MiG-29A

SOVIET FIGHTER 1:48 SCALE PLASTIC KIT



intro

The roots of the MiG-29 can be traced back to the end of the sixties and beginning of the seventies. At that time, information had leaked out that the United States was working on the F-X program, from which emerged the F-15 Eagle. The Soviet Union, obviously, could not be left behind in the arms race, and the General Staff formulated requirements for the Perspektivniy frontovoy istrebitel (PFI - Advanced Frontal Fighter Aircraft). It was to have the ability to take off from small, unprepared fields, have a useful combat radius, excellent turn around time and be able to carry a varied payload. The speed of the machine was to be in excess of Mach 2.

Aerodynamic study was passed to TSAGI in co-operation with OKB Sukhoi. It became clear that the best route to take would include two roads. As a result, the PFI program was expanded to also include the PLFI (Advanced Light Frontal Fighter Aircraft), which was to result in the Soviet answer to the F-16 Fighting Falcon lightweight fighter. The plans assumed that the Soviet air force would be composed of one-third PFI aircraft, and two-thirds PLFI, and as such would find its adversary to be mainly the F-16 and the YF-17 (which evolved into the F/A-18). The PFI program with Sukhoi led to the Su-27. The PLFI was entrusted to the Mikoyan bureau. Work on the latter type, under the factory designation 'Izdelye' 9 began in 1974, and three years later, on October 6, 1977, the aircraft first took to the air. The program suffered setbacks thanks to the loss of two prototypes, due to problems traced back to the engines. In 1984, air force tests were concluded, and thanks to positive results, the first production machines began to reach Soviet frontal fighter units. These new aircraft began to replace the MiG-23. In keeping with the requirements, the aircraft could lift off from unprepared strips. Auxiliary air intakes on top of the blended fuselage/wing structure provided air on the ground, allowing the regular intakes to close and prevent FOD. The existence of the new fighter was discovered by NATO very early after the program began, and the ASCC allocated the name Fulcrum 'A'. Besides the base version of the MiG-29 (Izdelyie 9-12), there was also the MiG-29B, an export version intended for countries outside of the Warsaw Pact. Training was carried out on a two-seat version, the MiG-29UB (Izdelyie 9-51), which carried the NATO codename Fulcrum 'B'.

Further development and production was impacted by the fall of the communist block, and the inevitable economic collapse of the Soviet Union and its consequent splitting up of state assets with varying degrees of dependence on Russia.

Production also came for the MiG-29K and MiG-29SMT (both coded Fulcrum 'D'). The MiG-29K is a navalized variant and besides with the country of origin, it also flies with the Indian Navy. The intended role is that of carrier fighter for the 'Vikramaditya' (formerly the Soviet carrier 'Admiral Gorshkov'). The SMT is a modernized variant of the MiG-29.

úvodem

Kořeny vzniku MiGu-29 sahají až do přelomu 60. a 70. let minulého století. Tehdy vešlo ve známost, že americké ozbrojené síly pracují na programu F-X, jehož výsledkem se stal typ F-15 Eagle. Sovětský svaz pochopitelně ve zbrojních závodech nemohl zůstat pozadu. Generální štáb zformuloval požadavky na Perspektivnyj frontovoj istrebitěl (PFI - pokročilý frontový stíhací letoun). Měl mít schopnost operovat z malých, nezpevněných ploch, disponovat značným doletem, vynikající obratností a nést rozsáhlou výzbroj. Požadována také byla rychlost stroje vyšší než 2 machy.

Prací na aerodynamické studii se zhostil CAGI ve spolupráci s konstrukční kanceláří Suchoj. Záhy se však ukázalo, že bude potřeba jít dvěma cestami. K programu PFI tak přibyl ještě program PLFI (pokročilý lehký frontový stíhací letoun), který měl sovětskému letectvu dát ekvivalent lehkého stíhacího stroje F-16 Fighting Falcon. Plány předpokládaly, že sovětské letectvo by se mělo skládat z jedné třetiny z letounů PFI a ze dvou třetiny ze strojů PLFI a mít tak protivníky letounů F-16 a YF-17 (později F/A-18). Programu PFI se s definitivní platností ujal Suchoj a výsledkem se stal typ Su-27. Program PLFI dostala na starost konstrukční kancelář Mikojan.

Práce na letounu pod továrním označením Izdělje 9 začaly v roce 1974 a o tři roky později, 6. října 1977, se letoun dostal poprvé do vzduchu. Program se dostal do skluzu díky haváriím dvou prototypů, příčinou byly problémy s motory. V roce 1984 byly dokončeny testy prováděné letectvem a na základě jejich kladného závěru začaly v témže roce dodávky sériových letounů k prvním jednotkám sovětského frontového letectva. Zde nové stroje začaly nahrazovat MiGy-23. V souladu se zadáním mohly operovat také z nezpevněných ploch. Nasátí nečistot do motorů zabraňovaly alternativní vstupy vzduchu na horní ploše křídla, tzv. žábry.

Existenci nového stíhacího letounu rozvědka NATO zjistila velmi brzy po jeho vzniku. Kódové označení znělo "Fulcrum A".

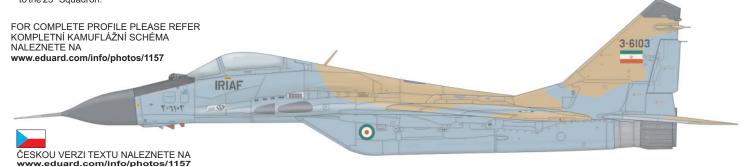
Kromě základní verze MiG-29 (Izdělje 9-12) vznikla také hůře vybavená verze MiG-29B, která byla exportována do zemí, které nebyly členy Varšavské smlouvy. Pro výcvik slouží dvoumístná varianta MiG-29UB (Izdělje 9-51), kterou NATO nazývala "Fulcrum B".

Další vývoj a výrobu letounu poznamenal rozpad komunistického bloku a s ním spojený ekonomický kolaps Sovětského svazu a jeho následné štěpení na státní útvary s různou úrovní nezávislosti na Rusku.

Výroby se dočkaly ještě verze MiG-29K a MiG-29SMT (obě značené "Fulcrum D"). Verze SMT představuje modernizovanou podobu devětadvacítek. MiG-29K je novalizovaná varianta devětadvacítky a kromě země svého původu létá také v indických službách. Zamýšlena je služba na letadlové lodi Vikramaditja (původně sovětské plavidlo Admirál Gorškov).

E MiG-29B, Iranian Air Force, 11th Squadron, Teheran-Mehrabad, Iran, 1990s.

This aircraft was part of the first delivery batch of MiG-29s to Iran in 1990. The actual factory type was the 'Izdelye 9-12B', which was an electronically downgraded export version below the standard of that which was delivered to the Warsaw Pact. The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force took delivery of 24 MiG-29s between 1990 and 1991, including four 'UB' two-seaters. Another four arrived from Iraq during the first Gulf War. Currently, Iran has two bases operating MiG-29s. The 11th Squadron is based at Mehrabad, and Tabriz is home to the 23th Squadron.





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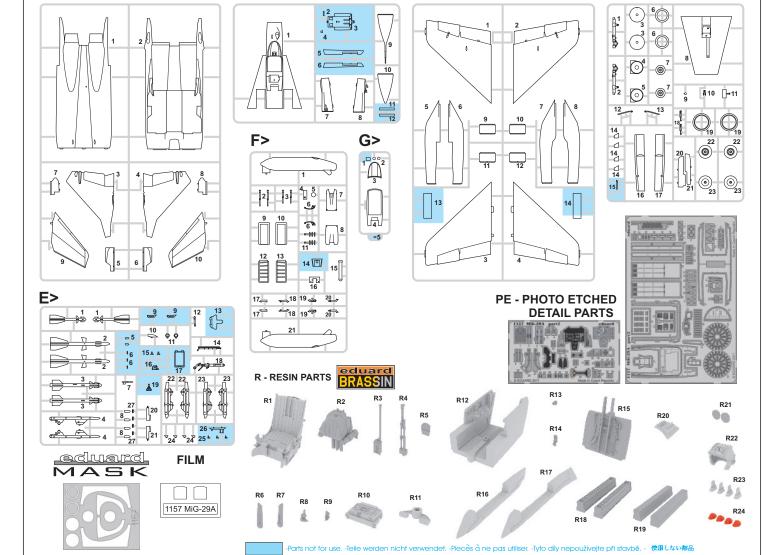
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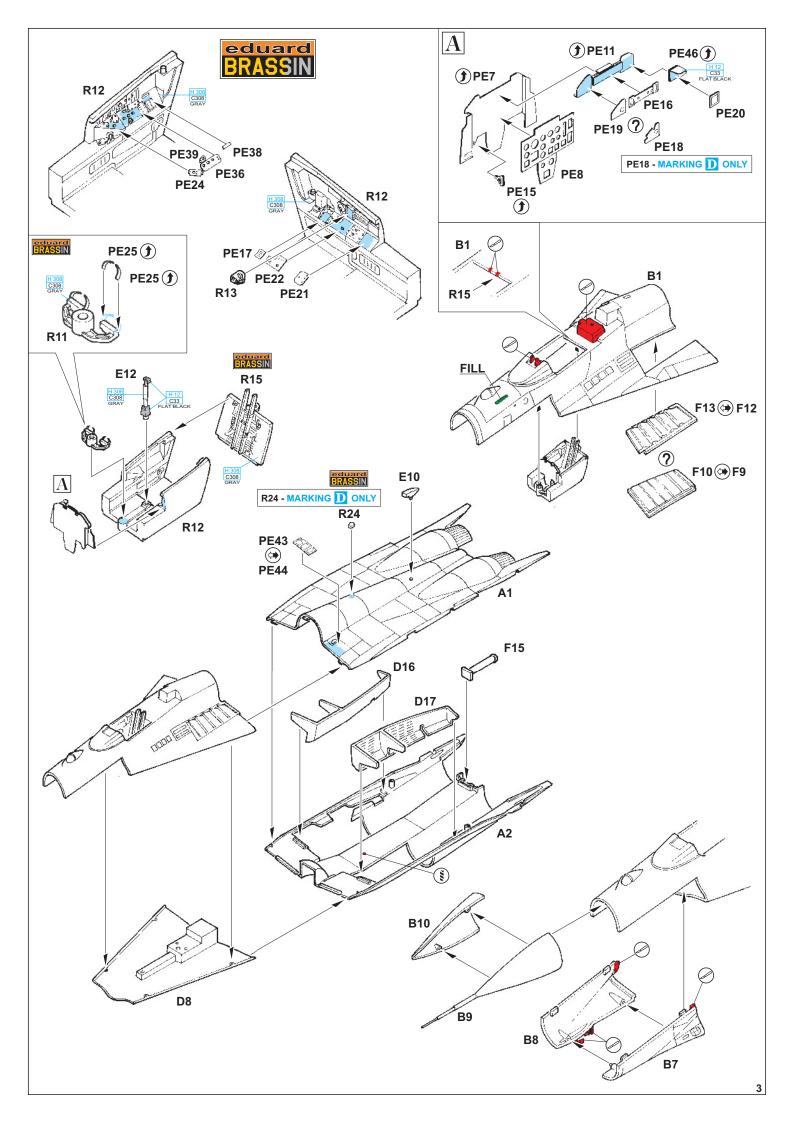
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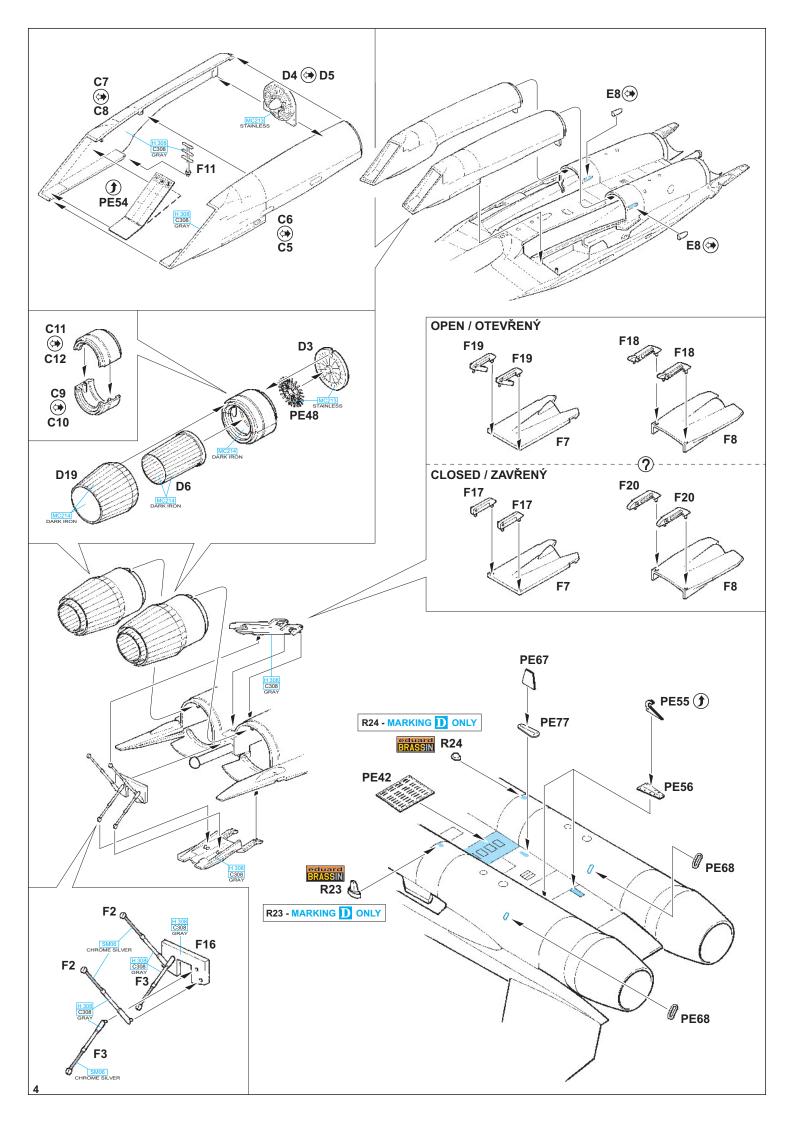
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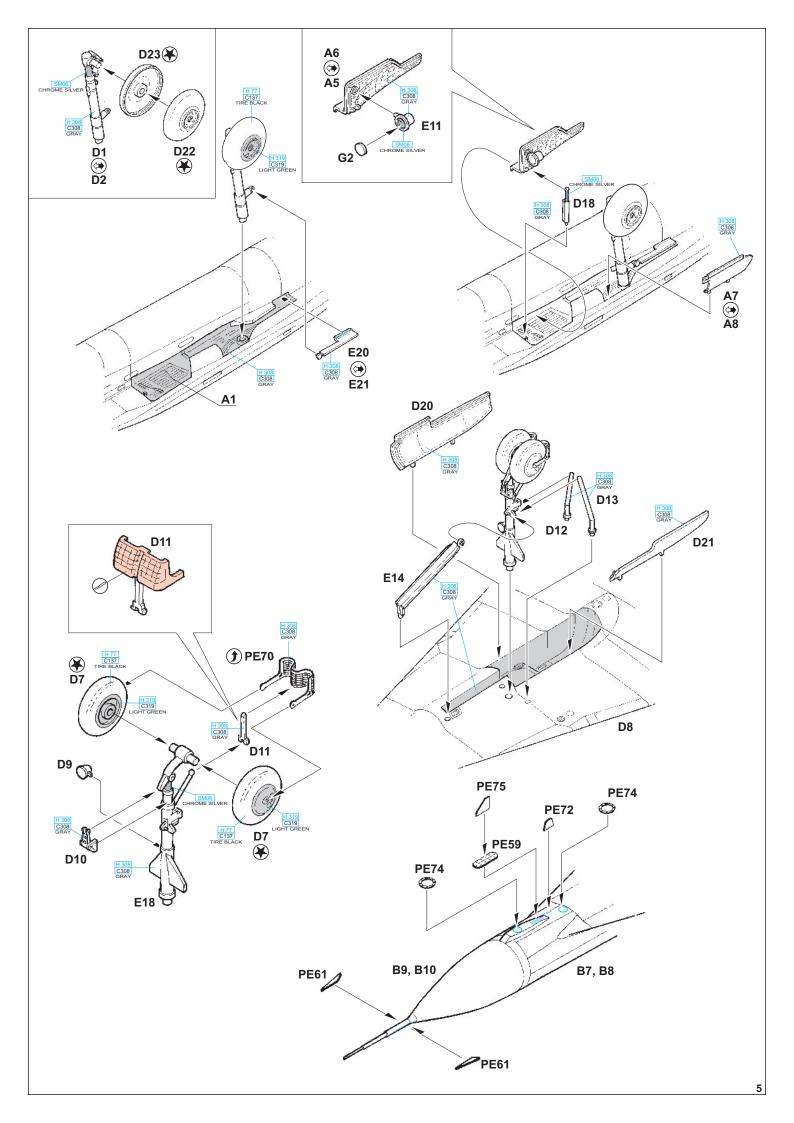
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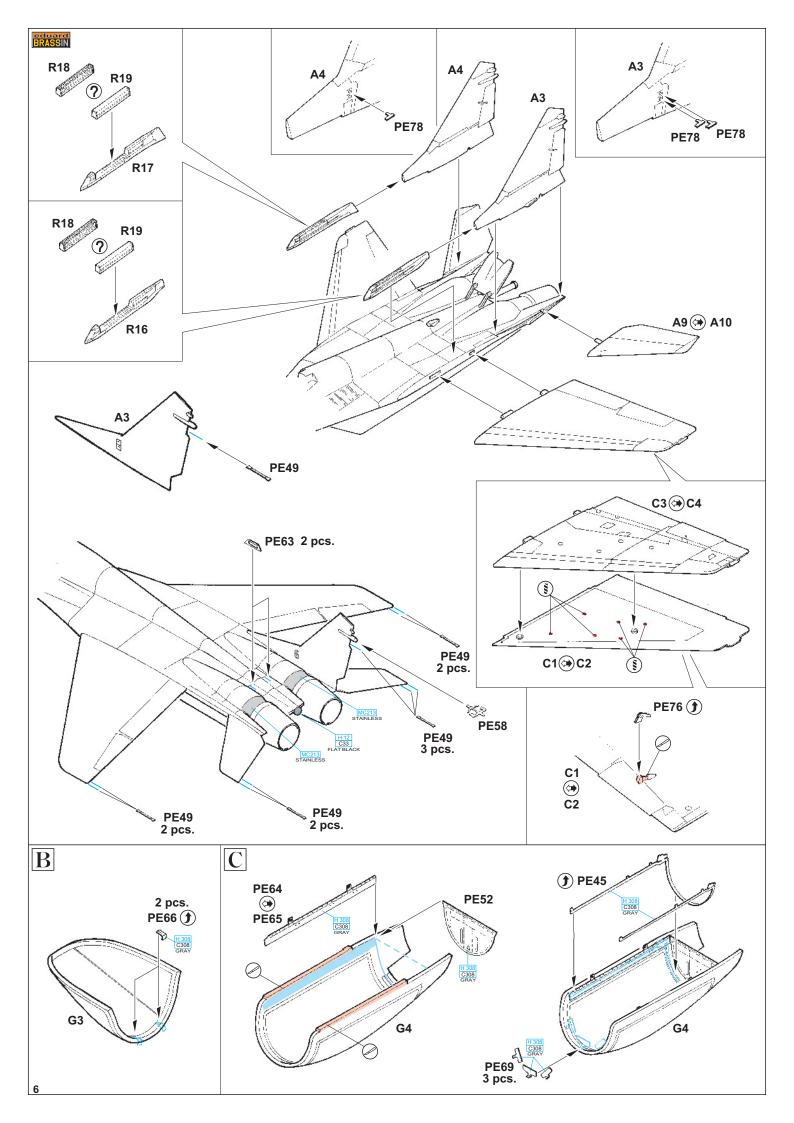
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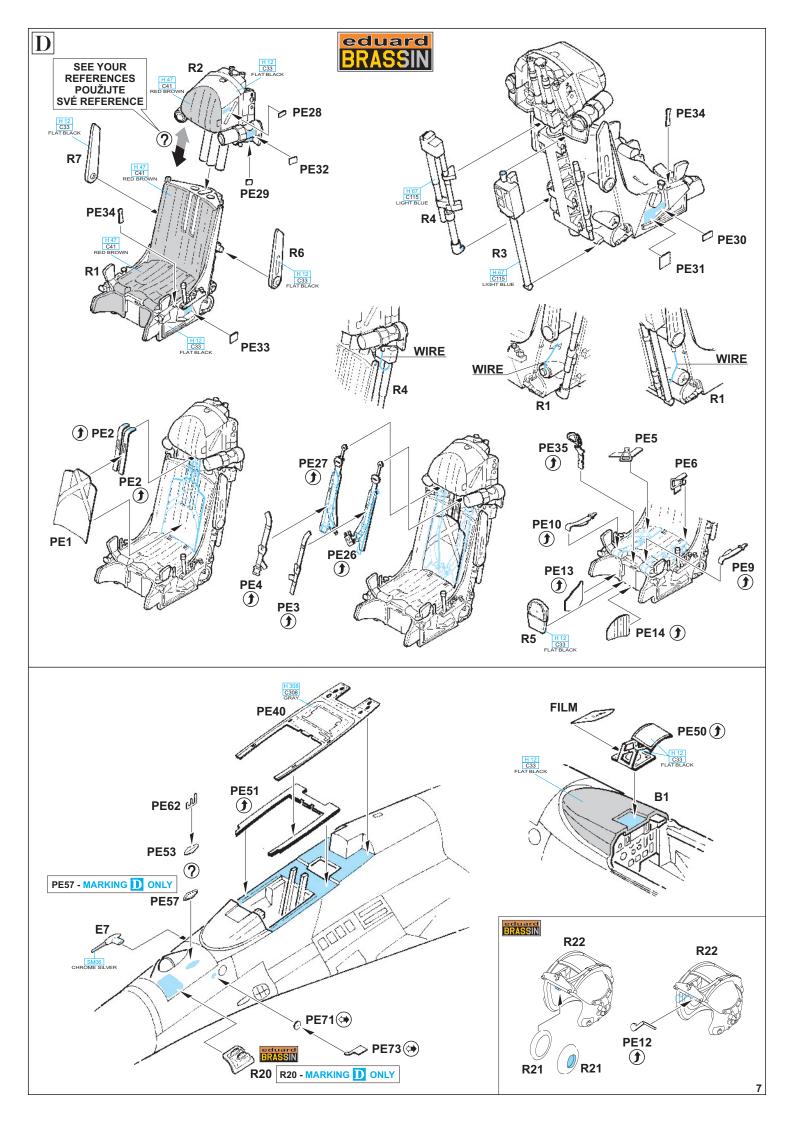
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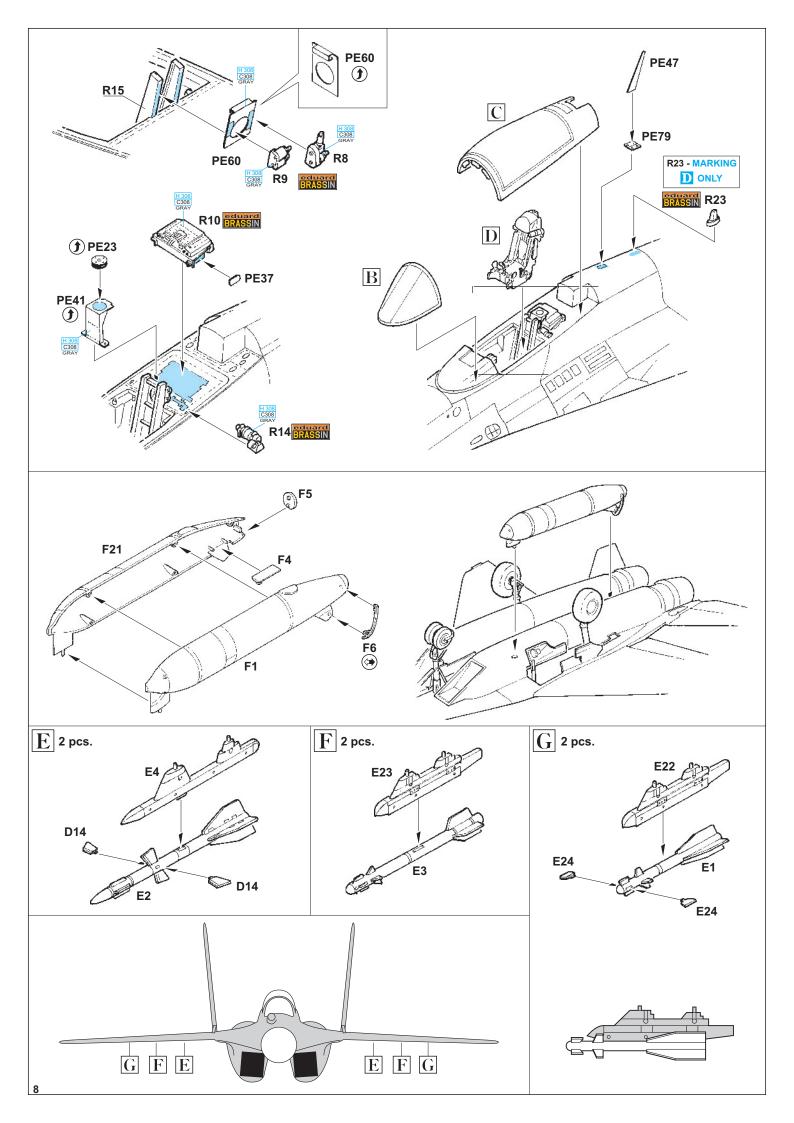






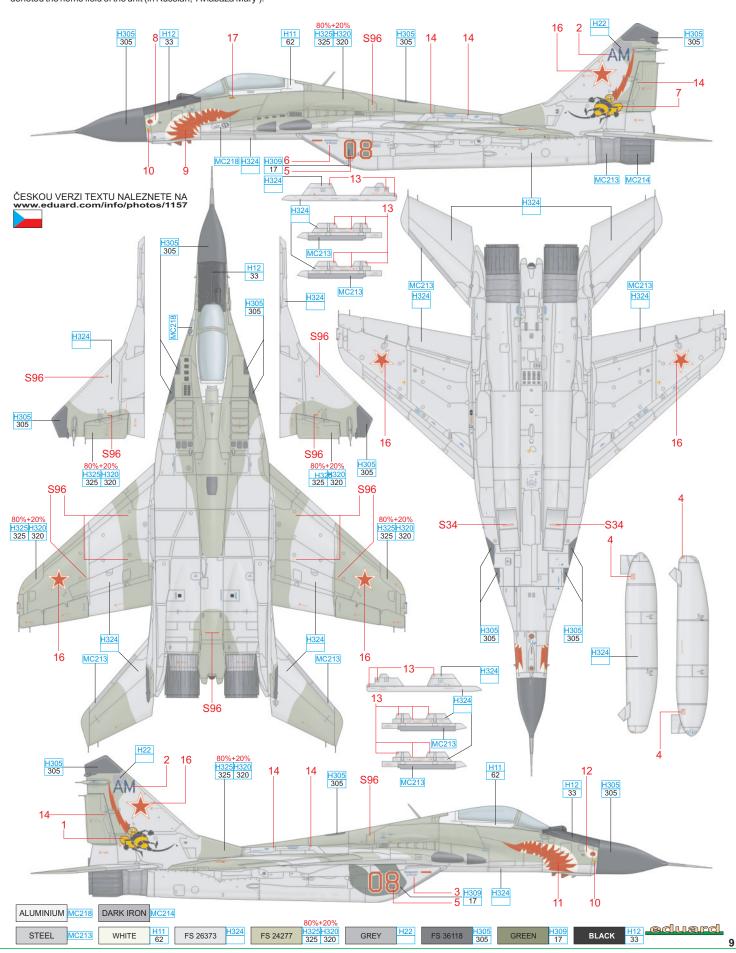






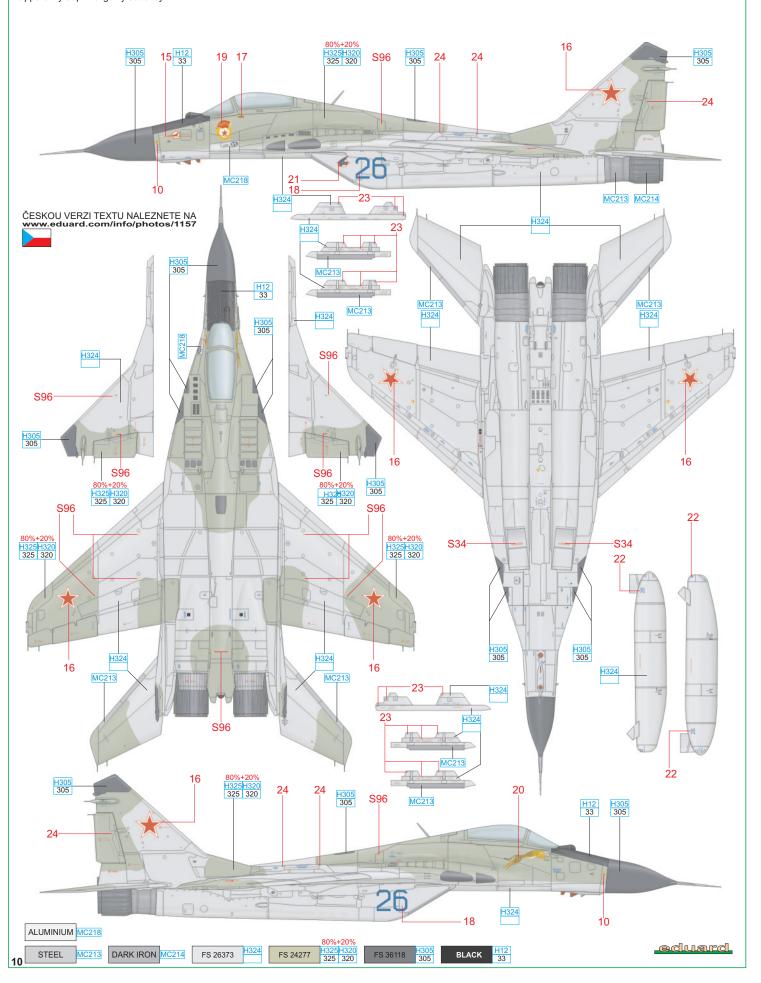
A MiG-29, 2nd Flight, 1521st AB, Soviet Union, Mary Air Base-1, Soviet Union, 1991-1992

This aircraft, bearing the serial number 2960518475 was manufactured in 1986. It served with the 91st IAP at Lipeck-2. From November, 1990, the bird flew with the 2nd Flight, 115th GvIAP (Guards Fighter Unit) based at Kakaydy (in today's Uzbekistan). This unit stationed at this base flew in the days of the Soviet Union on a list of fighter types, including the MiG-17, -19, -21 and -29. During Soviet involvement in Afghanistan, Kakaydy was a key airfield in central Asia, and MiG-29s appeared here for the first time in 1989. In July, 1991, this machine was transferred to the base Mary-1, which is located in today's Turkmenistan, and was pressed into service with the 2nd Flight 1521st AB (Aviabaza - 'Air Base'). This MiG-29A of the initial production phase was tasked with playing the aggressor role, and that explains the white cockpit framing. Influenced by combat ops with adversary elements and VF-178 Skyraiders flying off of the USS Intrepid, the aircraft was adorned with a sharkmouth, a hornet on the vertical tail, and the letters 'AM' on the fin top. The letters 'AM' denoted the home field of the unit (in Russian, 'Aviabaza Mary').



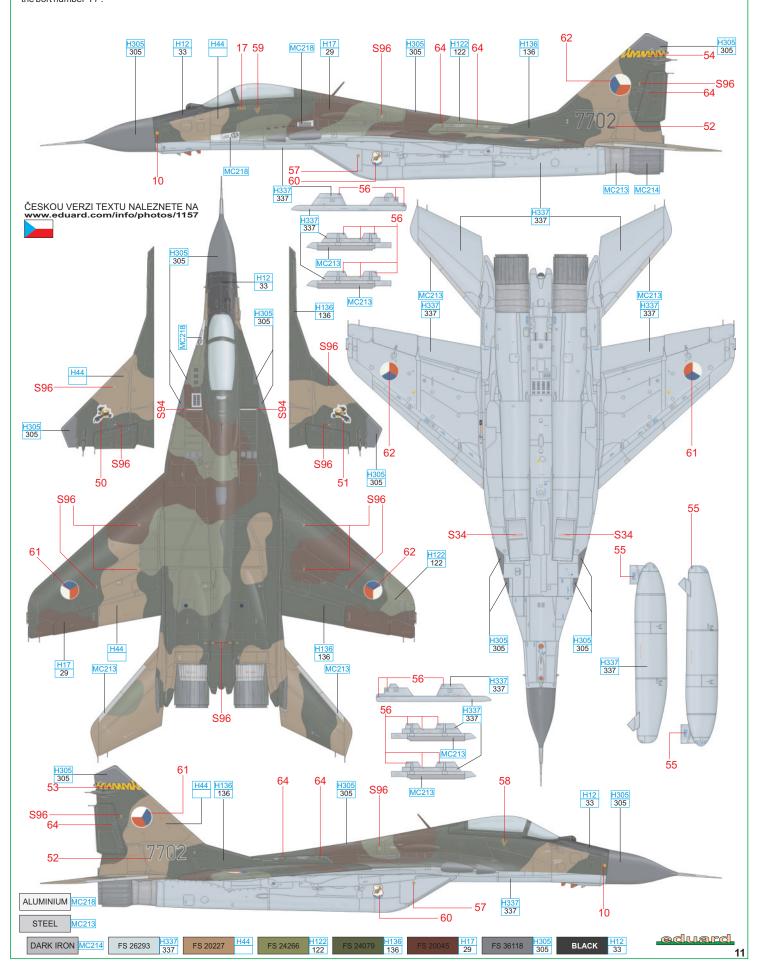
B MiG-29A, 85th GvIAP, Merseburg AB, Germany, 1991

This aircraft, serialed 2968520142, left the assembly line in February, 1986. At the beginning of the nineties, it served with the 85th GvIAP (Guards) 'Sevastopolskyi'. This unit was based at Merseburg in East Germany. After the reunification of Germany, this aircraft, along with the others of the unit, relocated to the Soviet Union at Starokonstantinov air base. The aircraft carries one of a number of variations on the standard scheme. The left side of the nose carries the Guards emblem, and the 'Excellence' badge, and also the MiG OKB badge on the intake. The right side is adorned with a drawing of a leopard, that was also carried by another 85th GvIAP aircraft. It's author was apparently Capt. Yevgeniy Sadovoy.



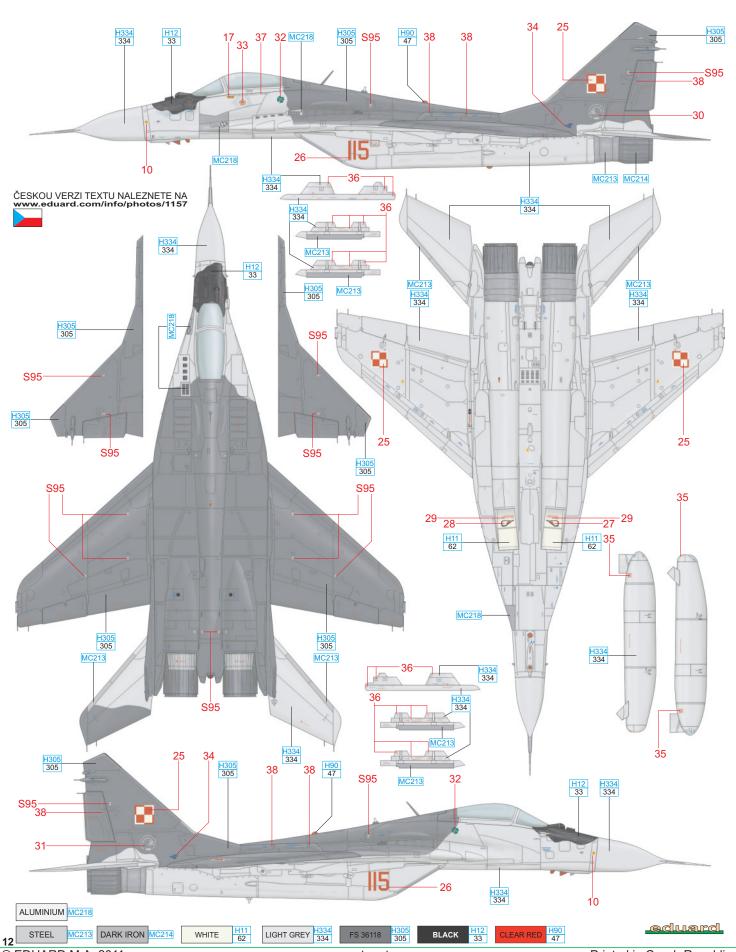
C MiG-29A, Czech Republic Army Air Force, No.1 Sq., 11th Sqdn., Zatec Air Base, Czech Republic, 1993

The aircraft with the serial number 2960526377 was delivered from the Soviet Union to the 11th slp. (Fighter Air Regiment) in Zatec AB in late 80's. This was one of ten MiG-29As delivered that were capable of carrying the RN-40 nuclear weapon. This capability was removed from the aircraft to satisfy conditions imposed by international nuclear disarrmament agreements. In all, Czechoslovakia took delivery of eighteen single seat and two two-seat MiG-29s from the Soviet Union. In October, 1993, the 11th slp MiG-29s were transferred to Ceske Budejovice to the 1st slp. Over the course of dividing up assets between the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, this aircraft remained in the Czech Republic, and became a part of a controversial agreement that saw the Czech MiGs go to Poland for eleven W-3A Sokol utility helicopters. Today, this aircraft flies with the Polish air force with



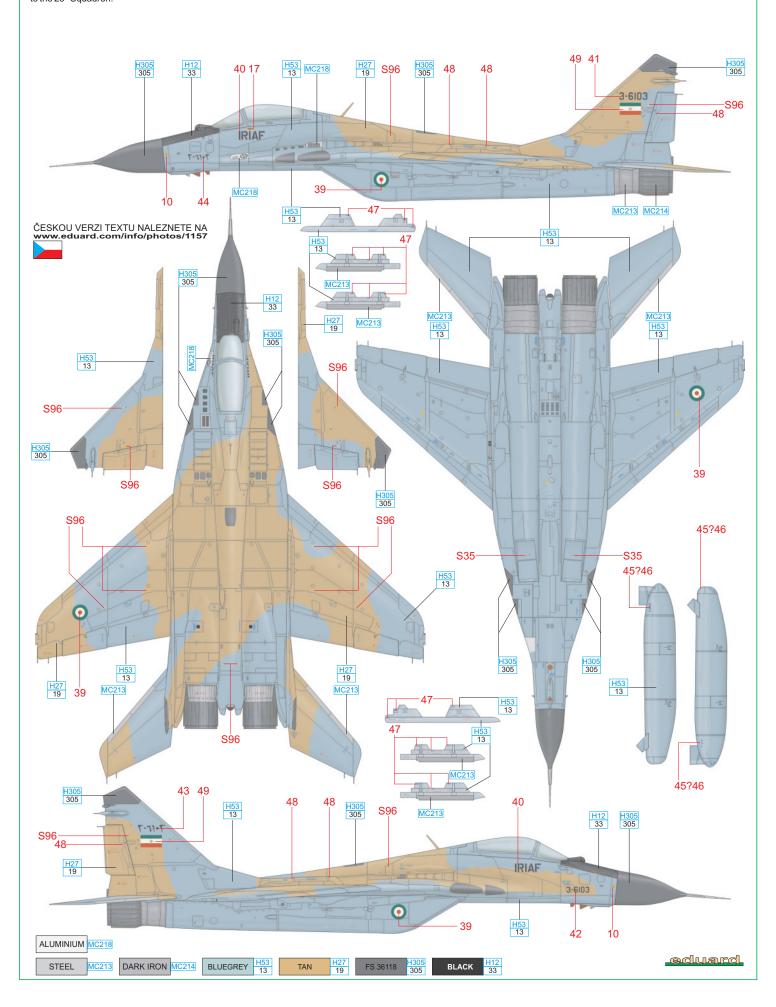
MiG-29A, Lt.Col. Robert Cierniak, CO of No.1 Squadron of Tactical Air Force, Minsk Mazowiecki, Poland, 2005-2007

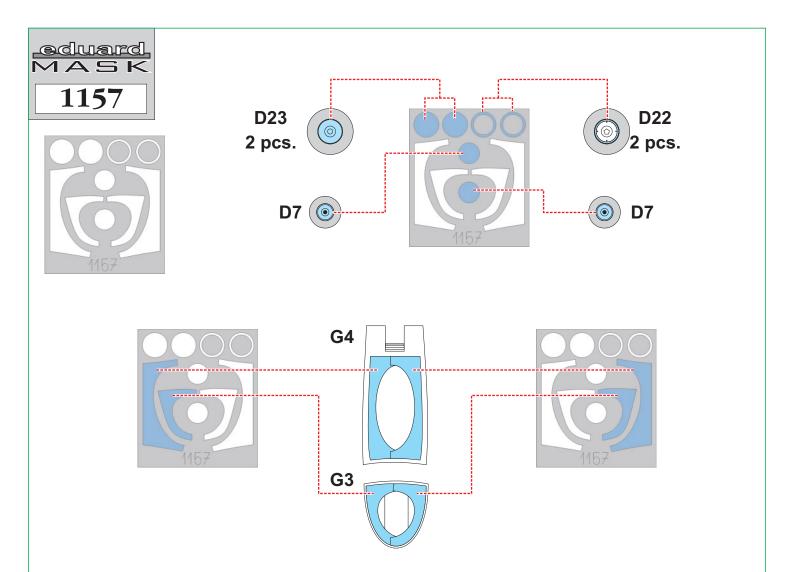
This MiG-29 was flown by Lt.Col. Robert 'Skuter' Cierniak, who served as CO of No. 1 'Warszawa' Squadron of Tactical Air Force from December 22, 2005 to October 30, 2007. The four-leaf clover, painted on both sides of the front of the aircraft, was a personal emblem. This aircraft also took part in the Polish military contingent 'Orlik', which operated in 2006 from the Lithuanian base at Zoknia. The purpose was to patrol the airspace over the Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This role is represented by the emblem on the vertical tail surfaces. The marking on the left side of the fuselage below the cockpit is that of the 7" Squadron 'Tadeusz Kosciuszko', which was a unit fighting against Russian bolsheviks during the Soviet-Polish conflict in 1919-1920. The core of the unit was made up of American pilots. This aircraft was delivered in 1990. The camouflage scheme consisting of two shades of grey was applied during modernization in Poland in the first decade on the twenty first century.



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MiG-29A

STENCIL VARIANTS

