

Vampire FB52 in the RNAF

The de Havilland Vampire was the first jet aircraft to be operated by the Royal Norwegian Air Force. The Air Force requested the FB.5, but the RAF was given priority for this version. To fill immediate requirements, a contract for 20 Vampire F.3s was signed 21 February 1948, and the first four aircraft were handed over in late April. When the fighter bombers became available for other customers, 36 FB.52, the export version of the FB.5, were delivered between December 1949 and March 1951.

The FB.52s were allocated to 336 and 337 Squadrons, both based at Gardermoen. 337 Squadron detached a flight to Bardufoss in Northern Norway and allocated the code SI to this unit. This detachment was later separated from 337 and became 339 Squadron. One FB.52 was also used as the personal aircraft of the Wing Commander at Gardermoen Air Station.

The decal sheet contains letters and numbers to build any Vampire FB.52 in RNAF service. The instruction sheet includes references for just a few aircraft. Photographic references should be used for building other airframes. The decals on this sheet can also be used to build a RNAF Vampire T.55 (an export version of the T.11) if you have the Classic Airframes kit or the Aeroclub vacuum formed kit in your collection. Neither of which are currently available.

Identification letters

Between 1946 and 1951 the RNAF used an aircraft type identification system composed of a single letter identifying the type (B for Vampire) and a two-letter combination for each individual airframe. The code was reading the same on both sides of the fuselage or tail booms in the case of the Vampire.

In 1951 the RNAF returned to the British squadron code system, with a two-letter combination identifying the squadron (positioned aft of the roundel on each side) and a single letter identifying the individual airframe (positioned forward of the roundel). As the RNAF changed their organization from British to American squadron sizes, the coding system ran out of letters in the English alphabet. One first resorted to adding letters from the Norwegian alphabet (Æ, Ø and Å). Later someone suggested using numbers instead, and that became the new norm. While the aircraft type identification system was unique to each airframe, the squadron code identification letters could be re-used, thus an additional identification was applied in form of the construction number

Modelling notes

Several 1/48 scale Vampire kits have been released during the last decades, several of which have had accuracy problems. In 2022 Several 1/48 scale Vampire kits have been released over the years with varying degrees of accuracy. The AlleyCat resin kits being the best of them all until the 2022 release from Airfix. The accuracy is very good due to 3D scanning the Vampire F.3 at the Norwegian Aircraft Museum at Gardermoen. The kit will be reissued as an FB.5 in 2023, but the F.3 kit does have the shorter wingtips on the clear runner should you wish to use that release. This decal sheet has been designed to fit the Airfix kit.

Decals for RNAF Vampires were first released by Vingtor Decals in 2005 and are no longer available. These decals benefit from the latest research and new information on the stencilling as well as including nose art for one aircraft.

Colour notes

The aircraft had a flat, but smooth finish. The exact colours on the Norwegian Vampire FB.52s have long been a mystery. An original airframe (V0184/ZK-U) as well as a fuselage part of what probably is V0438/ZK-B, have recently become accessible for research, and establishing colour matches has been made possible. The upper surface green is NCS S 7020-G10Y, i.e. close to BS 381C 226 Mid. Brunswick Green. A close FS match is *4062. The aircraft has later been repainted NCS S 7020-G50Y, possibly Bengalac 1862 Myrtegrønn. The lower surfaces matches BS 381C 636 PRU Blue.

The red wing tips and fin fairings on the 336 Sqn. Vampires are slightly darker than the roundels and has a brownish tint.

Decal application

The decals have a very thin carrier film and need to be handled with care. Individual decals should be cut out and soaked for a few seconds in lukewarm water. Slide the decal from the paper over to the model's surface without wrinkling. Avoid moving the decal excessively to avoid tearing the film and washing off the adhesive. The carrier film might at first seem rigid and difficult to lay down over complex surfaces, but using decal solutions like Micro Set and Micro Sol will make them snuggle down over detail and make them look painted on when completely dry. For best results, decals should always be applied to a gloss surface.

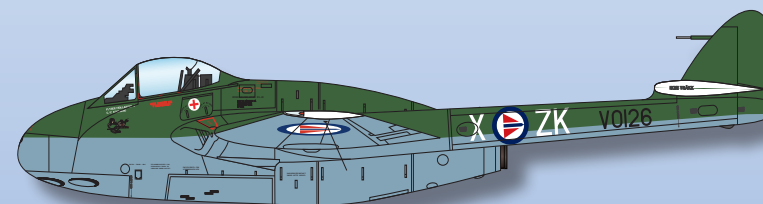
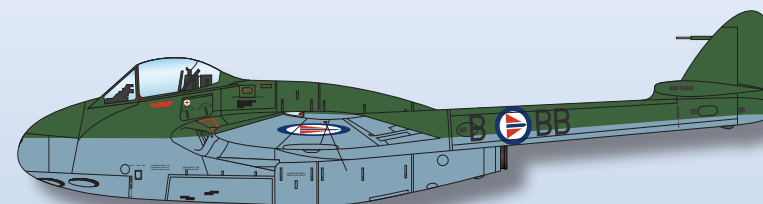
Thanks

Thanks to Jens Håkon Brandal for help with the instructions.

48-152

Vingtor
DECALS

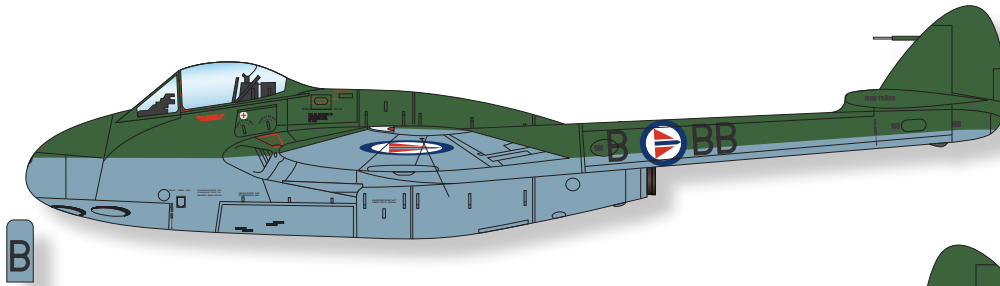
de Havilland Vampire FB.52 Royal Norwegian Air Force



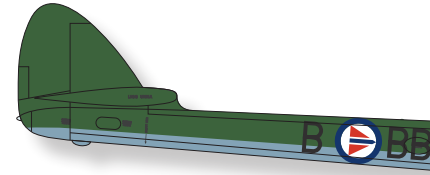
NORDIC DECALS GROUP



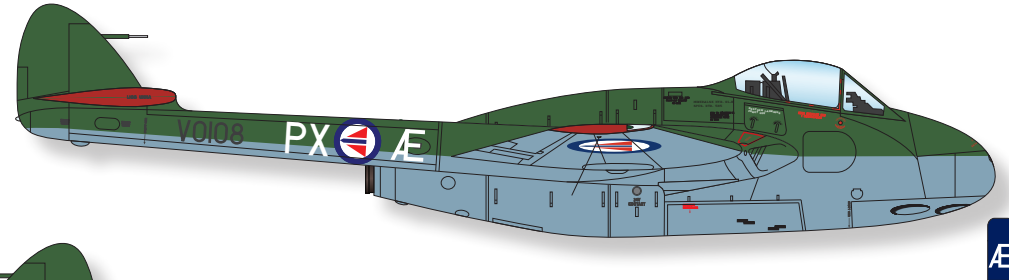
www.vingtor.net



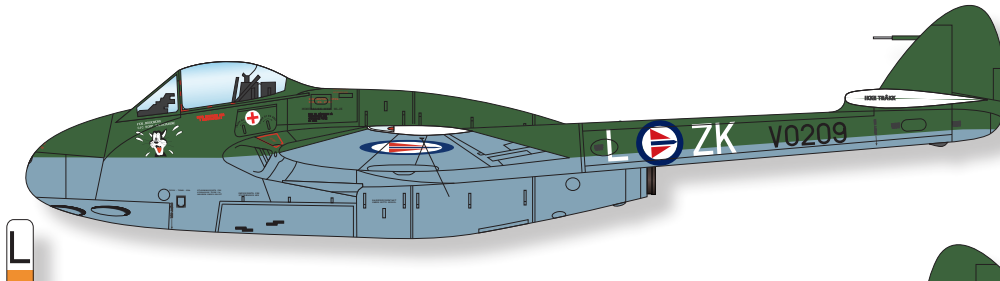
de Havilland Vampire FB.52, V0062/B-BB,
336 Squadron, Gardermoen 1950.



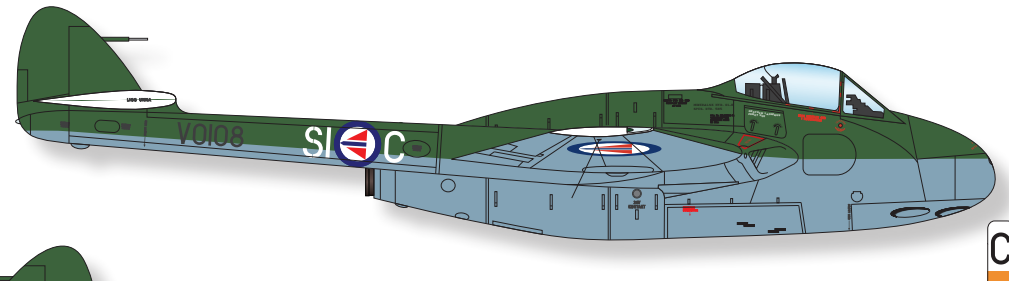
B-BB starboard side code letter placement.



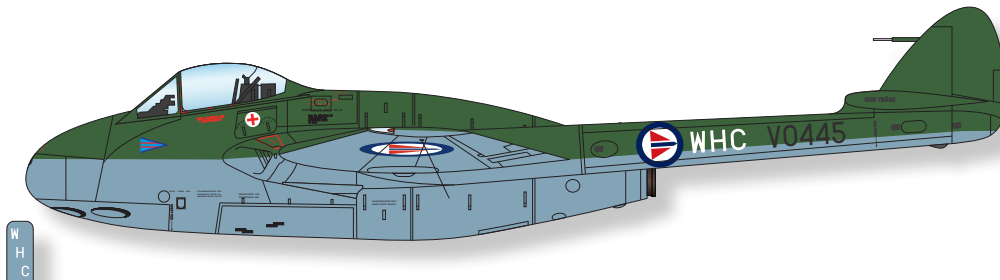
de Havilland Vampire FB.52, V0108/PX-Æ,
336 Squadron, Gardermoen 1950. Wing tips
and tailplane fairings are red/brown. Nose wheel
door is dark blue.



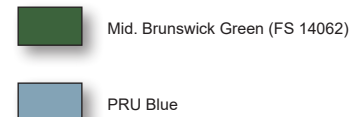
de Havilland Vampire FB.52, V0209/ZK-L, 337
Squadron, Gardermoen 1953. Wing tips and
tailplane fairings are white. Nose wheel door is
white and orange.

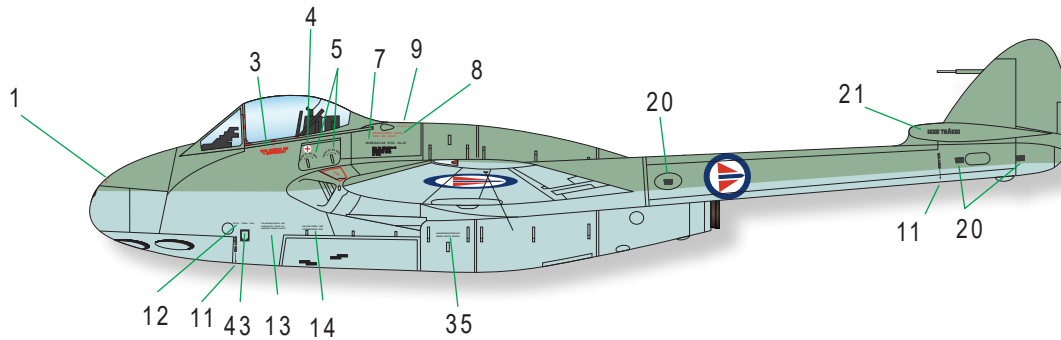


de Havilland Vampire FB.52, V0108/SI-C,
337 Squadron, Bardufoss 1954. Wing tips and
tailplane fairings are white. Nose wheel door is
white and orange.

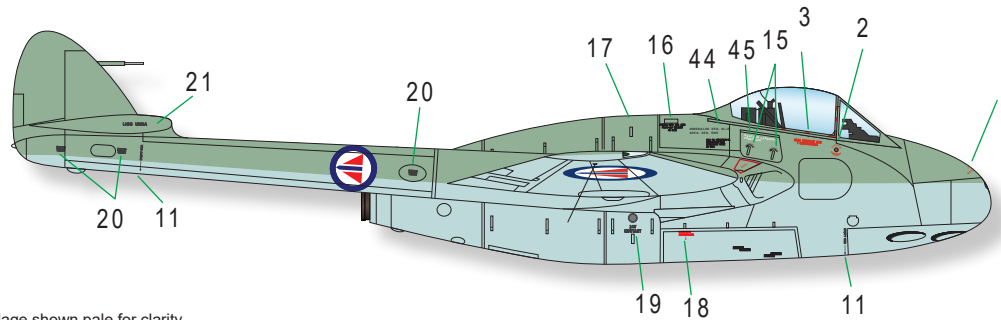


de Havilland Vampire FB.52, V0445/WHC,
Flown by Wing Commander (operasjonsgrup-
pesjef) Werner H. Christie, Gardermoen 1952.
The same aircraft was previously used by Wing
Commander Nils K. Jørstad, coded NKJ..





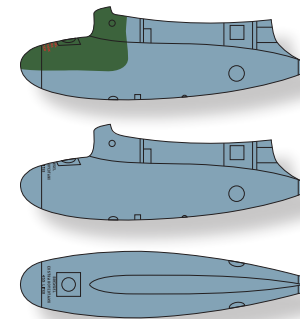
Some of the stencilling varied in text and/or appearance. The known variations have been included on the decal sheet, identified by a lower case letter to the decal number.



Camouflage shown pale for clarity.

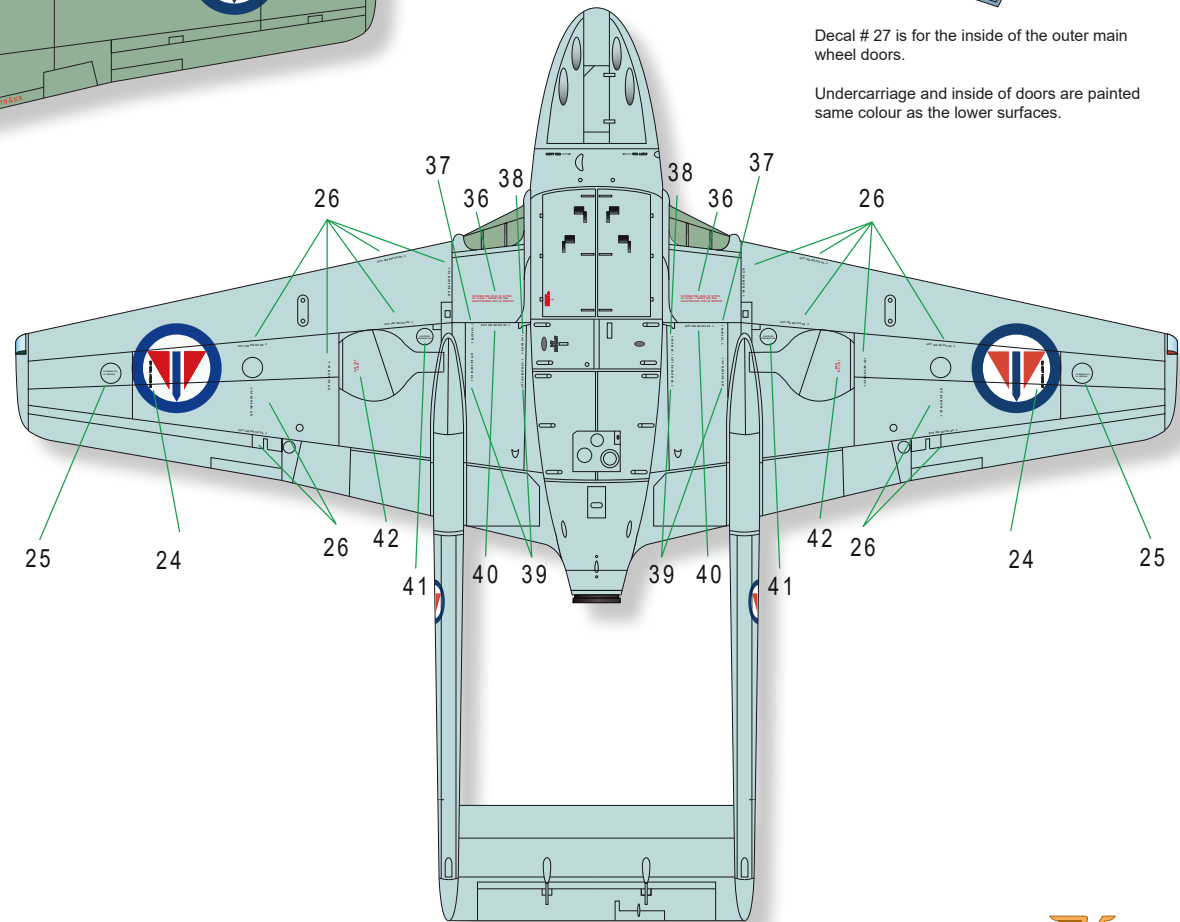
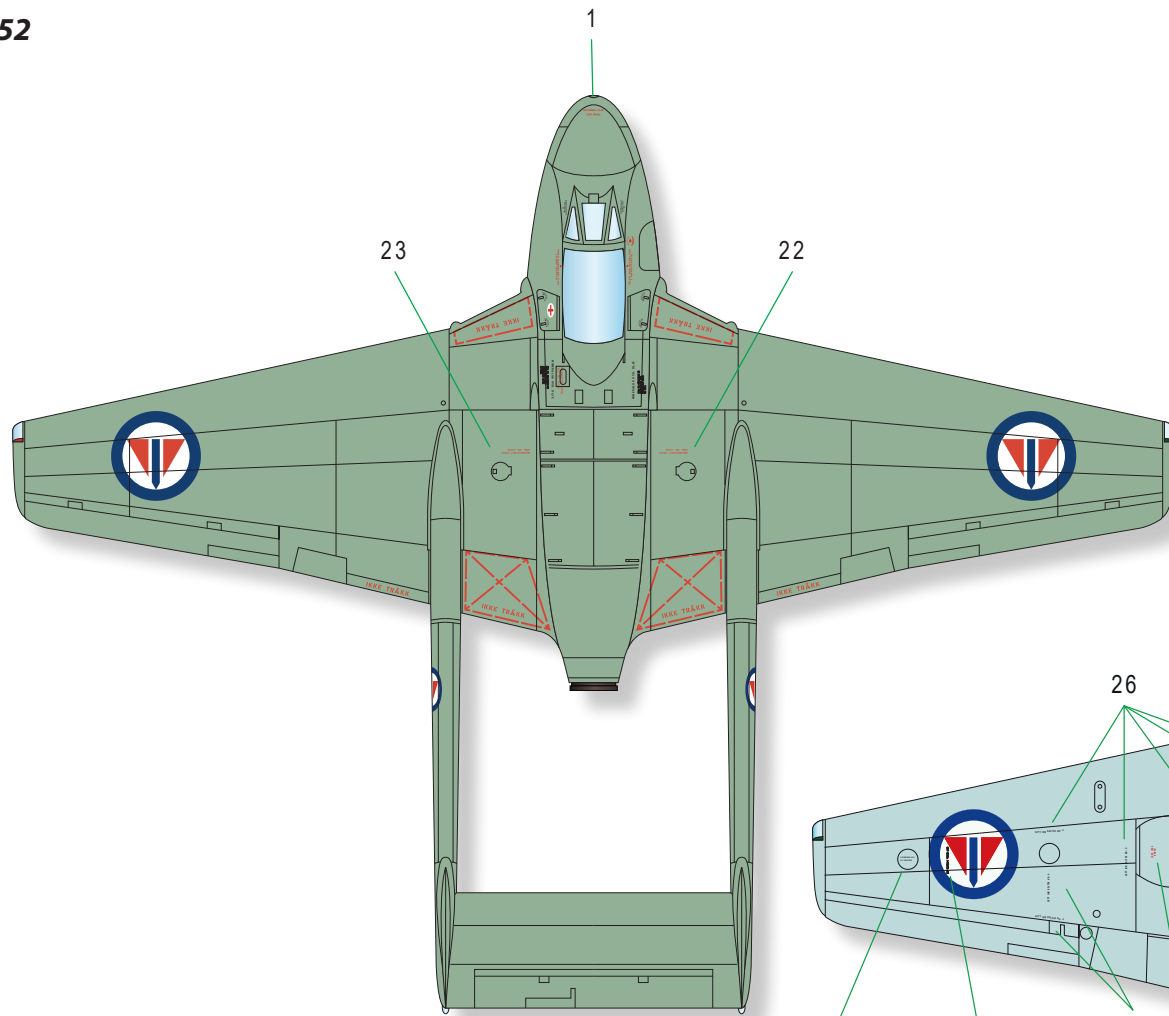


V0126/ZK-X nose art.



Most external fuel tanks were blue and green. But some were painted overall blue.

There were several variations of external fuel tank stencilling. The decals are numbered 32a, 32b, 33a, 33b and 33c respectively. Decals with the word HØYRE is for starboard tank while VENSTRE is port.



Decal # 27 is for the inside of the outer main wheel doors.

Undercarriage and inside of doors are painted same colour as the lower surfaces.

Camouflage show pale for clarity.