Bf 110F

eduard

GERMAN WWII HEAVY FIGHTER

1/48 SCALE PLASTIC KIT

ProfiPACKedition

#8207

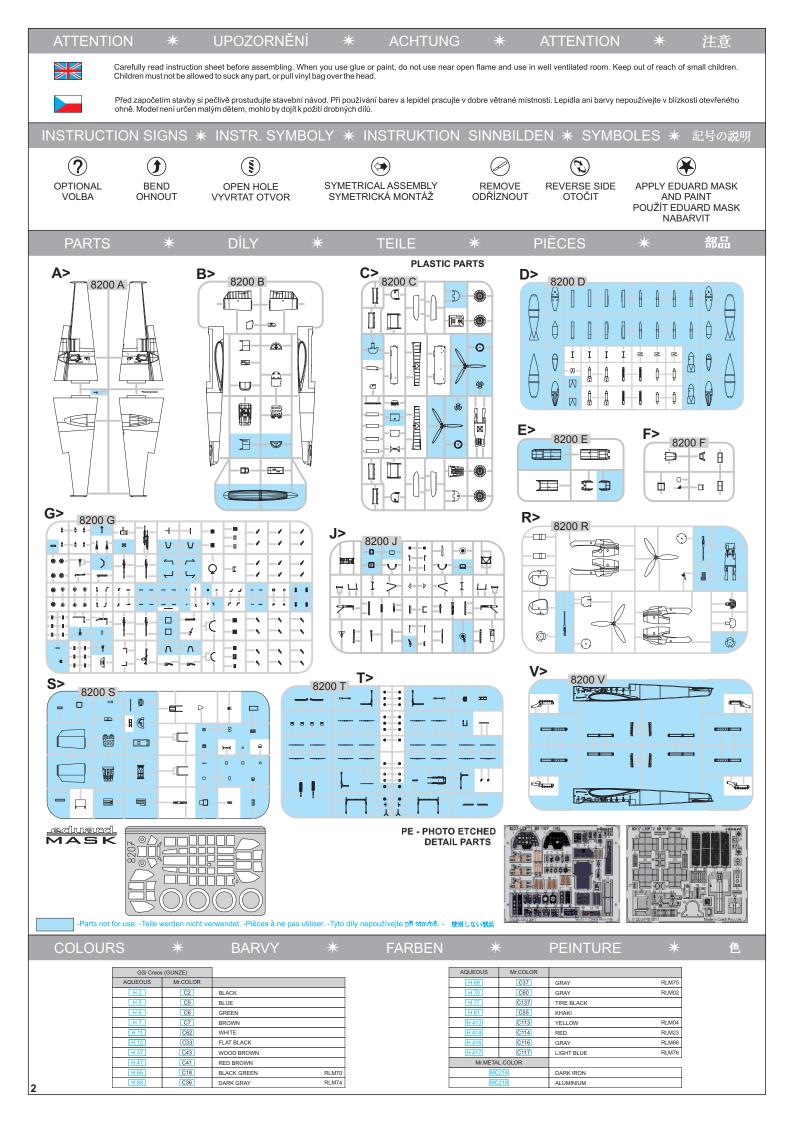


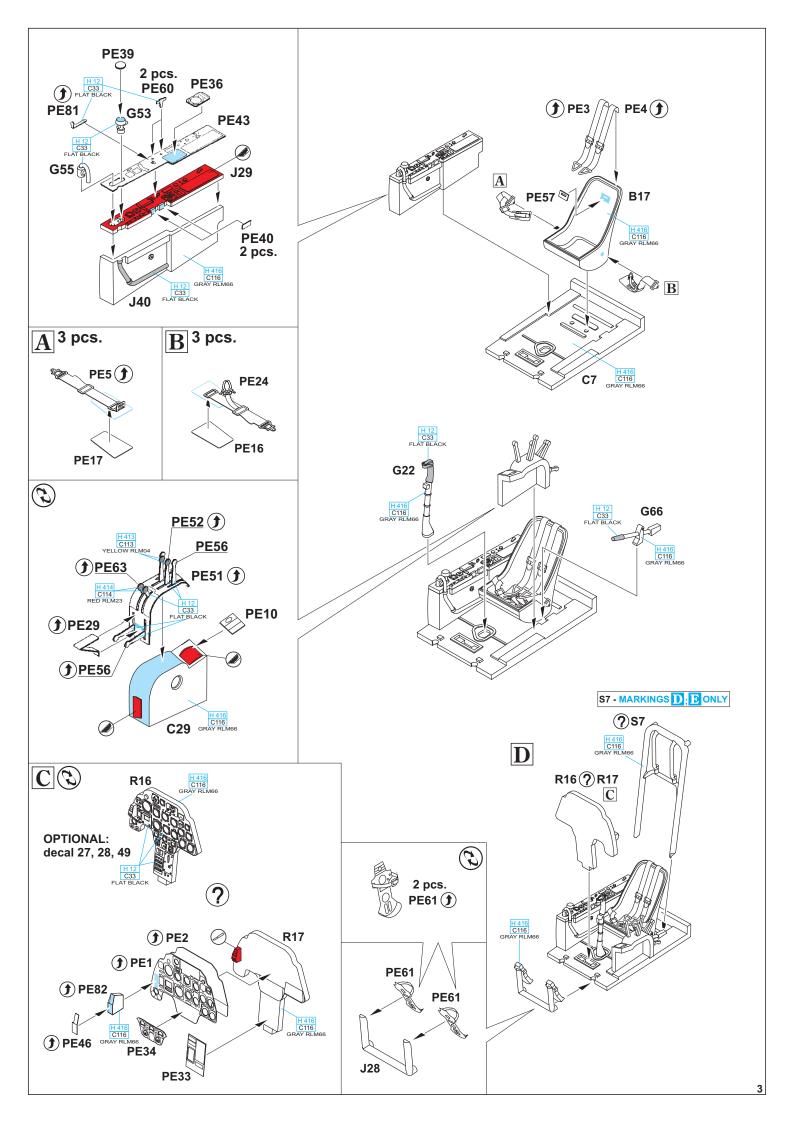
INTRO

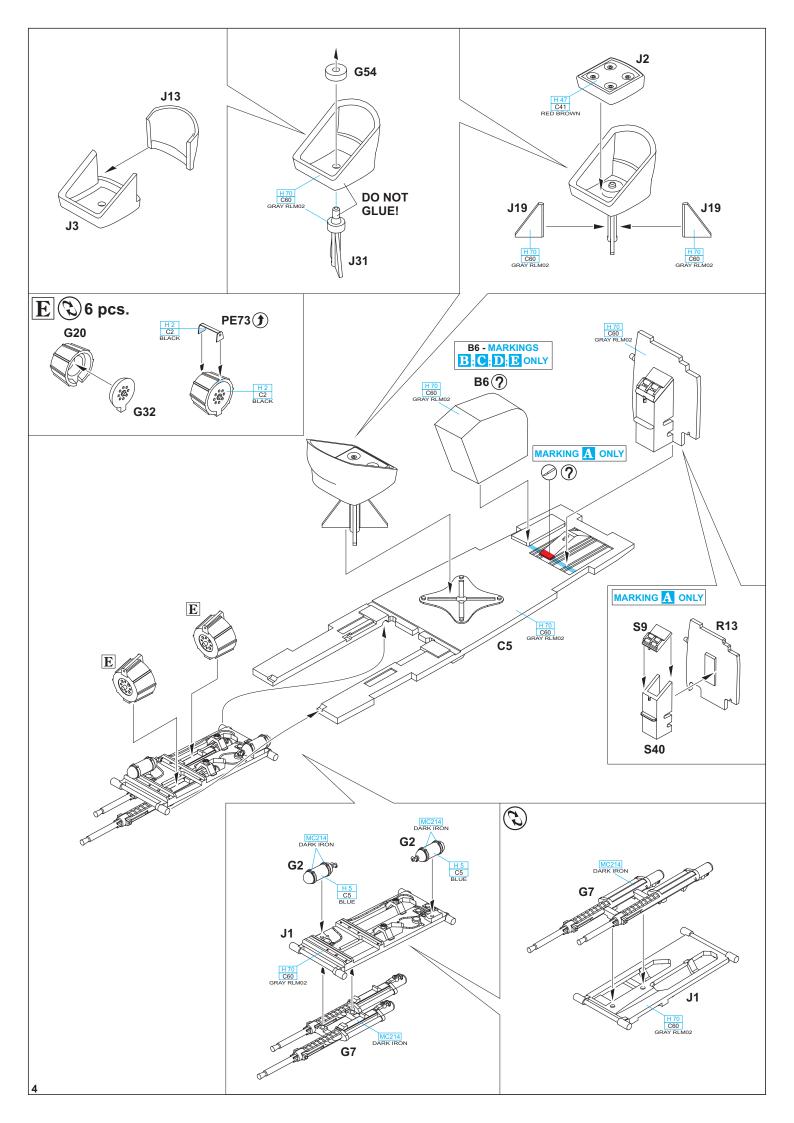
The first pages of history for the famous Zerstörer Bf 110 were written at the end of 1934, when C-Amt RLM (the technical branch of the Reich's Air Ministry) issued a specification for a two seat, twin engined aircraft to fulfill a need within the Kampfzerstörer category. Submitted proposals came from Focke-Wulf (Fw 57), Henschel (Hs 124) and BFW (Messerschmitt Bf 110). In the spring of 1935, the RLM changed its thinking on the spec, and cancelled the universal Kampfzerstörer category in favor of two specific types, the Schnellbomber and the Zerstörer. The new concept of a heavy fighter of the RLM were best satisfied by the Messerschmitt design, which wasn't really dictated as much by the original specifications. The first prototype, the Bf 110 V1, first flew May 12th, 1936, and the modified second prototype V2 was submitted to the Erprobungsstelle in Rechlin on January 14th, 1937. Four development aircraft, A-01 to A-04, powered by JUMO 210Da engines, were delivered at the beginning of 1938. A production run of 45 Bf 110Bs began in July, powered by JUMO 210Ga engines, delivering some 500kW (680hp). At the end of 1938, the production line for the high performance DB 601 finally got going, and these were mounted into the first major Bf 110 version, the Bf 110C. The Bf 110C, as was the case with the Bf 110B, was armed with two MG FF cannon, mounted in the fuselage below the cockpit floor, four MG 17 machine guns mounted in the nose and one rear firing MG 15 machine gun manned by the gunner/radio operator. There was a crew of two. The Luftwaffe received a total of 169 Bf 110Cs by September 1939. The first combat experience of the type in Norway and France uncovered a small operational radius, unsuitable for an escort fighter. The first attempt to remedy the shortcoming came in the form of a large, underfuselage conformal type external fuel tank, called the Dackelbauch. The Bf 110C-3, adapted to carry this tank, were redesignated D-0. Results were not entirely satisfactory with the D version, and so there was a reconstruction of the fuel system, after which aircraft of the D version carried two drop tanks under the wings, and a small oil tank under the fuselage. The Bf 110D also standardized a longer fuselage, by way of an extension at the rear carrying a life raft and other emergency survival gear. This was a feature also evident on some subsequent Bf 110Es, which were equipped with bomb racks under the fuselage and wings. The majority of Bf 110Es were powered by the DB 601N engines. The following Bf 110F received the DB 601F engines housed in reshaped nacelles, with newer, more rounded spinners, aerodynamic features taken from the Bf 109F. Upgrading efforts were noted in the armament as well, where the MG FF were replaced by MG 151s. Significant changes came with the Bf 110G, powered by new DB 605 engines. The rear firing MG 81Z double gun appeared on the G-2, and with the G-4 came the replacement of four forward firing machine guns with two 30mm MK 108 cannon. The G-4 also saw larger rudders mounted. The Bf 110 went through not only technical changes throughout its career, but also through a development of its operational use. It entered the war as a heavy escort and attack fighter. By the time of the Battle of Britain, it became apparent that the aircraft, in the role of escort fighter, had been pushing the envelope of its capabilities. On the contrary, as a defensive weapon against British bombers, the Bf 110 made an extremely good showing of itself, and remained a deadly foe through to the end of the war. The placement of RAF bombing operations within nighttime hours from 1941 brought the Bf 110 into the realm of nightfighting on the Western Front. On the Eastern Front, they excelled as fast fighter bombers. Their earlier role as a day attack fighter was still fulfilled not only on the Eastern Front (where they were employed throughout the war successfully even as the originally envisioned escort fighter), but also on the Western Front into the depths of the summer of 1944, where the role was abandoned primarily, and finally, due to the effectiveness of American fighter escorts. As a nightfighter in the G-4 version, thanks to a heavy forward firing armament and radar, they soldiered on literally until the very end of the war. As such, it was the nightfighter role that would prove to be the most significant for the Bf 110 during the course of the Second World War.

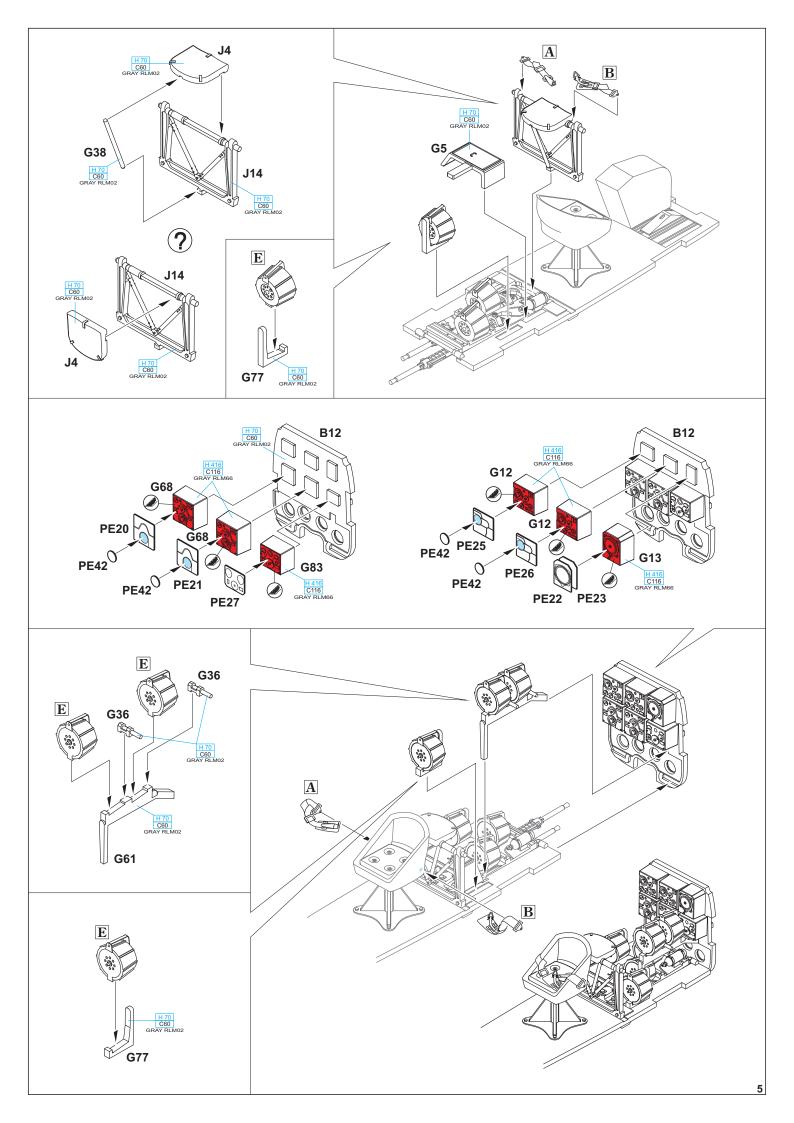
ÚVODEM

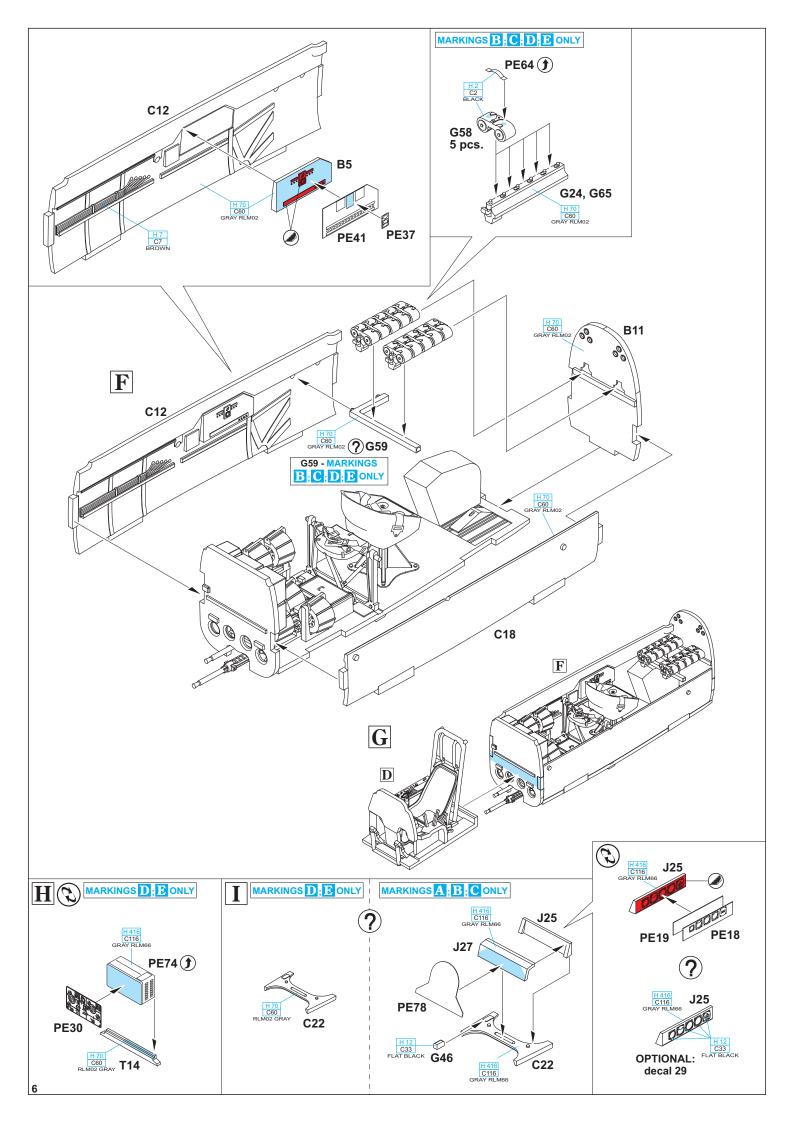
Historie slavného Zerstöreru Bf 110 se začala psát na konci roku 1934, kdy C-Amt RLM (Technický úřad Říšského ministerstva letectví) vydal specifikace pro dvoumístné dvoumotorové letouny kategorie Kampfzerstörer. Do konkurzu vstoupily firmy Focke-Wulf (Fw 57), Henschel (Hs 124) a BFW (Messerschmitt Bf 110). Na jaře 1935 RLM své názory přehodnotilo, univerzální kategorii Kampfzerstörer zrušilo ve prospěch dvou specializovaných kategorií Schnellbomber a Zerstörer. Požadavkům RLM na těžký stíhací stroj Zerstörer nejlépe vyhovovala Messerschmittova konstrukce, která se příliš nevázala na původní zadání. První prototyp Bf 110 V1 byl zalétán 12.5.1936, modifikovaný druhý prototyp V2 byl do Erprobungsstelle v Rechlinu předán 14.1.1937. Čtyři stroje zkušební série A-01 až A-04, poháněné motorem JUMO 210Da, byly dodány začátkem roku 1938, v červenci pak začala výroba 45 kusů série Bf 110B, poháněné motory JUMO 210Ga o max.výkonu 500kW (680 k). Na konci roku 1938 se konečně rozběhla výroba výkonných motorů DB 601, které byly montovány do první velkosériové verze C. Verze C, stejně jako předchozí B, měla výzbroj tvořenou dvěma kanóny MG FF, montovanými do trupu pod podlahou prostoru osádky, čtyřmi kulomety MG 17 lafetovanými v nose letounu, a jedním vzad střílejícím kulometem MG 15, obsluhovaným radistou/střelcem. Osádka byla dvoučlenná. Do září 1939 dostala Luftwaffe 169 strojů Bf 110C. Již první bojové zkušenosti z Norska a Francie ukázaly na malý operační dolet, nevyhovující pro doprovodné stíhačky. Prvním řešením tohoto problému byla známá velká podtrupová přídavná nádrž zvaná Dackelbauch. Stroje verze C-3, adaptované k nesení této nádrže, byly přeznačeny na D-0. Výsledky nebyly zcela uspokojivé, u verze D proto došlo k rekonstrukci palivové soustavy, po které stroje řady D nesly dvě přídavné nádrže pod křídly a malou přídavnou olejovou nádrž pod trupem. Stroje Bf 110D měly také standardně prodloužený trup, v nástavci za ocasem byl uložen záchranný člun a další vybavení pro přežití posádky při nouzovém přistání. Prodloužené trupy zůstaly i na některých sériích následující verze Bf 110E, která byla vybavena pumovými závěsníky pod trupem a pod křídlem. Většina Bf 110E byla poháněna motory DB 601N. Následující verze Bf 110F dostala nové motory DB 601F v nově tvarovaných kapotách, s novými, mohutnějšími vrtulovými kužely - aerodynamika stroje byla zjemněna ve stylu Bf 109F. Modernizací prošla i výzbroj, staré kanóny MG FF byly nahrazeny modernějšími MG 151. Významnou změnu přinesly stroje řady Bf 110G, poháněné novými výkonnými motory DB 605. Od verze G-2 byl instalován vzad střílející dvojkulomet MG 81Z, u verze G-4 pak byly čtyři kulomety v přídi nahrazeny dvěma 30 mm kanóny MK 108. U G-4 byly také zvětšeny směrovky. Bf 110 prošel během své válečné služby nejen řadou technických změn, k významným změnám došlo také v jeho operačním nasazení. Do války typ vstupoval jako těžký doprovodný a přepadový stíhač. Již v době Bitvy o Anglii bylo zřetelné, že role doprovodné stíhačky je na hranicích možností stroje. Naopak v obranných bojích proti britským bombardérům se Bf 110 velmi osvědčily a jako přepadový těžký stíhač byl Bf 110 smrtelně nebezpečným protivníkem až do konce války. Vzhledem k přesunu bombardovacích operací RAF do nočních hodin pak od roku 1941 Bf 110 přecházely na západě do role nočních stíhaček. Na východní frontě se zase významně prosadily jako rychlé stíhací bombardéry. Svojí původní úlohu těžké denní přepadové stíhačky přesto plnily dál jak na východě (zde po celou válku úspěšně bojovály i ve své původní roli doprovodných stíhaček), tak na západě až hluboko do léta roku 1944, kdy jí pro těžké ztráty, způsobované především americkými doprovodnými stíhačkami, definitivně opustily Jako noční stíhačky ve verzi G-4, díky silné hlavňové výzbroji a instalovanému radaru, ovšem efektivně bojovaly až do samotného konce války. Noční stíhání se tak nakonec stalo jednou z nejdůležitějších činností Bf 110 ve 2.světové válce. 8207 - NAV1

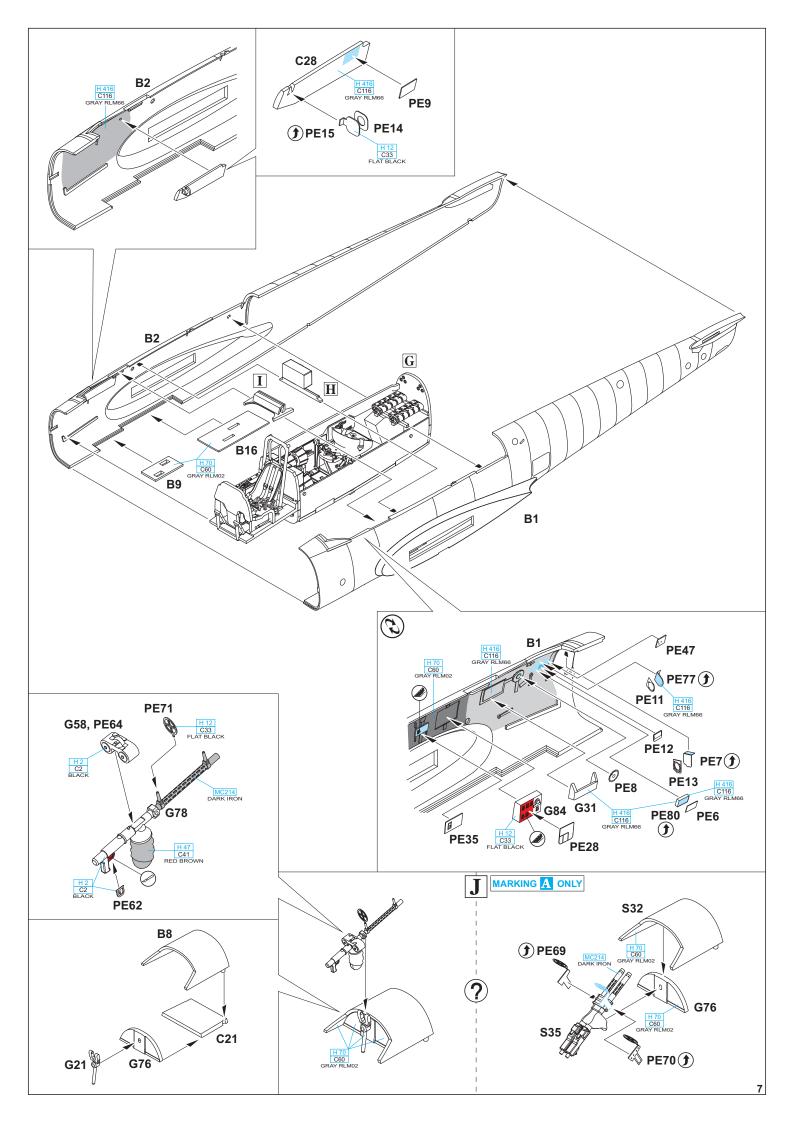


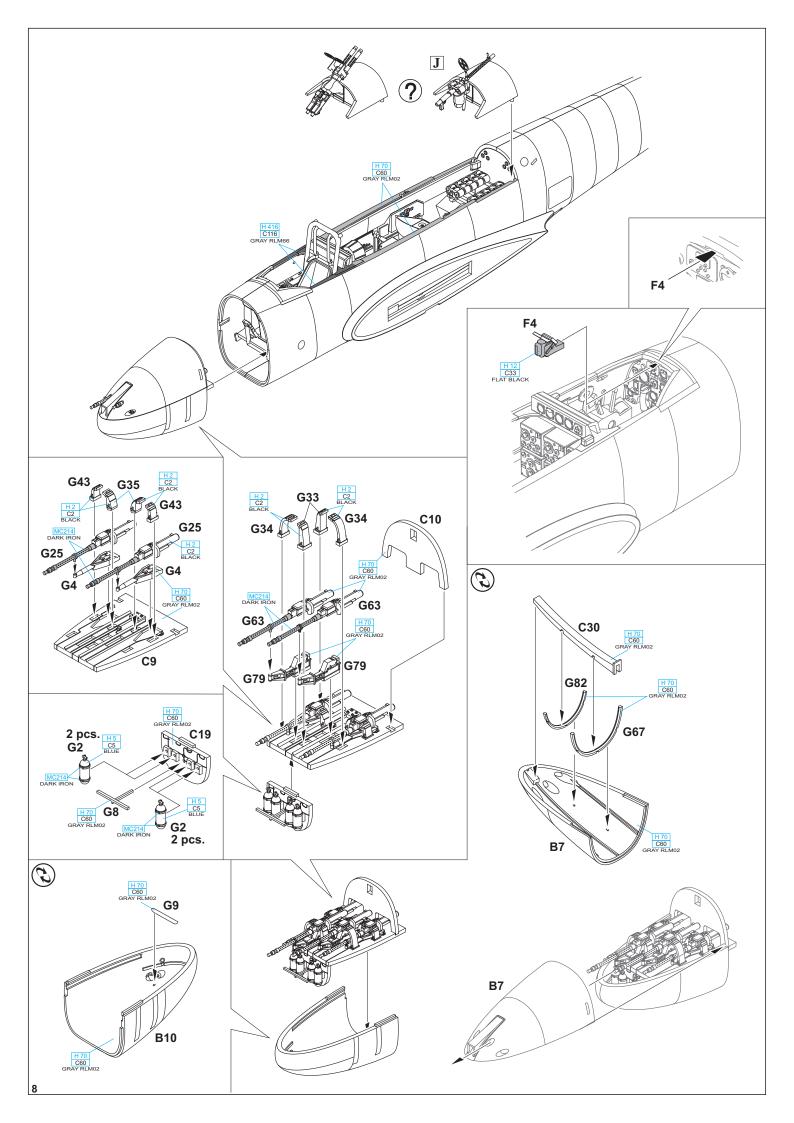


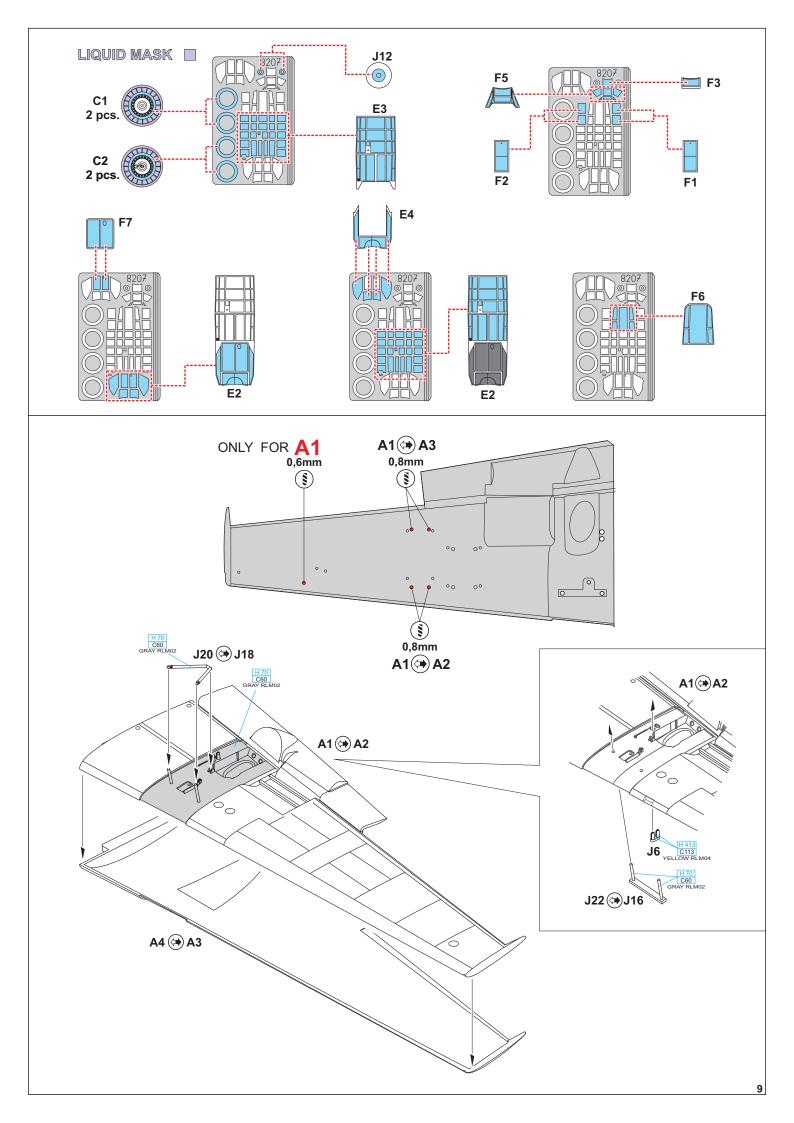


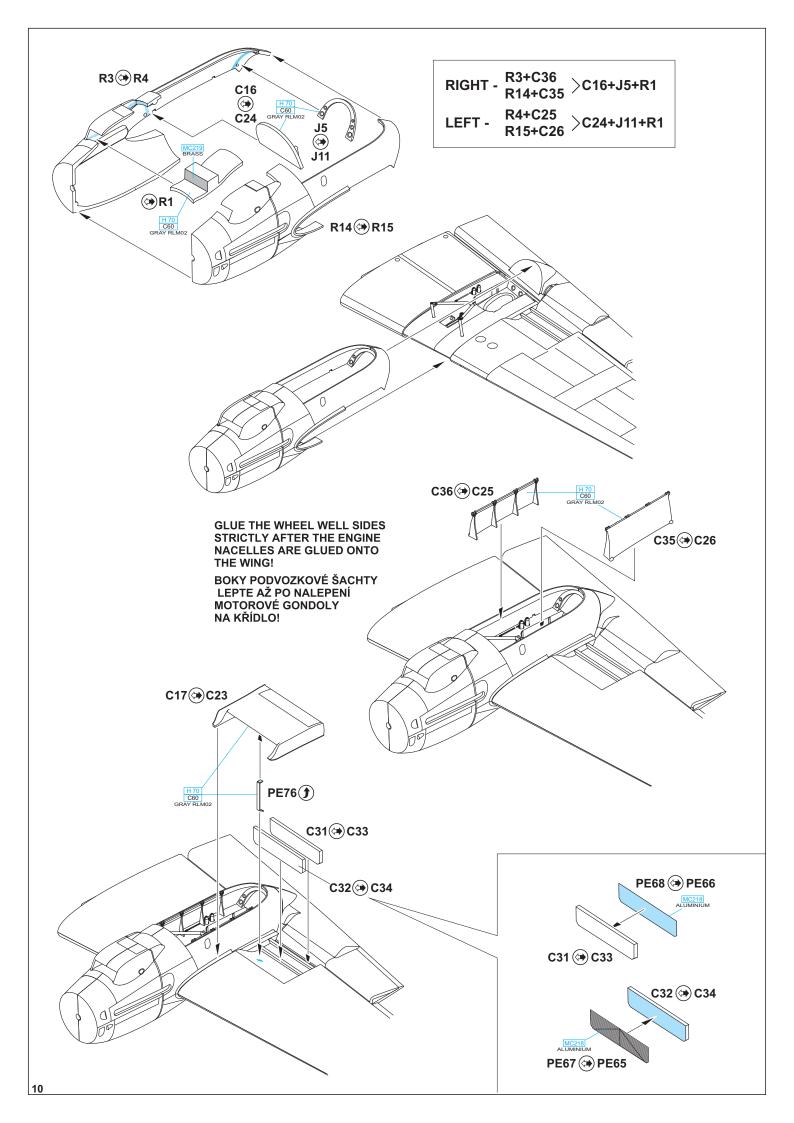


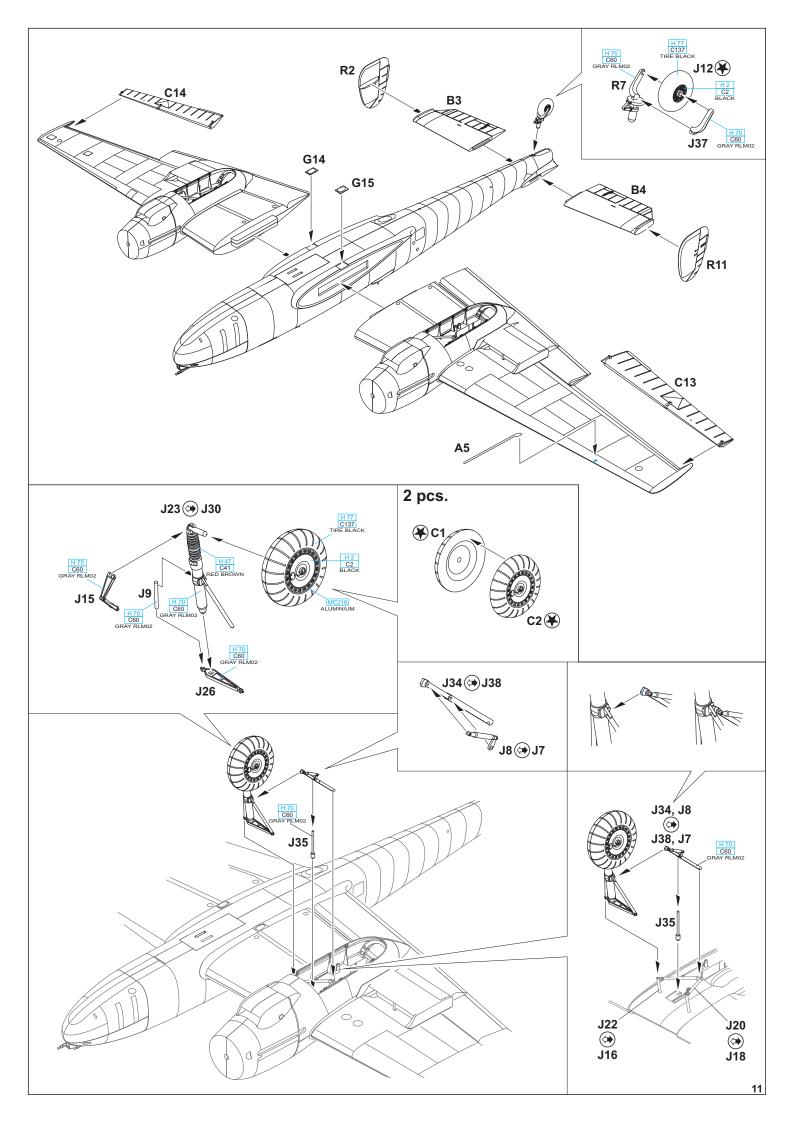


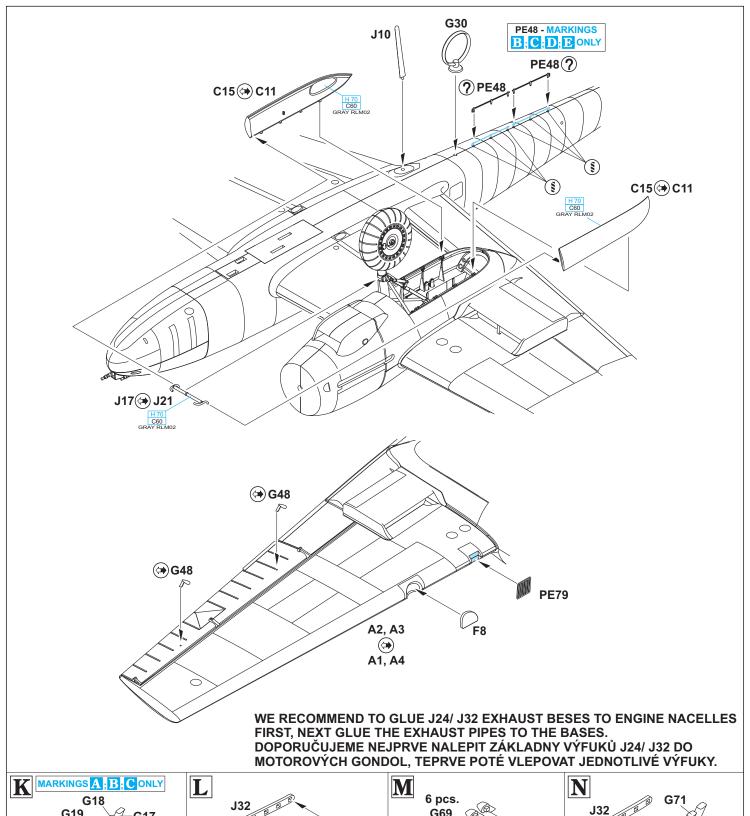


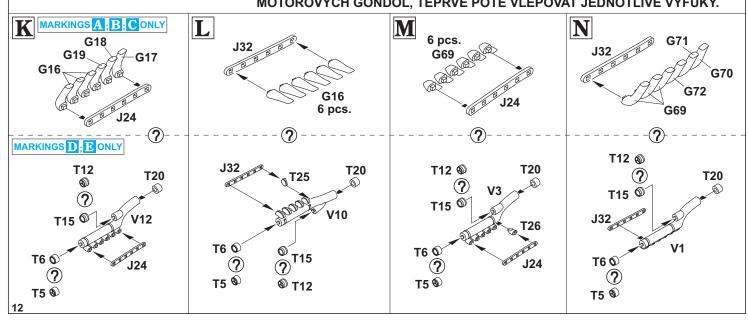


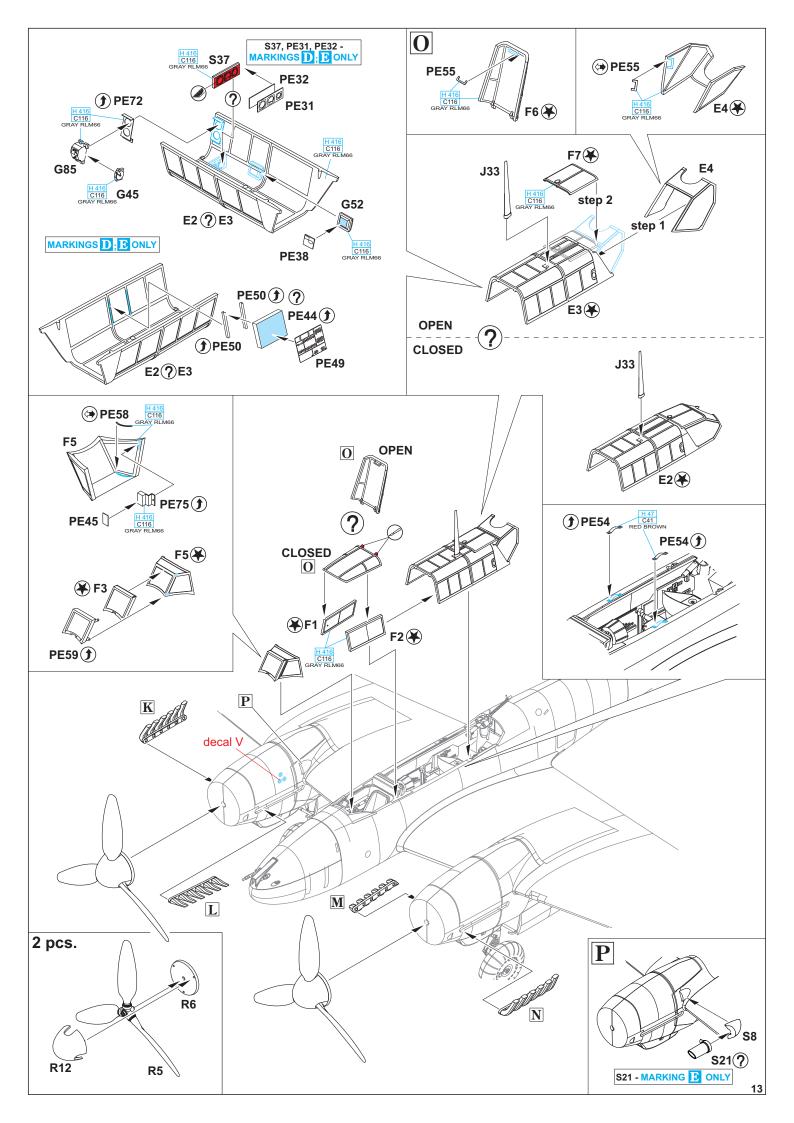


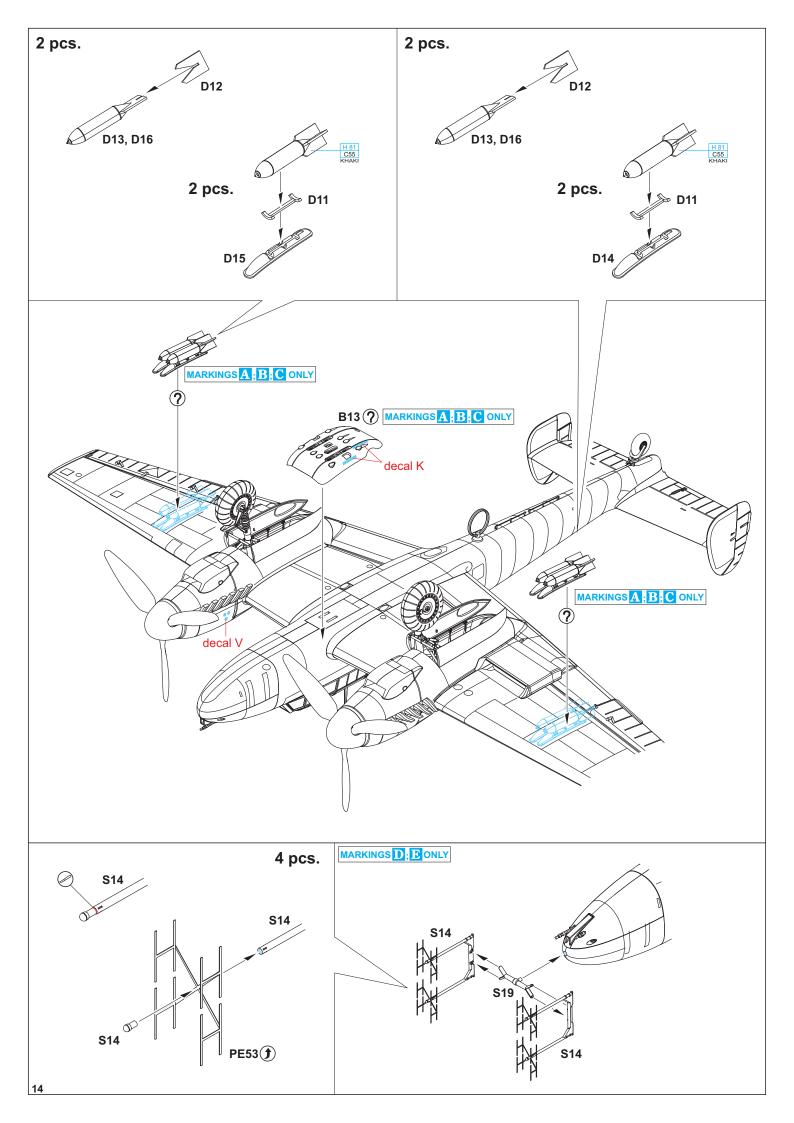






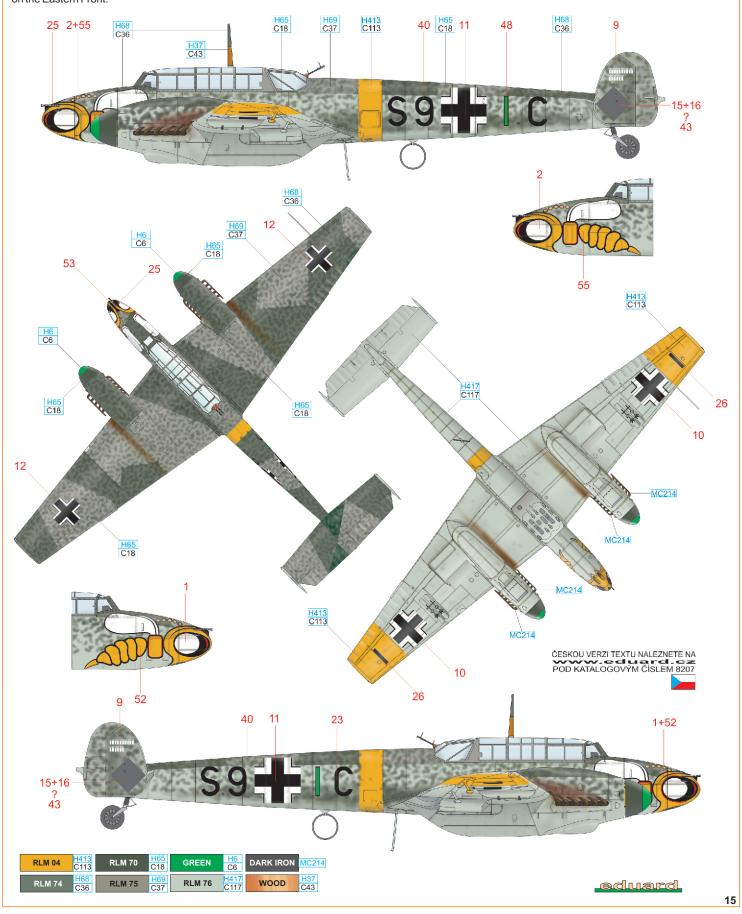






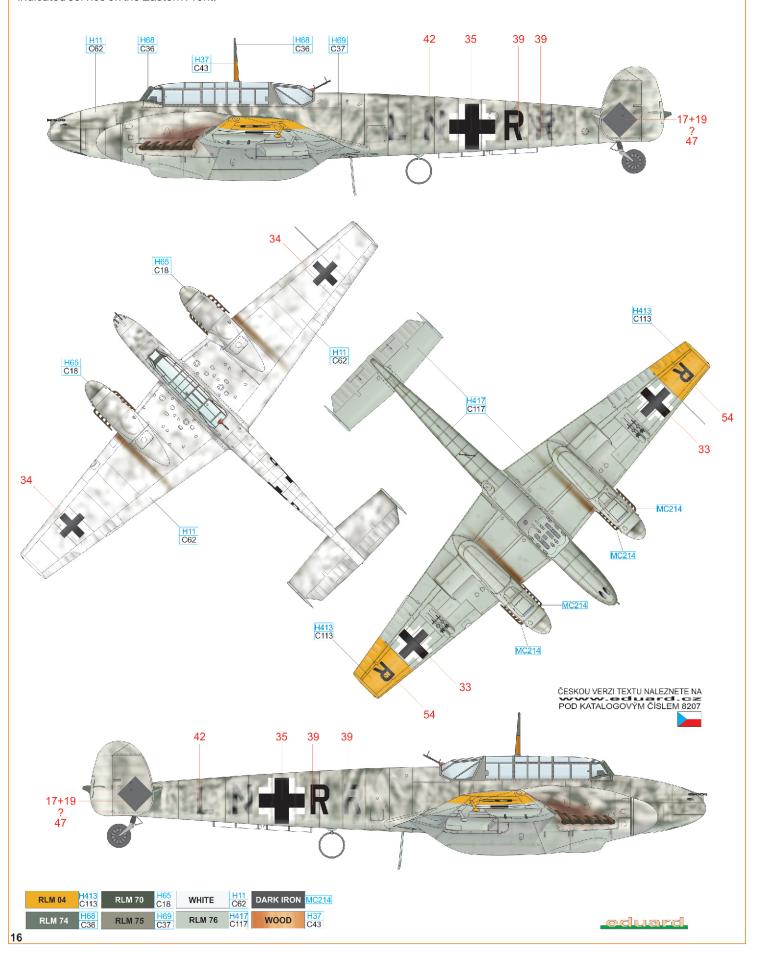
A Bf 110F-2 flown by Oblt. G. Tonne, CO of II./ZG 1, Belgorod, Soviet Union, June 1942

Gunther Tonne was born on May 21st, 1916 in Frankfurt and in 1935 he joined the German Navy (Kriegsmarine). In 1937 he stepped into the ranks of the Luftwaffe. After undergoing training on Bf 110 heavy fighters, he was assigned to ZG 1. In 1940 he shot down seven British aircraft in combat over the English islands and added a British Blenheim to his score in April 1941 while serving as CO of 6./SKG 210. On January 4th, 1942 this unit was redesignated as 6./ZG 1 and from February 4th, 1942 Tonne commanded its entire II./ZG 1. In December 1942 he took over command of the newly formed SKG 10 armed with Fw 190 fighter-bombers. Engine failure on take off cost him his life while flying an Fw 190A-5 out of Reggio di Calabria on July 15th, 1943. In combat during the Second World War he shot down some twenty enemy aircraft and for his success he was awarded the Knight's Cross on October 5th, 1941, to which were posthumously added Oak Leaves on October 24th, 1944. While serving with II./ZG 1 in 1942 over the Russian plains, Oblt. Tonne flew several Bf 110F-2s. Zerstoregeschwader 1 was named 'Wespe' (Wasp) and the noses of their aircraft carried artwork depicting these aggressive insects. The standard camouflage scheme was sprayed over with squiggles of RLM 70 or 71 on the upper and side surfaces while the yellow surfaces denoted service on the Eastern Front.



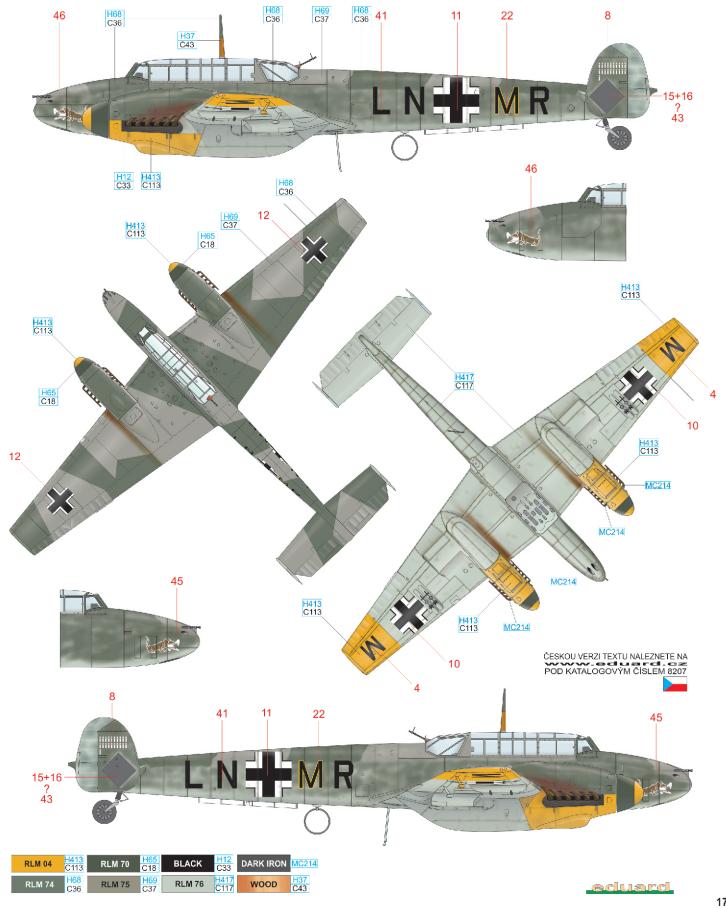
B Bf 110F-2 W. Nr. 5080, flown by W. Frost, 13.(Z)/JG 5, Kemijärvi, Finland, Winter 1942/ 1943

In preparation for the invasion of the Soviet Union, 1.(Z)/JG 77 was moved to northern Norway, a unit equipped with Bf 110 heavy fighters. Their main task was to attack the strategically important railway line to the port of Murmansk. In the spring of 1942 it was moved under the command of JG 5 and at first redesignated 6.(Z)/JG 5 in June 1942 and then as 13.(Z)/JG 5. During the winter period, the upper surfaces of both warring sides' aircraft were sprayed over with a white washable paint for obviously better concealment. This applied also to this Bf 110F-2 who's code letters were also partially painted over by the ground crew (except the individual aircraft letter). The yellow wingtips indicated service on the Eastern Front.



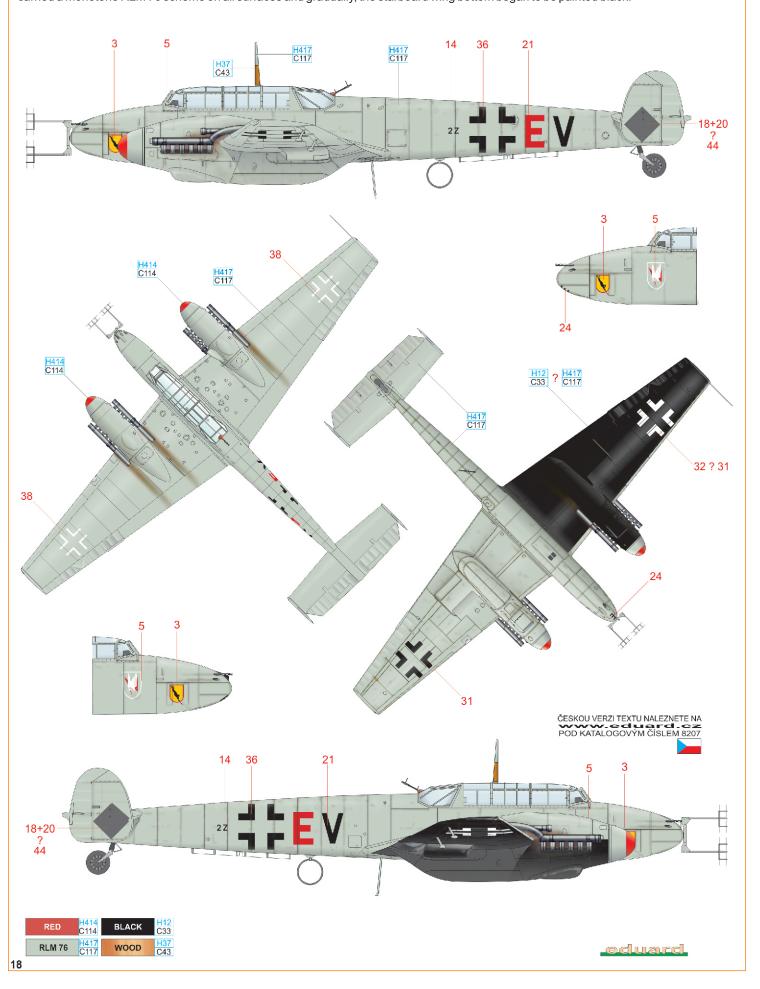
C Bf 110F-2 flown by Ofw. T. Weissenberger, 6.(Z)/JG 5, Kirkenes, Norway, June 1942

German fighter ace with 208 kills to his credit and holder of the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves Theodor Weissenberger was involved in flying from an early age on gliders. He joined the Luftwaffe in 1936. After completing fighter training, he became an instructor and in 1941 he was assigned to 1.(Z)/JG 77 (on March 16th, this unit was redesignated 10.(Z)/JG 5). In September 1942 Weissenberger was transferred to 6./JG 5, where he flew single engined Bf 109s. On October 24th, 1944 he took over command of the newly formed I./JG 7, equipped with the Me 262. On January 1st, 1945 he took over the entire JG 7 and remained in this function up to the end of the war. He was killed on June 11, 1950 during an automobile race in Nurnburgring. Weissenberger's Bf 110F was sprayed RLM 74/75/76, the standard used to camouflage fighter aircraft. The sides of the fuselage received a heavy and irregular overspray of RLM 74 and 75. The aircraft carries his kills depicted on the tail surfaces and on the nose is the Zerstorer unit's of JG 5 emblem, a dachshund with an I-16 in its mouth.



D Bf 110F-4 flown by Oblt. M. Bauer, CO of 11./NJG 6, Zilistea, Romania, June 1944

After the completion of pilot training in March 1941 Martin Bauer continued in blind flying instruction, and was subsequently assigned to Nachtjagdgeschwader 1. At the beginning of June he was transferred to NJG 6, with which he would serve out the war. His final tally of aerial victories is not precisely known, and historians place it at between seven and nine. Night fighter Bf 110s of NJG 6 from the beginning carried a monotone RLM 76 scheme on all surfaces and gradually, the starboard wing bottom began to be painted black.



E Bf 110F-4 flown by Ofw. R. Kollak, 7./NJG 4, Juvincourt, France, June 1943

Reinhard Kollak enterred the ranks of the Reichswehr in 1932 and after the formation of the Luftwaffe he transferred to this service and in 1935 he began his training as a fighter pilot, after which his home became ZG 1. After completing blind flying training, he was assigned to the newly formed NJG 1 in October 1940. While serving with this unit, he shot down his first aircraft, a British Whitley, on June 17th, 1941. On May 1942 was 1./NJG 1 redesignated 7./NJG 4. His score steadily grew, and on August 29th, 1943 he was awarded the Knight's Cross for his 29 kills. His final score at the end of the war was 49. He joined the newly formed Luftwaffe and served until his retirement. He passed away on February 6th, 1980. Kollak's aircraft carried the standard Luftwaffe Bf 110 day fighter camouflage scheme. The RLM 76 on the sides of the fuselage were oversprayed with irregular patterns of RLM 74 and 75 for better concealment. The NJG 4 unit insignia was painted under the windscreen and kill marks were painted on the tail surfaces. It is possible that these also bore the national insignia of the aircraft he shot down.

