

F-35A RNoAF

In 2008 the Norwegian Government selected the F-35A to replace the F-16s that had been in service since 1980. The contract called for the purchase of 52 aircraft, and the first aircraft, with tail number 5087 was delivered in September 2015. The first seven deliveries – carrying Norwegian markings - were assigned to the USAF 62nd Fighter Squadron at Luke AFB in Arizona for training and later three aircraft were redeployed to Luke AFB to increase training capacity. The first three F-35s to arrive in Norway (5148, 5149 and 5150) were received in November 2017. Since then, three aircraft have been delivered approximately every six months. The aircraft serve with 132 Air Wing at Ørland Air Base in, consisting of 331 and 332 Squadrons.

The Norwegian F-35s differ from the standard version by having an external brake chute compartment installed on the rear fuselage spine, between the fins. The brake chute compartment is not fitted to the training aircraft, as there is no risk for icy runways in the Arizona desert.

This decal sheet is slightly modified from sheet No. 48-131, for the Arizona training aircraft. The major difference is the tail numbers, which have a different style, as well as nose wheel well door markings.

Tamiya's F-35A kit will soon be available, and from what has been shown so far, it appears to be the high-water mark of F-35 kits in any scale. The Meng kit is not a bad kit and can be built into a very attractive model. The Kitty Hawk kit was released while the aircraft was still in development and testing, so there are minor differences from the service version. The real selling point for the Tamiya kit is the inclusion of the brake chute housing. The brake chute housing is available both on it's own and with a deployed brake chute from 3D-chute Expert if you want to model an Ørland-based subject from the Meng or Kitty Hawk kit. (<https://3d-chute-expert.myshopify.com/products/f-35-parachute-chute-bay>).

Colour notes

The F-35 is painted Camouflage Gray FS 36170 with a slight metallic sheen which is noticeable in some lighting conditions. Sovereign Hobbies produces this colour in their Colourcoats enamel range (ACUS41). Although the colour matches FS 595C paint samples, it appears slightly too light on the model compared to available photos. We have experienced that a 50/50 mix of ACUS41 and black gives a good visual impression of the main colour. The panels and panel lines that are covered with Radar Absorbing Material (RAM) are not as prominent on the later and current deliveries. Most blend smoothly in with the aircraft main colour. Most of the aircraft at Luke – which are early deliveries – have more contrast between these RAM panels. There are slight variations between the aircraft, so we recommend you check your references for the aircraft you want to build.

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.

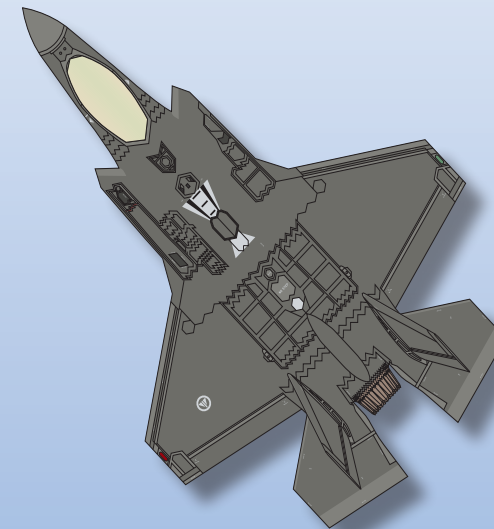
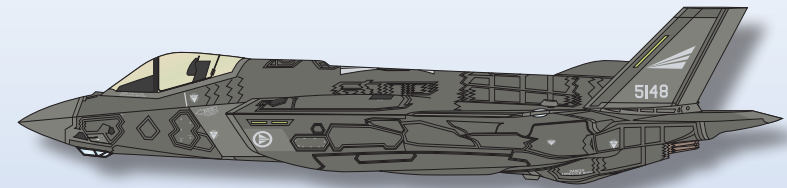
48-150

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DECALS

Lockheed Martin

F-35A

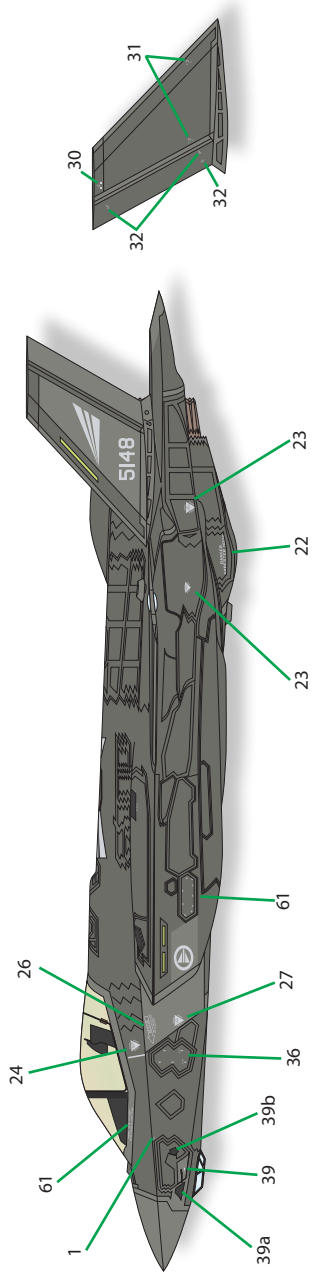
132 Air Wing - Royal Norwegian Air Force



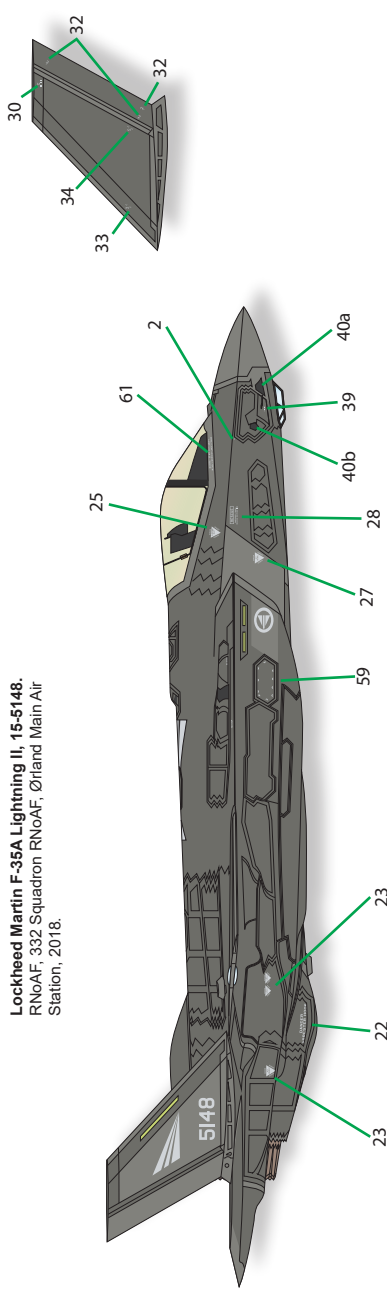
NORDIC DECALS GROUP



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Lockheed Martin F-35A Lightning II, 15-5148.
RNoAF, 332 Squadron RNoAF, Ørland Main Air
Station, 2018.



■ Camouflage Gray FS 36170

■ RAM

Nose wheel door decals are for aircraft 5148 only

