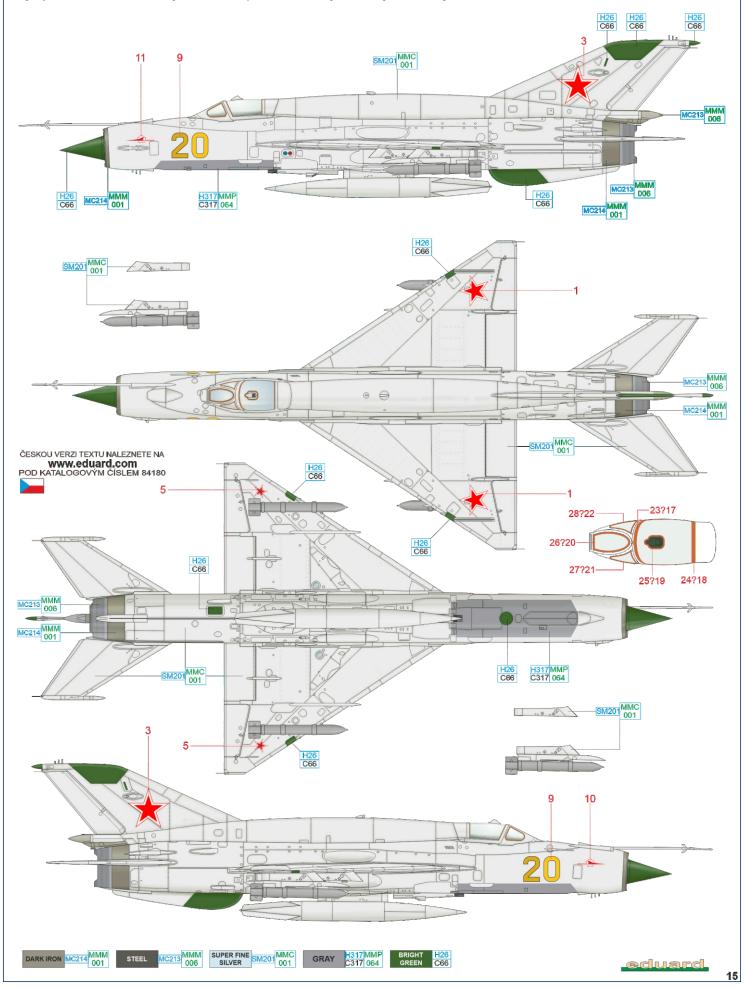
### C MiG-21MT, No. 96.40.14, Dolgoye Ledovo, Russia, mid 1980´s

Aircraft of serial number 96.40.14 was one of only fifteen MTs produced (factory designated "Izdelye 96B"). Some 12 of them were probably used by 66 APIB (Fighter-Bomber Air Regiment) based at Veshchevo, while three remaining were based at Kubinka Air Base for display to foreign delegates. It is possible that these aircraft also served with the No. 4 escadrille of 234 GIAP (Guards Fighter Air Regiment). This aircraft can be found at the airfield at Dolgoye Ledovo near Moscow today as a didactic aid and is part of the military department of MEI (Moscow Energy Institute – Technical University).



### D MiG-21SMT, 582 IAP, Chojna, Poland, late 1970´s

The "Yellow 20" was serving with the 582 IAP located at Chojna Air Base in Poland. Aircraft of this unit were delivered in natural metal finish, later, during 1980's they got camouflage markings. The aircraft was given protective grey painting on the bottom of the front section of the fuselage. The tactical number has slightly different outline for each digit. The aircraft sports also red badge indicating "outstanding maintenance".



## MiG-21SMT

# STENCILING POSITIONS

