



Linden Hill Decals



# СТРИЖИ

Swifts MiG-29s 2003 SCENE



12 Also version of the MiG-29 in particular in the MiG-29UB 2-seaters only

the pilot house is white upper and lower in this region on both 2-seaters

13 When camouflage color incorporated glass white on both 2-seaters

14 Delimiting panel in incorporated glass white on both 2-seaters

15 1 + 14

16 on the reduced tail of single seat

17 ground marks and bottom of tanks track

18

## Aircraft "01" and "02" are two-seaters

19 The "blends" standard appears in the same position relative to the standard frame on both single and 2-seaters

17

16 + 14

20 ground marks and bottom of tanks track

21 on the reduced tail of single seat

22

## Aircraft "03" to "05" are single-seaters

23 Also version of the MiG-29 in particular in the MiG-29 single-seater only

on all single-seaters, the pilot house is red upper and white upper in this region

on all single-seaters, these antennae are a dual average color

24 Delimiting panel in same white grey on single-seaters

25 The main dispersion bearings the point of the vertical line on single-seaters have more variations of the other "white" red stripes wrapped around the sides and top. Check your reference photos for the specific color number you're modeling

26 white walls are red grey on most northern "Alpine" and "rock" variants in the underside blue outline on the one although in our reference photos, both door antennas are all in the underside blue outline

27 white tails are the standard F15 "tail green"

28 weapons rail and pylon configurations are usually installed on all seats except during display flying. They are shown here on both sides. The square white caplets applicable also can be used on the inboard installation

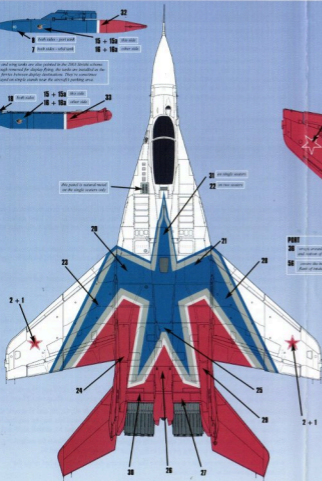
inboard AP-10 launcher and pylon installed on both 2-seater aircraft

outboard AP-10 launcher and pylon installed on all seat aircraft

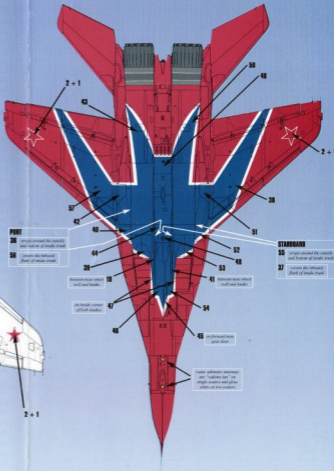
inboard AP-11 launcher and pylon installed on all four single-seater aircraft



Left and right seats are also painted in the 2003 British scheme. Although removed for display fitting, the seats are installed in the main British Aerospace display destinations. Check the companion illustration on single seats near the aircraft's parking area.



Also painted in natural metal are the single seaters seats.



**PORT**  
30 single seaters the inside and outside of intake track  
36 covers the behind front of intake track

Access door which hold seat tracks

one inside corner of both intake

one forward main gear door

main cabin entrance and "load bay" one single seaters and glass white on two seaters

**STARBOARD**  
55 single seaters the inside and bottom of intake track  
57 covers the behind front of intake track

# "Strizhi" - The Swifts

The Swifts evolved out of the 234<sup>th</sup> Guards Fighter Air Regiment (GvIAP) of the 237<sup>th</sup> TsPAT Aircraft Demonstration Centre at Kubinka Air Base in the Moscow Region. The 237<sup>th</sup> TsPAT traces its origins back to March 1938 and the I-15s of the 19<sup>th</sup> Independent Fighter Air Regiment (OIAP). Through the years this elite corps of pilots was tasked with demonstrating the flying characteristics of the best in Soviet/Russian fighter designs to both the public and visiting dignitaries.

The Swifts aerobatics team was formed in the final year of the USSR. The original intention was that the team would aid in the Politburo's efforts to make the Soviet military more transparent, both at home and abroad. What better way to abolish Cold War stereotypes of the Soviet military whilst simultaneously promoting Russian aviation hardware than to create a colourful aerobatics team. In keeping with the Soviet thinking of the day, the name was intended not to conjure up bellicose images of the USSR. Lieutenant-General Antoshkin consequently came up with the name of the Swifts – emphasising as it did the nimbleness and speed of the MiG-29. The team originally could choose from 8 MiG-29 single-seaters and three MiG-29UBs for its six-man formation, all painted in the original blue and white scheme. The team's debut performance took place on May 6, 1991 before an admiring Air Marshal Ivan Kozhedub (Triple Hero of the Soviet Union), who himself had choreographed and flown in some of the great air displays of the post-war era in the USSR.

During the 1990s the Swifts performed at numerous air shows throughout the world. The financial collapse of the Russian economy and lack of investment at all

levels of the Air Force curtailed international performances after 1998 and took their toll on the serviceability of the team's pool of aircraft. Many of the original members of the team also retired (four Strizhi alumni now fly L-29s as the Sky Knights aerobatics team, based at Myachkovo airport near Moscow)

At the end of 2002 however the Strizhi were able to welcome RSK MIG as a team sponsor. All aircraft were repainted in the striking new scheme featured in this package. The blue flash on the tail, by the way, spells out MIG in stylized Cyrillic lettering. Many of the older aircraft were retired. The single-seater MiG-29s in the team (Nos. 03, 04, 05 and 06) have been progressively replaced with the upgraded 9-13 version, featuring a slightly humped rear fuselage. The Swifts fly displays with two MiG-29UBs (Nos. 01 and 02) as well. All team aircraft are free of technical stencilling data.

Since the most popular and accurate MiG-29 kits in 1/72 and 1/48 scales feature the original 9-12 version, we have sized the single-seater upper fuselage Swift decal for the Academy (1/48 scale), Airfix (1/72 scale) and Italeri (1/72 scale) kits. If you want to build a 9-13 variant, the revised rear fuselage hump is sporadically available from the NeOmega line (<http://www.neomega-usa.com>). To fit the decal to the new hump, simply slit the swift decal down the middle and use the spare material from the UB decal to fill the small gap, or, depending on how your conversion goes, the UB decal may fit the new 9-13 hump with very little modification.

The main colours have been computer matched. The red is very close to FS11136 and the blue is a match for FS15102. The finish is glossy.

The decals in this set were designed using assembled Academy 1/48th scale single-seater and two-seater MiG-29UB models. They were then reduced to 1/72nd scale and further refined to fit the Italeri/Zvezda/Bitek kits.

In all cases trim allowance was made for possible assembly variables. This applies especially to the designs for the intakes, wheel wells, spine and lower engine nacelles. Your assembly, fitting and filling techniques can make the difference of up to a few millimeters here, ultimately affecting the fit of the decals. That said, you may have to trim and /or overlap the individual elements as you proceed. Using the sequence recommended here will optimise your decalling experience!

### **Preliminary assembly**

Complete the main assembly of the fuselage and wing components. Leave the tailplanes, vertical tails, flare dispensers (single-seaters only), all undercarriage components, airbrake components and exhausts off for separate painting and decalling. The canopy and some undercarriage doors can be tacked in place in preparation for painting.

### **Painting**

Paint the main assembly, flare dispensers, and outboard surfaces of the vertical tails gloss white. Mask for the red to follow.

Paint the large main gear doors both inside and out blue FS15102 (Available from the Testors Model Master line, while another close match, albeit slightly lighter, is Xtracolor X-124). Most surfaces of the main and nose wheel wells are also this colour. Note that the inboard vertical walls in the main wheel wells are mid / dark grey though.

Paint the lower half of the main assembly, as well as the tailplanes, airbrake outer surfaces, inboard surface of the vertical tails and applicable undercarriage doors gloss red FS11136 (Available from the Testors Model Master line, while another close match is Xtracolor X-102).

The missile pylon / rail combinations, as well as the centerline and wing mounted fuel tanks (in 1/48th scale you can get these from a Su-17 or Su-25 kit) should also be painted at this time.

### **Decalling**

The following sequence outlines the "paint scheme" portions of the decalling only, since the order in which they're applied can effect how well they fit together. For all other markings (e.g. red stars, etc.) please refer to the illustrations.

Start on the top of the fuselage with decal 31 (22 on two-seaters). Next apply the rear spine decal 25. Continue with decals 20 and 21 on either side. Note that the forward "knuckle" where these meet is slightly different for each team aircraft. On the two-seaters, for example, it's more along the "flat" of the fuselage than on the spine. Check the illustrations.

Next apply the topside rear fuselage decals 24, 29, 26, 30, and 27. Note that 24 and 29 overlap on the white-striped portion of 25 to cover any fit variances. Finish the topside decalling with 23 and 28.

Underside decalling starts with the wing items 38 and 57. Next apply 40, 42, 50, and 51 around the wing root area. Some touch up with the appropriately coloured spare decal bits may be required here. Continue the scheme around the intakes with 36 and 55. Next apply 39 and 53, as well as 56 and 37.

The rear, around the engine nacelles, can now be completed by 43 and 50. Finish the undersides starting with decal 48 and working forward to the "point" comprising 40, 45 and 54.

With that the "paint scheme" part is complete. The remaining decals can be applied using the illustrations provided in the instructions.

brought to you by

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