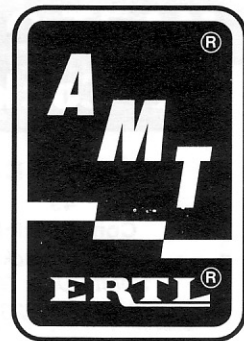


U.S. AIR FORCE ACROBATIC TEAM

F-16A FALCON



STOCK No. 8228

FORM No. 099 - 1155

Just the name itself conjures dazzling images of powerful fighters screaming through the air at dizzying speeds, performing death-defying maneuvers while practically glued together in tight formations...Exactly what the U.S. Air Force expects.

The 3600th Air Demonstration Team went operational June, 1953, at Luke AFB, Arizona. Somehow that name didn't seem to have the same pizzazz as the existing "SkyBlazers", "Acrojets" or "Blue Angels", so a contest was held at Luke to choose a name. The name Thunderbirds was chosen, influenced, in part, by the strong native culture and folklore of the region. In legend, the thunder is caused by the flapping of the Thunderbird's wings, the lightning by the opening and closing of their eyes. Typically depicted in red, white and blue in native American art, the Thunderbird is credited with the power to grant a long and honorable life and success in war, and came to represent the classic conflict of good triumphing over evil. Perfect.

The Thunderbirds have used a variety of aircraft in the past 41 years. From 1953-1955, the straight-wing Republic F-84G Thunderjet was used, transitioning over to the sweptwing F-84F Thunderjet for 1955. In 1956, the Thunderbirds switched over to the F-100C Super Saber, which they used until 1963 when they switched to the huge, powerful, but not-very-maneuverable F-105B Thunderchief. An unfortunate accident in May, 1964, grounded the F-105s and, rather than wait for the 105s to be modified, the team went back to F-100s, this time the newer F-100D as depicted in your AMT Thunderbird set. It was during the time of the F-100D and, beginning in 1969, the F-4E Phantom - also included in your set - that many of us remember first seeing the Thunderbirds in action.

The F-4E paint scheme was different from any used previously. Prior to the Phantom, all Thunderbirds markings were painted over aluminum natural metal. Since the F-4E, because of the patch-work quilt effect of differing types of metal used on more modern aircraft, the aircraft were all painted a base coat of gloss white with the distinctive team markings painted over that.

The F-4E was a big, powerful, smoky, impressive, not-very-maneuverable, gas-guzzling aircraft. Thus it was international politics in the form of the 1973 Energy Crisis, not any sort of accident of tragedy, that cause the Air Force to seek a smaller, more economical aircraft - the T-38 Talon.

The Thunderbirds were to use the T-38 from 1974 until January 18, 1982, when the greatest tragedy in the history of the team struck. It is procedure when flying acrobatic team maneuvers to key off the lead aircraft. In this you watch only the leader and follow his every move. While flying a practice mission on this day, an apparent mechanical failure in the lead aircraft's control surfaces caused his aircraft - and the entire team behind him - to fly, in perfect formation, into the ground at high speed, killing the team members.

For six months, until June, 1982, the team stood down and was then reformed using the F-16A. Fast -- it even looks fast -- economical, extremely maneuverable, the F-16 is a perfect mount for the Thunderbirds. The third kit in your Thunderbirds set represents the current version of the F-16 used by the team, the F-16A, powered by the Pratt & Whitney F100 turbofan engine.

We hope you enjoy building your AMT collection of Thunderbirds aircraft, representing, as they do, a span of thirty years of thrilling aviation and acrobatic history.

IMPORTANT

Before you begin to assemble your model kit, study the instructions carefully. This will help you to familiarize yourself with the part locations as you proceed. Prior to cementing parts together, be sure to "TEST FIT" them in order to assure proper alignment and also to check for excess "FLASH" that may occur along parting lines. Use a sharp hobby knife or file to remove flash if necessary.

If you wish to paint your model, various sub-assemblies and components should be painted before any parts are attached. During assembly, you may note that the recommended color is stated after the part name.

This model kit is molded from the finest high-impact styrene plastic. Use only paints and cements which are specifically formulated for styrene. Read all labels and warnings carefully.

Because the cement will only adhere to bare plastic, it is necessary to remove any paint or "plating" from the area to which the cement is to be applied.

BUILDING TIPS FOR THE ADVANCED MODELER

For the best possible finish, your kit should be painted, even if molded in color. Paint should be applied evenly, in several thin coats rather than one heavy coat. The first coat should not completely cover the surface. Each layer should be allowed to thoroughly dry before the next is applied.

It is important to keep your hands clean when working with your model and wash parts thoroughly before painting to remove any mold release agent that may have been used during manufacture, body oil from your hands, sanding residue, and dust, which is naturally attracted to plastic by static electricity. Use a mild solution of dish washing detergent and water. A tack rag should be used to dry the parts, DO NOT use paper towels or tissues, since they will leave lint on the part.

Parting lines and glue joints should be sanded or filed prior to painting. Because paint has a tendency to draw away from sharp edges, they should be lightly filed. Use filler putty designed for plastic to fill small gaps that may occur between parts and to blend contours. This should be done only after the first, or "primer," coat of paint is applied.

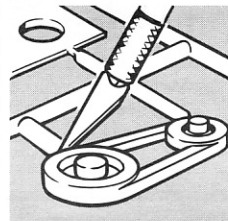
When painting a multi color scheme, the lightest color should be painted first. Use frosted, or "magic," tape to mask off the area you do not want painted. After the second color is dry to the touch, the tape can be removed. Use a very fine brush to touch up edges if necessary. If decals are to be added, do so before adding any gloss coat. A gloss coat will help even out the edges between the two colors as well as set the decals.

NOTE: Federal standard colors The military services use standardized colors, each receiving a specific five digit identification number. Grays, for instance, are all 6000, and gloss paints begin with a 1, semi-gloss 2, flats 3. Thus a gray color can be gloss (16251), semi-gloss (26251) or flat (36251)

RECOMMENDED TOOLS

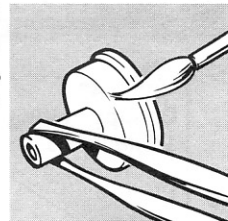
HOBBY KNIFE

Use a sharp hobby knife to remove parts from the trees. The knife may also be used to remove parting lines and flash.



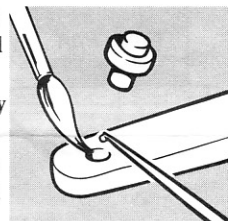
TWEEZERS

Use tweezers to hold small parts during assembly, painting and when applying cement.



BRUSH

We recommend the use of liquid polystyrene cement. Apply with a fine brush. Use sparingly or a sloppy job will result.



READ ALL LABELS AND WARNINGS CAREFULLY

We take great pride in providing the finest model kits available, giving strong attention to detail and craftsmanship. Should you have any difficulty with assembly or missing parts, please call the appropriate number listed below between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm central time, Monday through Friday.

In the U.S.A. call toll free

800 - 553 - 4886

Outside of the United States call

1 - 319 - 875 - 2000

When in the Midwest, please visit the ERTL Company for a tour of the AMT production facilities, 10am & 1pm weekdays. Reservations suggested.

1 Cockpit Assembly

45
Control Stick
Grip - Black
Shaft - Dark Gull
Gray (FS36231)

Decal 3
Side Panel

43
Ejection Seat
Frame - Dark Gull Gray
Back Cushion - Dark Red
Seat Cushion - Sage Green

7
Cockpit Floor
& Side Panels
Dark Gull Gray

Decal 2
Side Panel

2 Lower Fuselage Assembly

92
Jet Intake
Exterior Color

11
Intake Module
(Bottom)
Inside - Gloss White
Nose Wheel Well -
Gloss White

10
Intake Module (Top)
Inside - Gloss White

41
Ventral Fin (Left)
Exterior Color

23
Intake Brace
(Trim to fit)
Gloss White

20
Arresting Hook
Exterior Color

22
UHF/IFF Antenna
Gloss White

42
Ventral Fin (Right)
Exterior Color

21
Air Data Probe
Exterior Color

38
Fuselage
(Bottom)
Exterior Color

8
Bulkhead
(Mount from inside)
Gloss White

3 Fuselage Assembly

46
Canopy Fairing
Exterior Color

Flat Black

80
Heads Up
Display
Clear Part

37
Upper Fuselage
(Top)
Exterior Color
Interior -
Dark Gull Gray

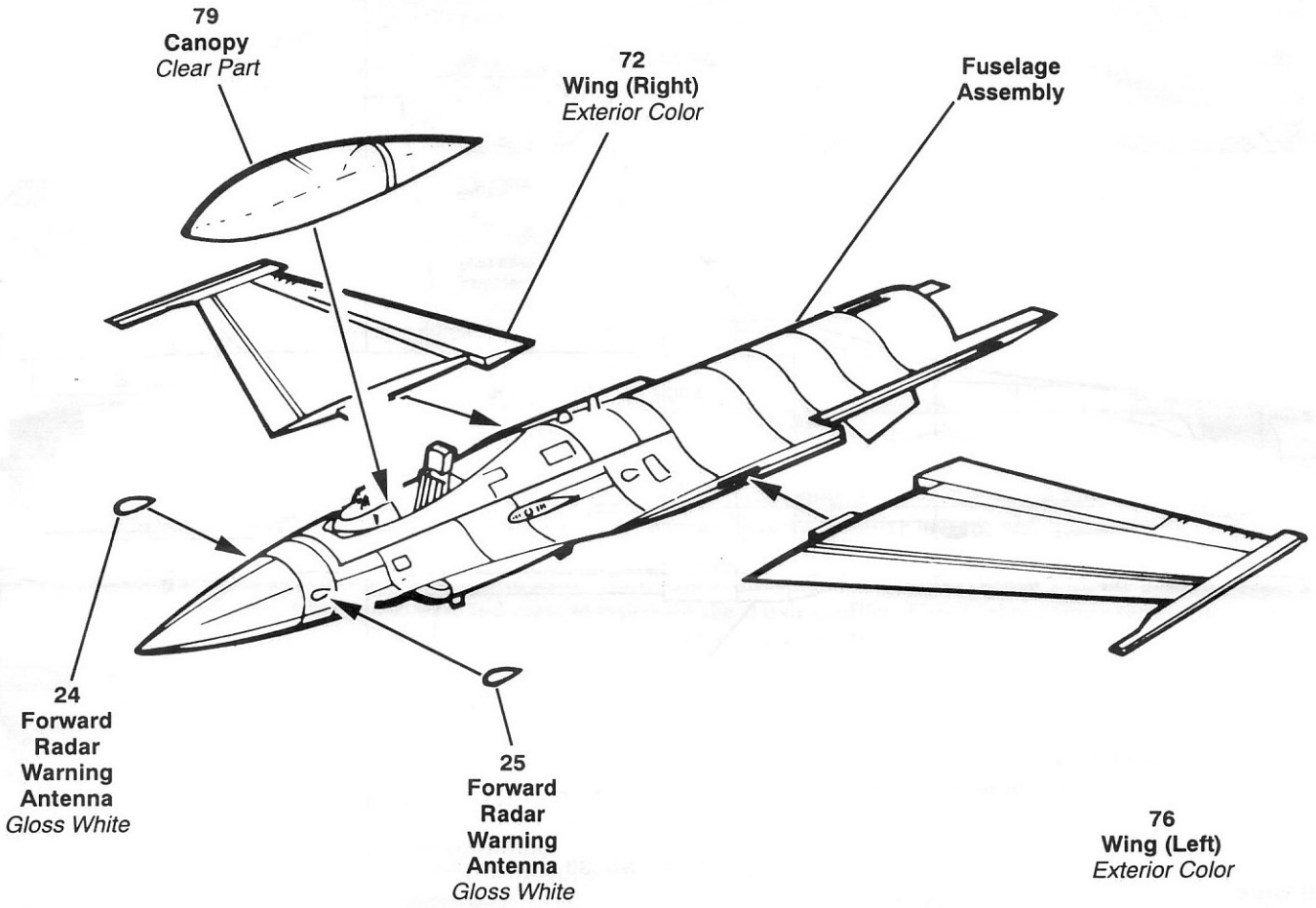
Decal 1
Instrument
Panel

Cockpit
Assembly

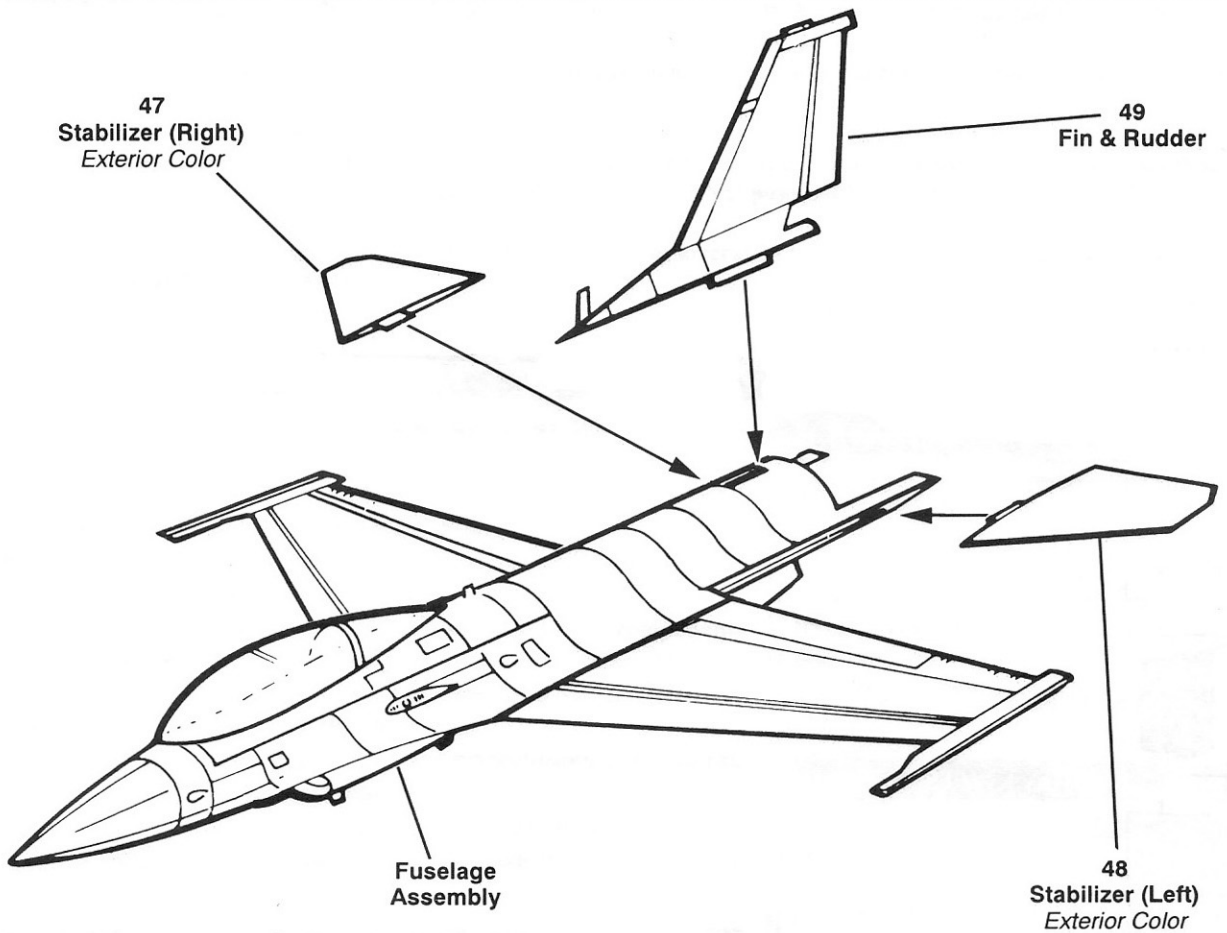
44
Instrument
Panel
Dark Gull Gray

Lower Fuselage
Assembly

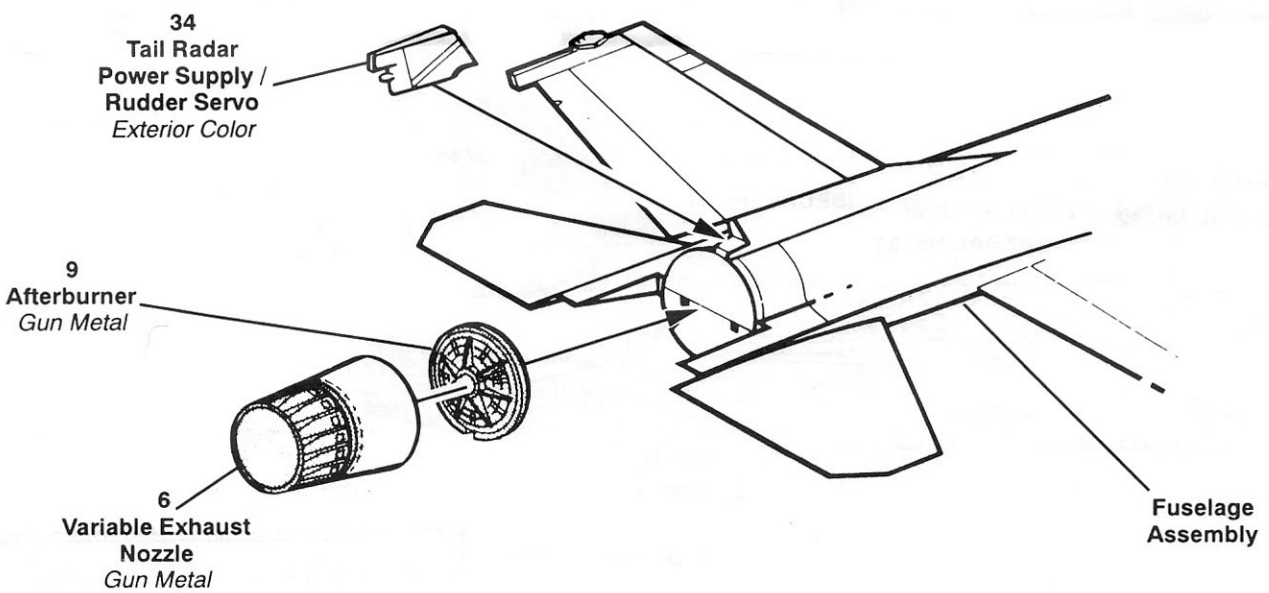
4 Wing, Canopy Installation



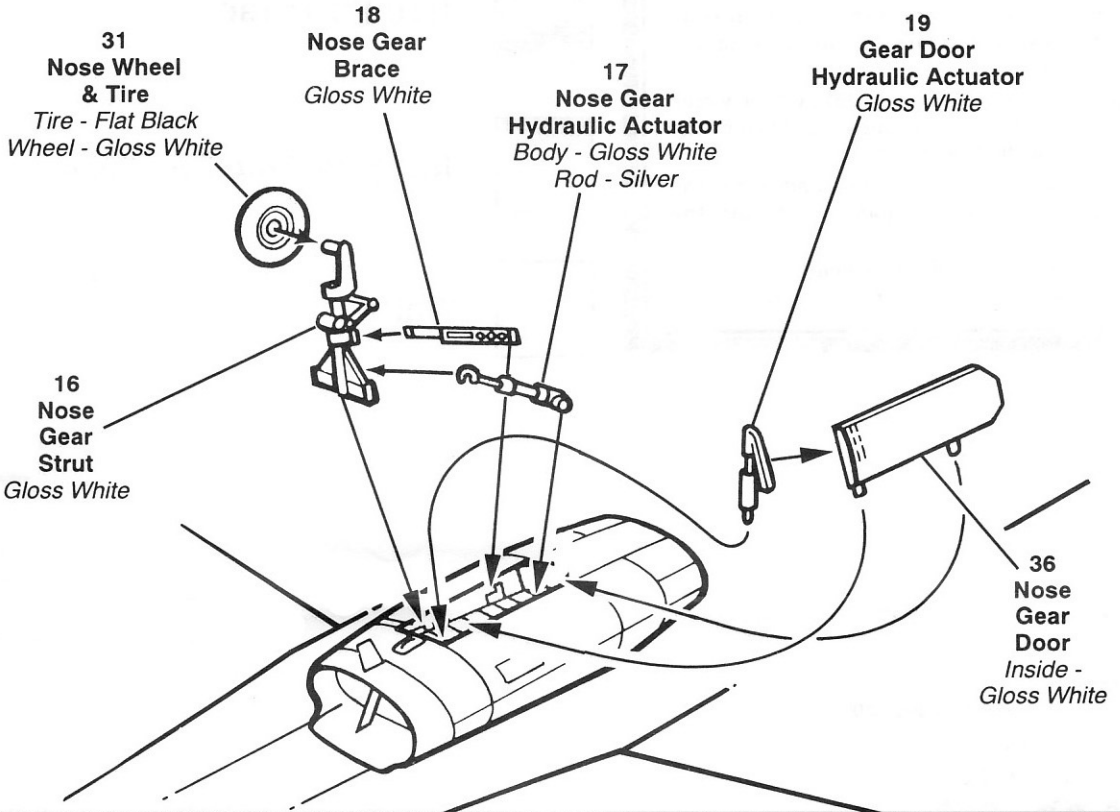
5 Fin/Rudder & Stabilizer Installation



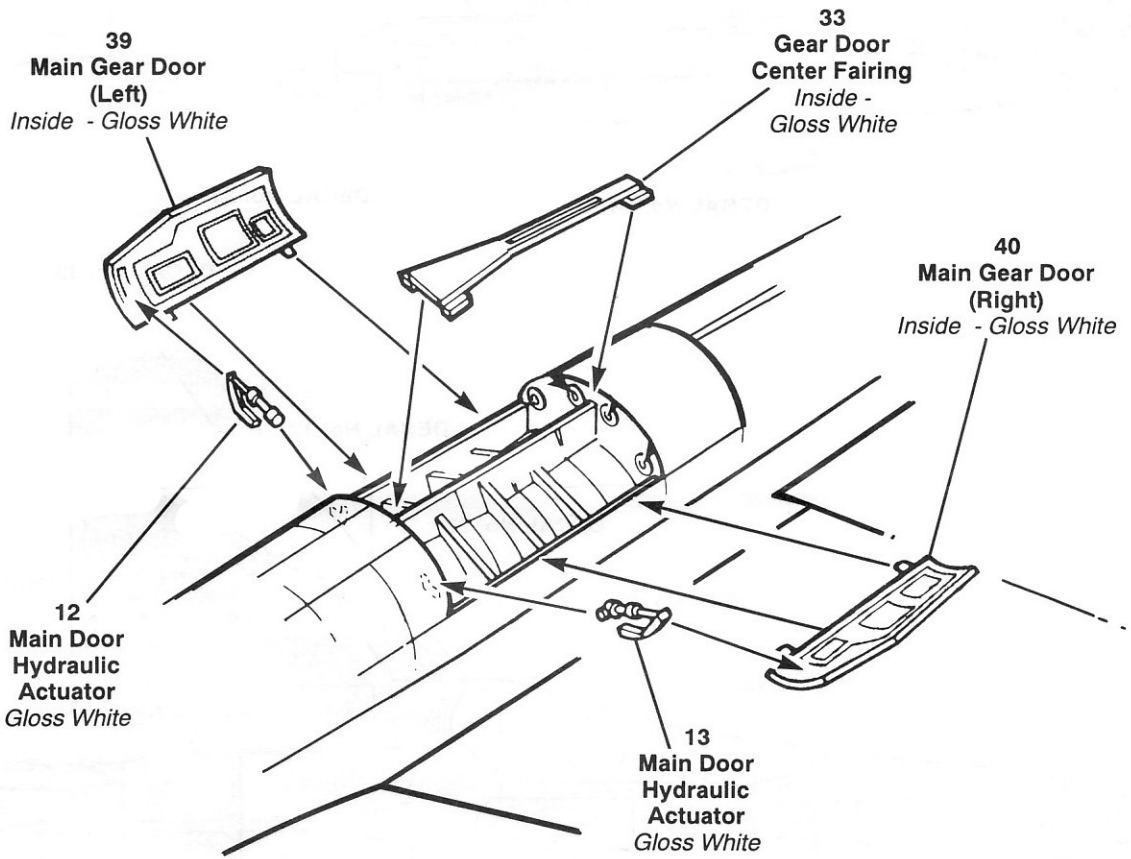
6 Tailcone Assembly



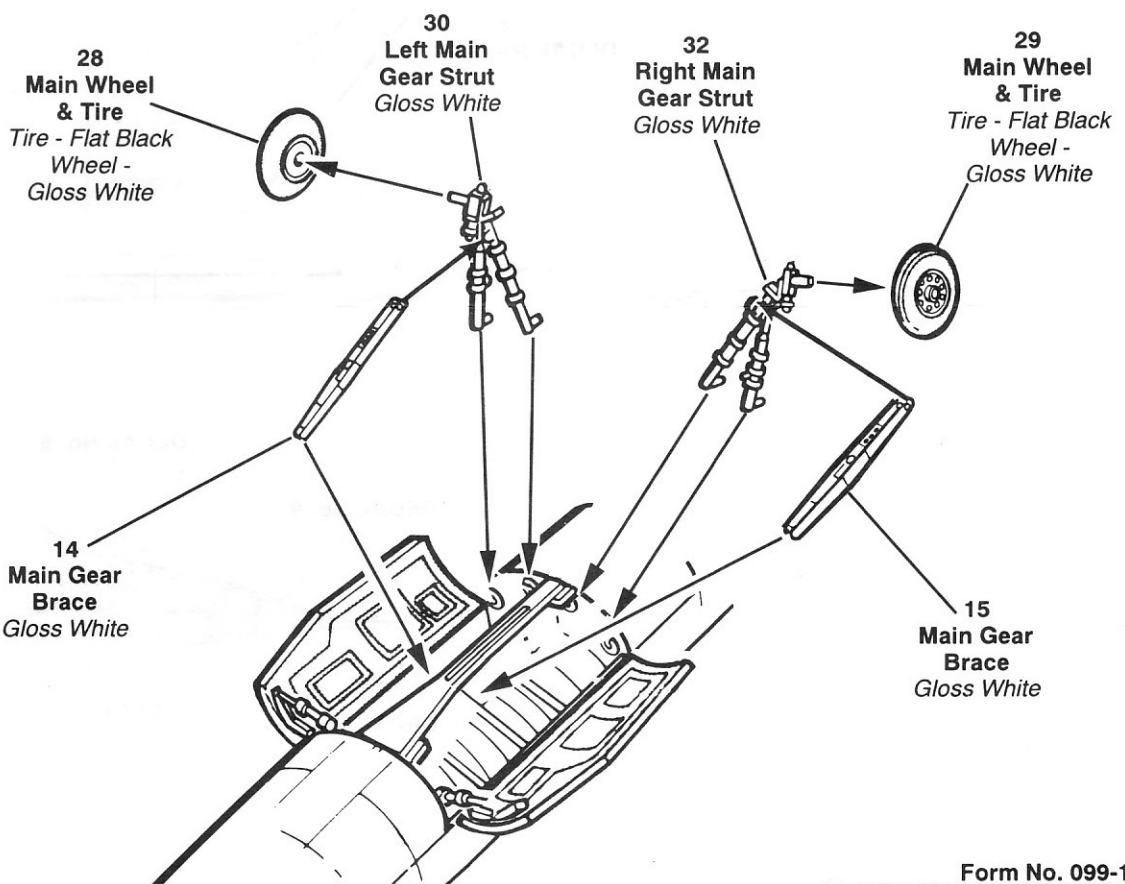
7 Nose Gear Assembly



8 Main Gear Door Installation



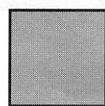
9 Main Gear Installation



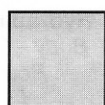
U.S. AIR FORCE ACROBATIC TEAM F-16A FALCON: PAINTING / DECAL APPLICATION

DECALS

- Choose the decals you want to put on your kit and use a scissors to cut it from the decal sheet.
- Dip the decal in a cup of lukewarm water for about fifteen seconds to loosen the decal from the backing paper.
- Place the decal in position and slide the decal off the backing paper and onto the model.
- Use a soft, damp cloth to gently rub away any water bubbles under the decal.



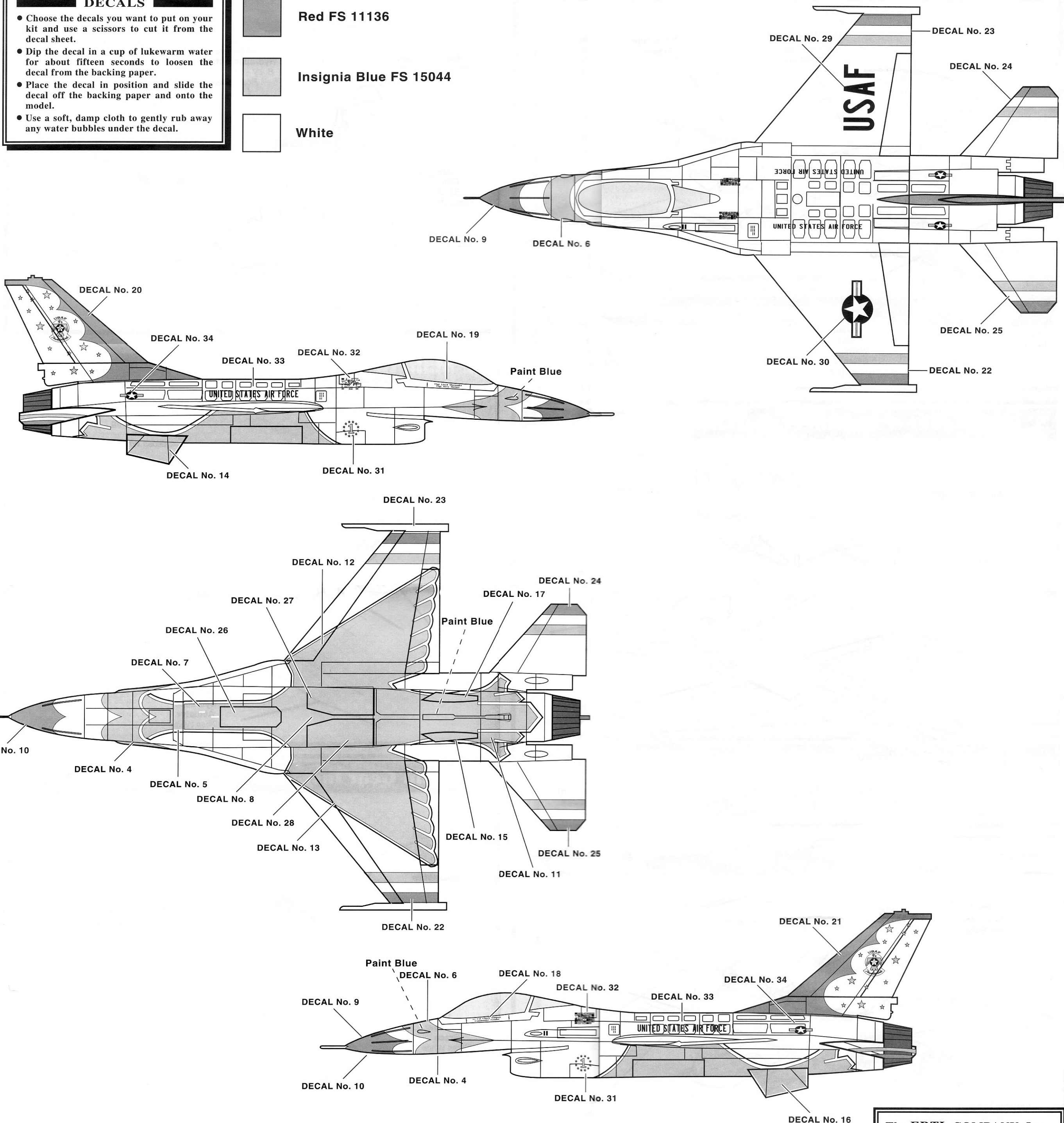
Red FS 11136



Insignia Blue FS 15044



White



USAF

F-16 THUNDERBIRD 8228-9432

29

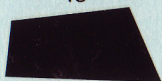
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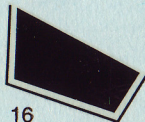
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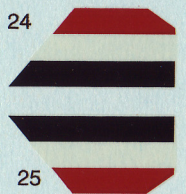
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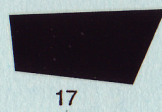
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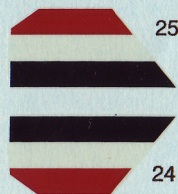
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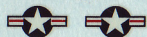
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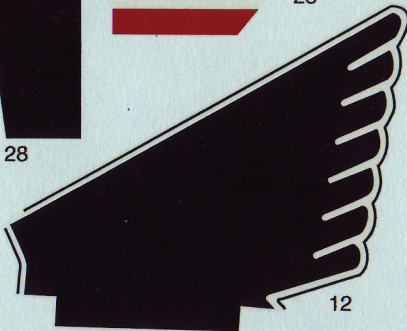
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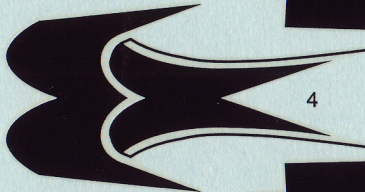
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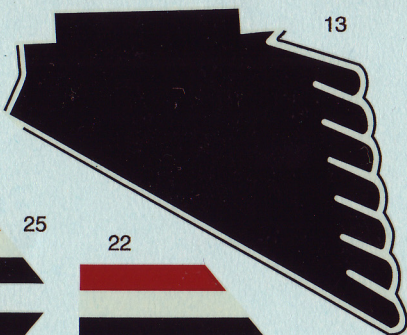
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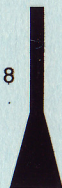
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13



8



18

Li Col Clark Simpson
Commander / Leader

19

The Libed Mernamek
The Star Shiner

7



21



20

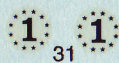


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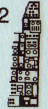


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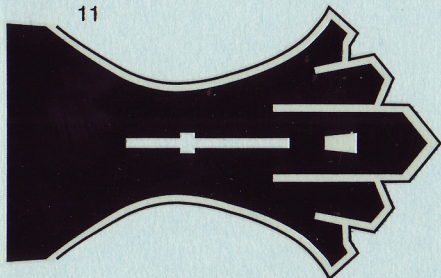
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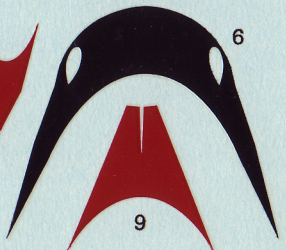
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10



6



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