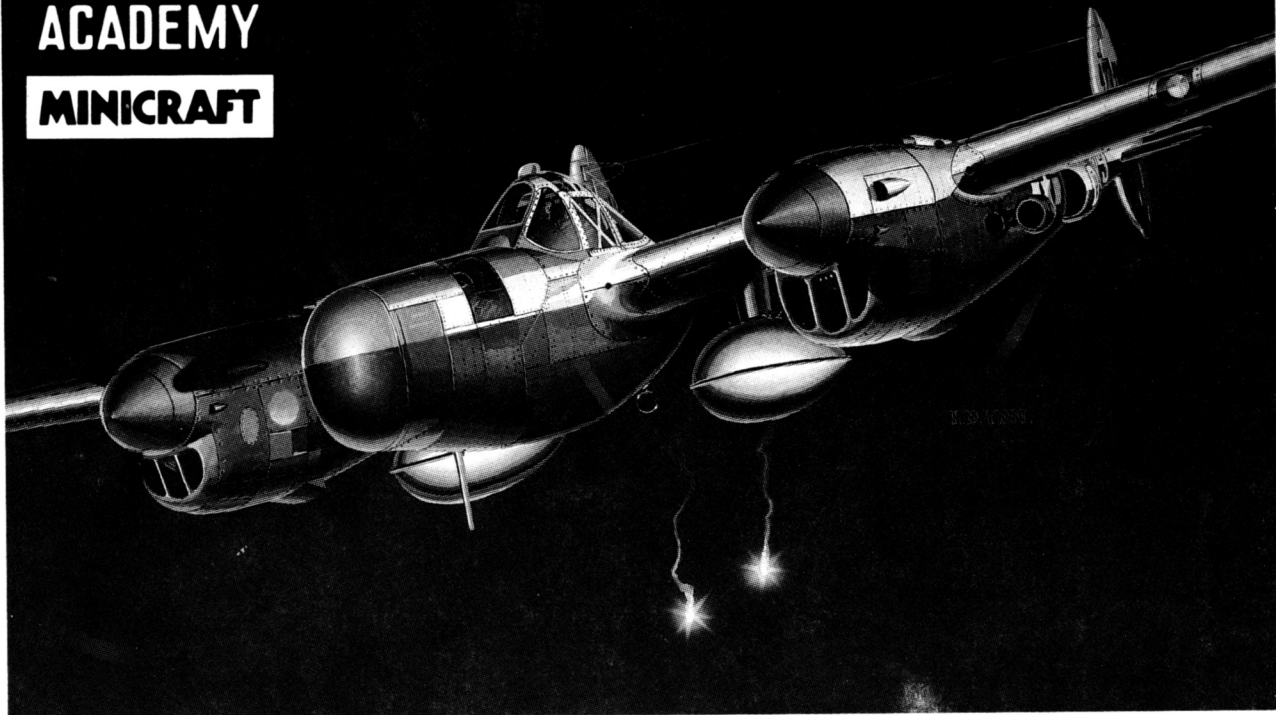


ACADEMY

MINICRAFT



1/48TH SCALE

LOCKHEED P-38L

PATHFINDER

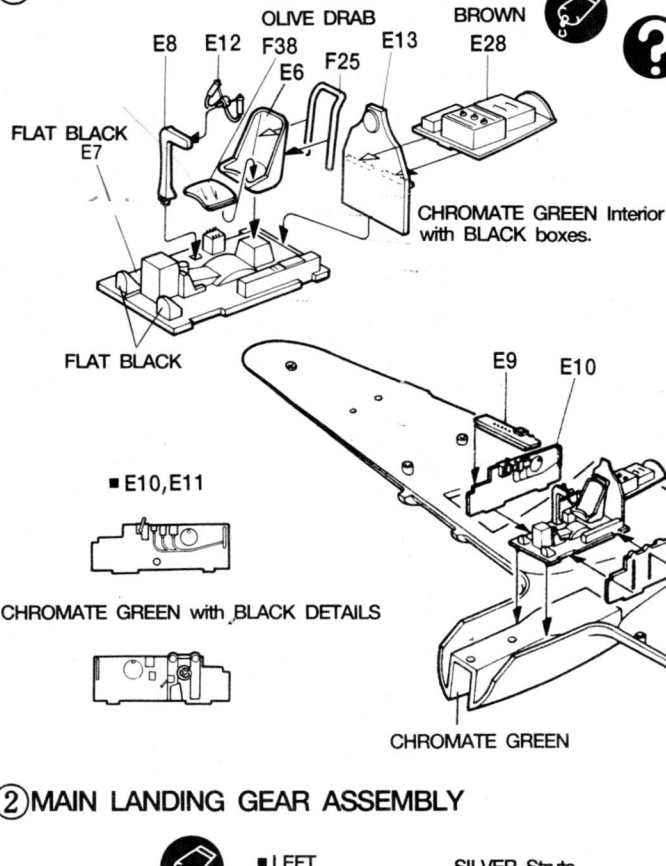
When the 8th Air Force realized that a P-38H/L could carry the same 4000 pound bomb load as a B-17, it quickly developed the "Droopsnoot" version which could carry a bombardier and a Norden bomb sight in place of the guns. This approach had immense advantages in level bombing missions for it required only a two-man crew, was much faster to and from the target and required no fighter escort on the return trip because of its outstanding speed.

Shortly thereafter, based on successful theatre reports, Lockheed designed their version of a true fighter-bomber around the AN/APS-15 Bombing through Overcast radar system. In place of the Norden bomb sight, the bombardier had his scope to locate and bomb targets at night or through overcast weather. This bulbous nose was made of opaque Plexiglas and armor plate to protect the bombardier and house the radar set. Lockheed made at least 23 **Pathfinder** aircraft from P-38L fighters; from kits supplied to field units as many as 100 **Pathfinders** could have been assembled and employed in the European theatre.

The theory was that only the lead aircraft in a group required a bomb-sight or radar equipment to locate the target and signal "bombs away" to the rest of the aircraft in the group. Consequently, a relatively few **Pathfinder** aircraft were able to lead large flights of fighter/bombers to a target and inflict heavy damage. Both the **Pathfinder** and Droopsnoot programs were regarded as very successful in the latter days of World War II.

① COCKPIT ASSEMBLY

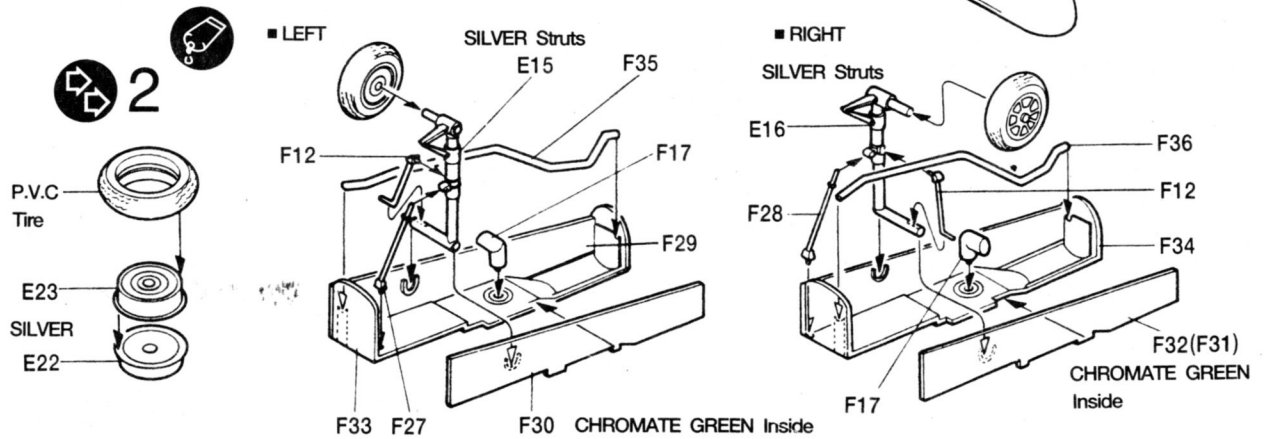
→ : Make holes following Armament Diagram on page 5.



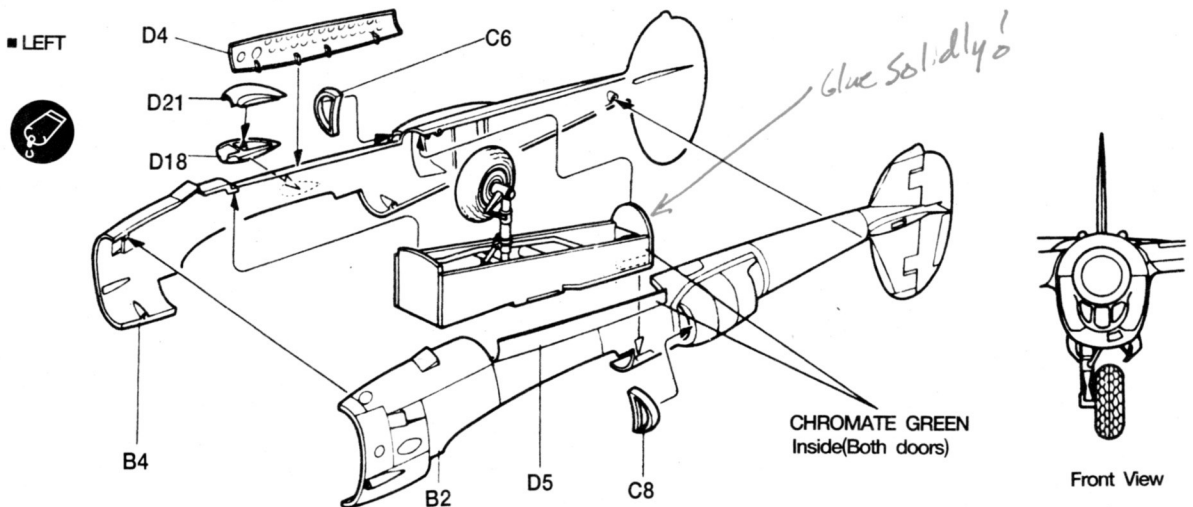
X : Remove



② MAIN LANDING GEAR ASSEMBLY

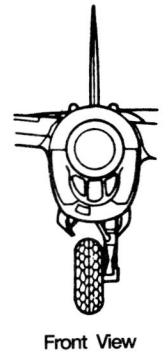
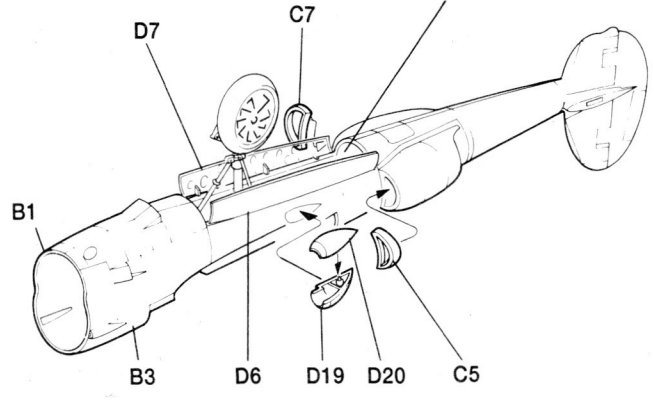


③ MAIN LANDING GEAR INSTALLATION



■ RIGHT

CHROMATE GREEN Inside(Both doors)

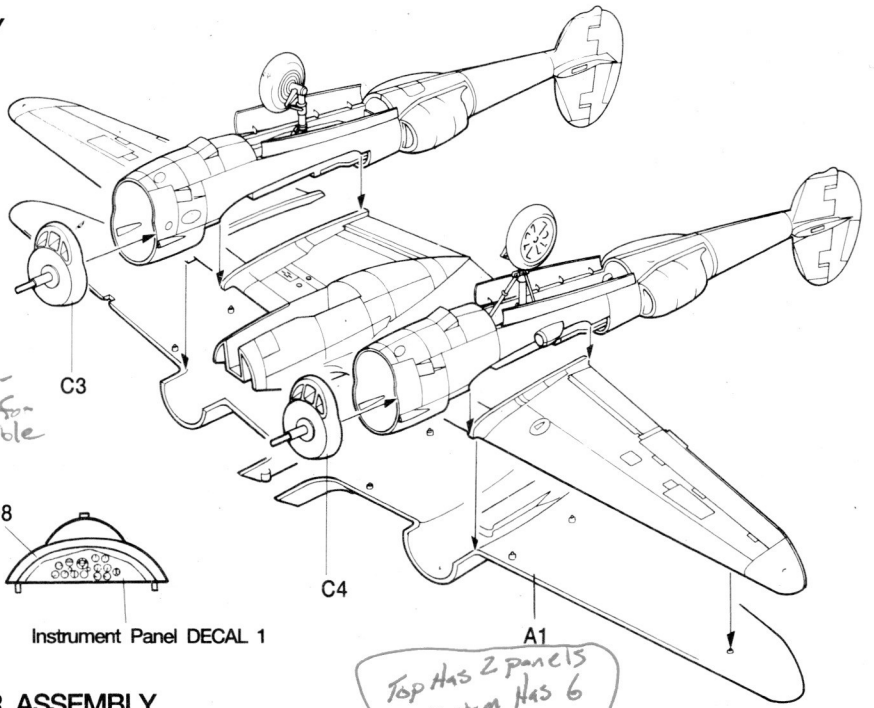
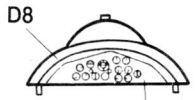
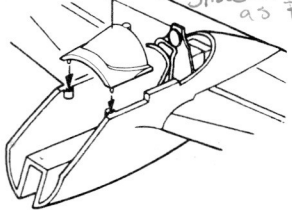


④ WING & BOOM ASSEMBLY

■ C3,C4

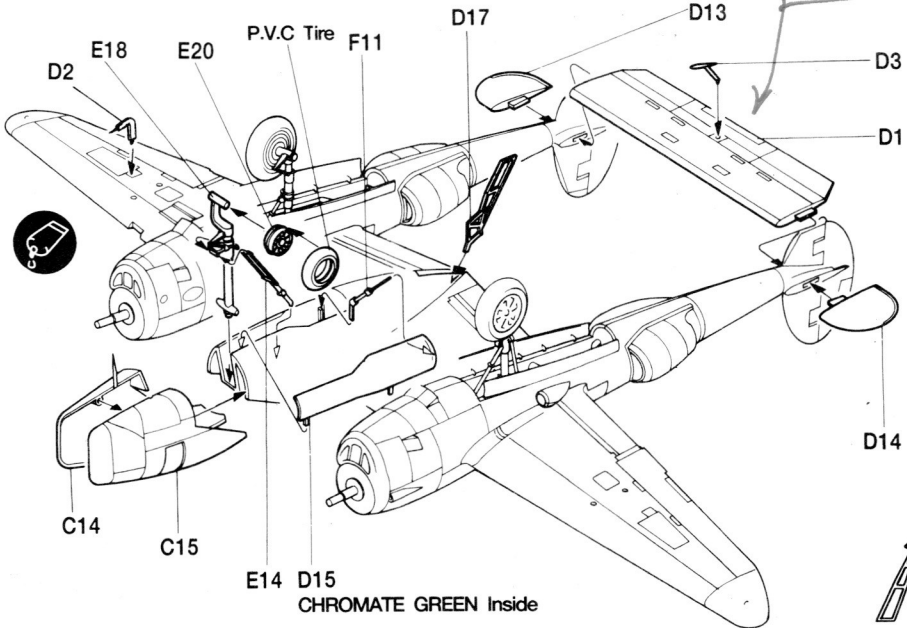


D8 FLAT BLACK
*Remove pins -
 Slide aft as far
 as possible*

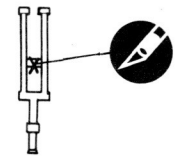


⑤ NOSE GEAR & STABILIZER ASSEMBLY

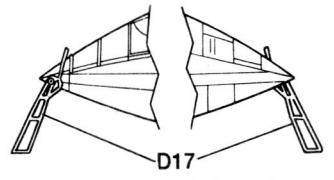
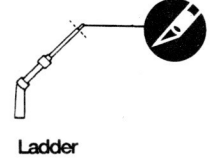
*Top Has 2 panels
 Bottom Has 6
 Panels*



■ E14



■ E11



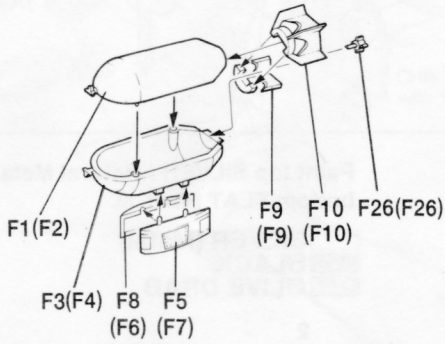
Paint parts :D2,D3,D17,E14,E18,E20,F11-SILVER.

For stationary version only

⑥ ARMAMENT ASSEMBLY & INSTALLATION

(See Armament Diagram on page 5)

■ 227kg Bomb

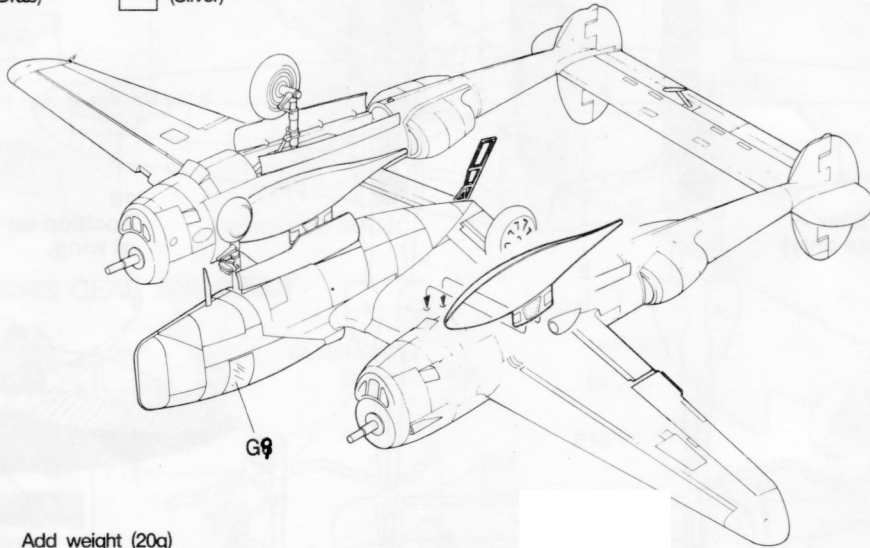
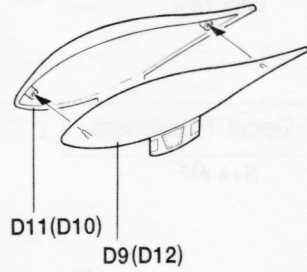


□ (Olive Drab)

□ (Silver)



■ Drop Tank

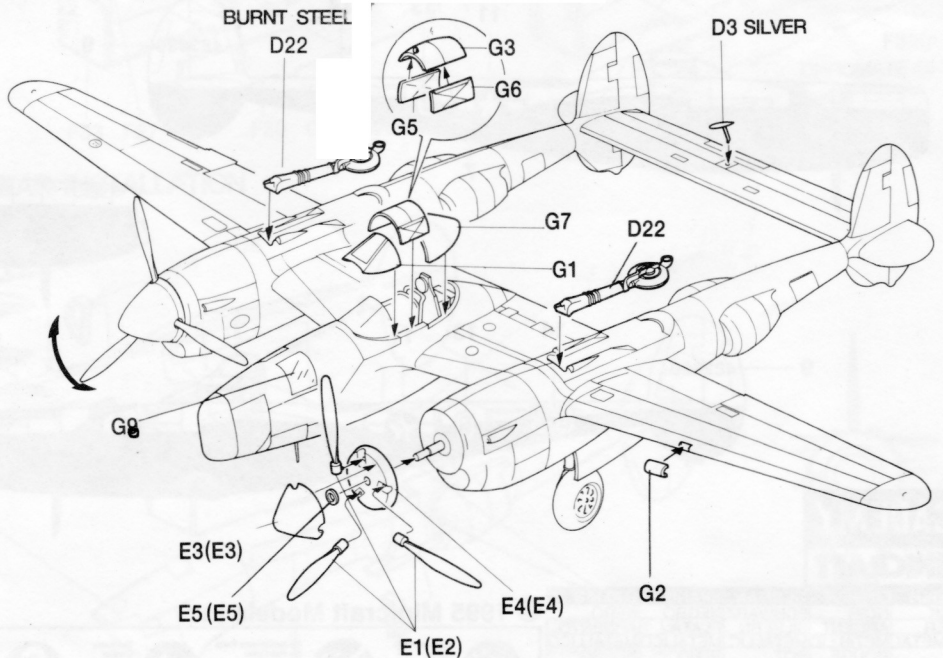
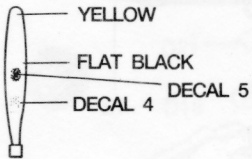


Add weight (20g)

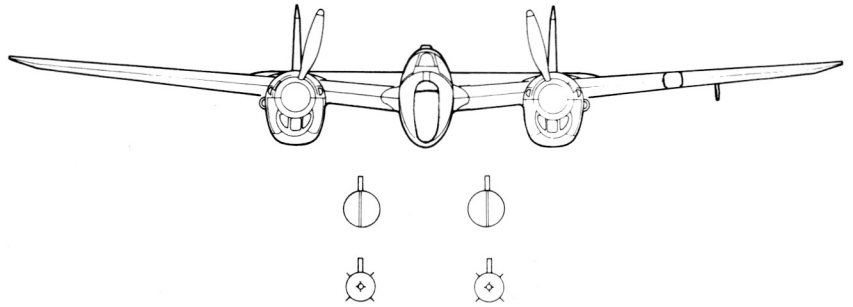
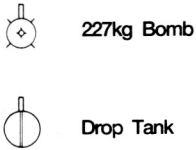
⑦ FINAL ASSEMBLY



■ Propeller Blade



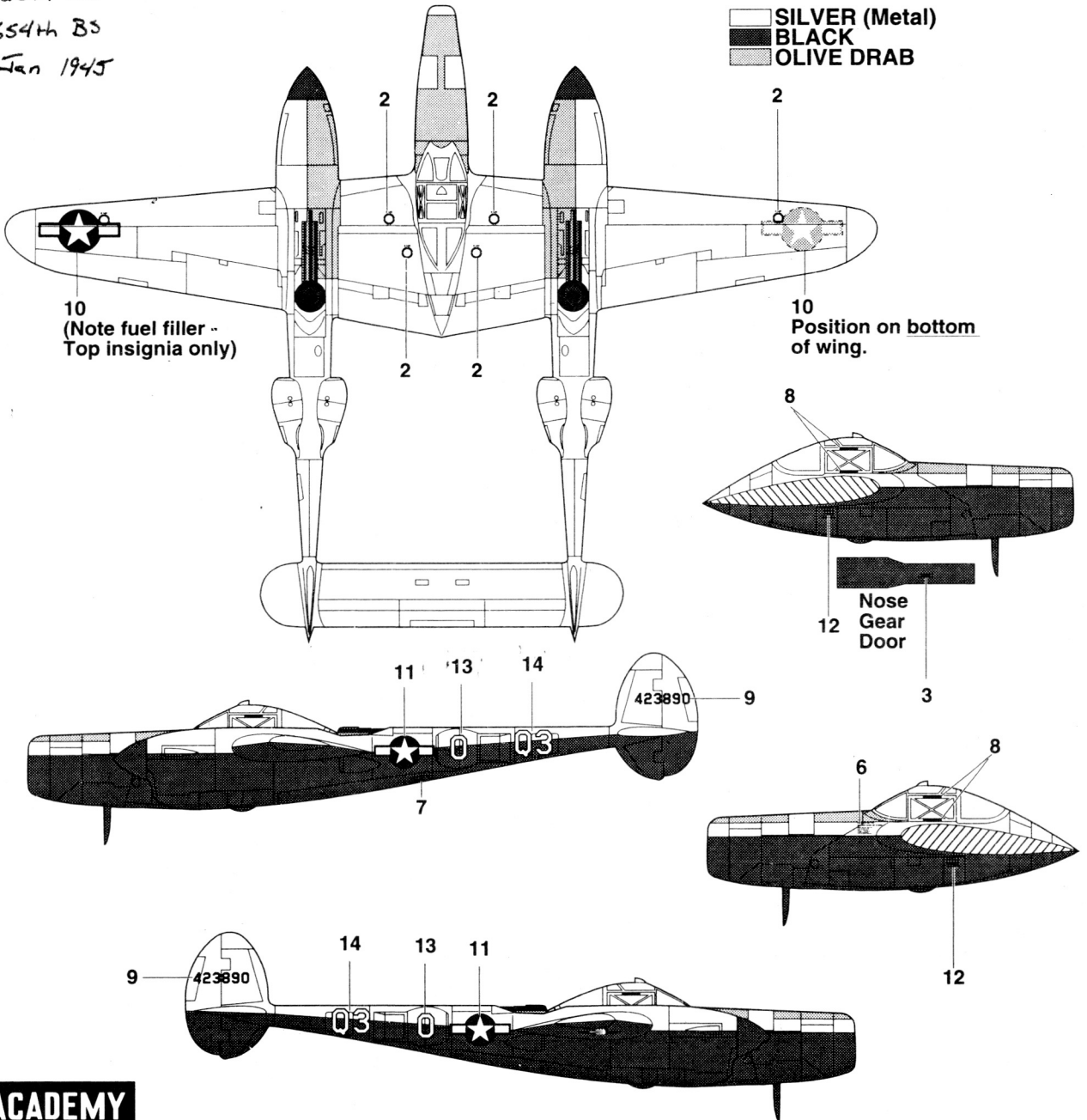
ARMAMENT DIAGRAM



Painting and Decal Placement

25th BG 8th AF
654th BS
Jan 1945

Paint top SILVER (Natural Metal),
bottom FLAT BLACK.



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ENGLISH	FRENCH	GERMAN	SPANISH	ITALIAN
BLACK	NOIR	SCHWARZ	NEGRO	NERO
SILVER	ARGENT	SILBERN	PLATA	ARGENTO
GUNMETAL	METALLIC	METALLIC	METALICO	METALICO
RED	ROUGE	ROT	ROJO	ROSSO
YELLOW	JAUNE	GELB	AMARILLO	GIALLO
BLUE	BLEU	BLAU	AZUL	BLU
GREEN	VERT	GRUN	VERDE	VERDE
BROWN	BRUN	BRAUN	MARRON	MARRONE

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2151



Cement Parts
Coller
Kleben
Pegar
Incollare
Colar
Kleiven



Do Not Cement Parts
Ne Pas Coller
Nicht Kleben
No Pegar
Non Incollare
NÃO Colar
Hiet Kleiven



Cut Away
Couper
Schneiden
Cortar
Tagliare
Collar
Snijden

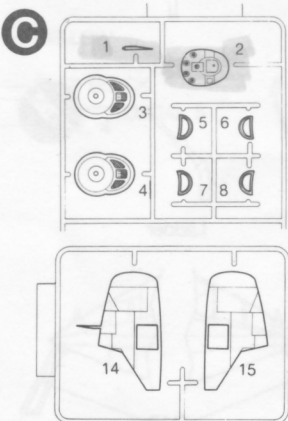
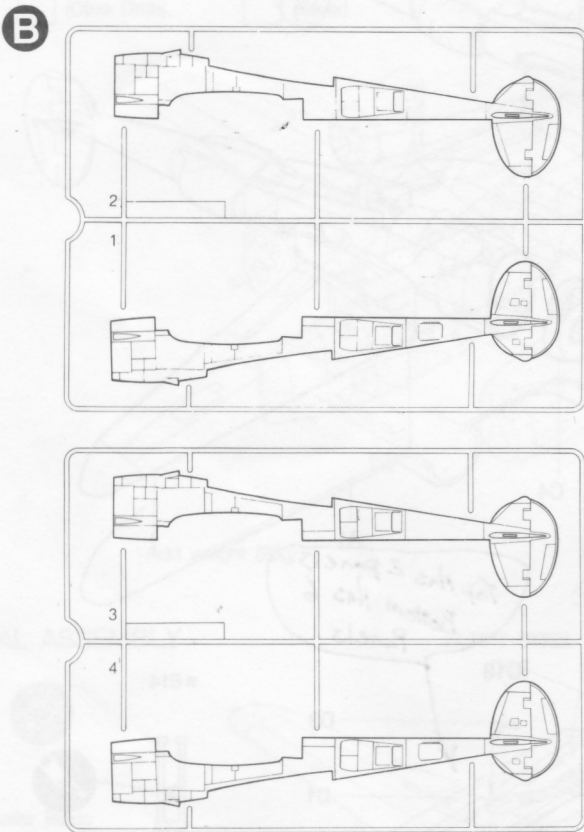
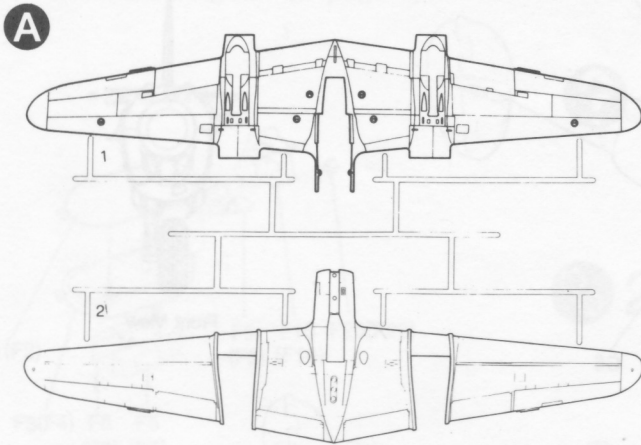


Optional Parts
Choix
Auswahlmoglichkeit
Eleccion
Scelta
Opcao
Kreuz

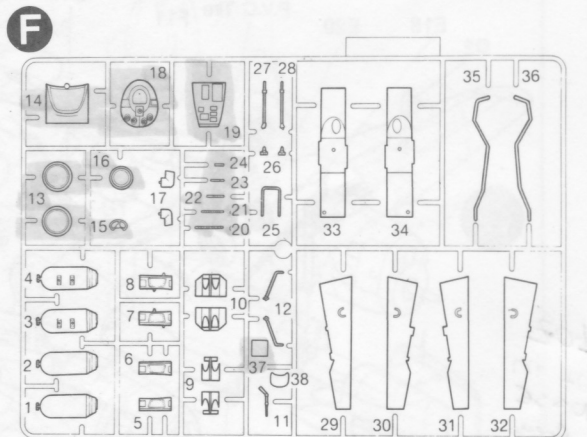
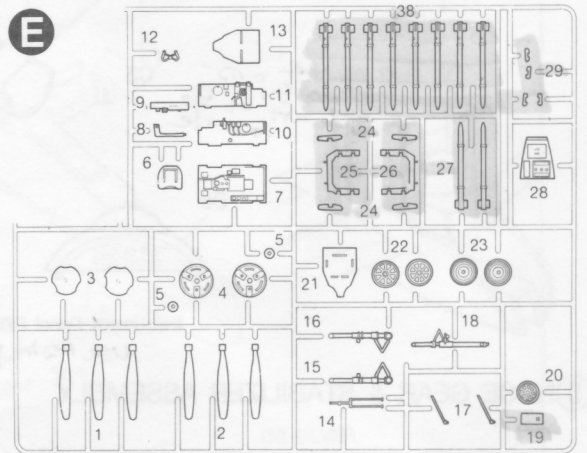
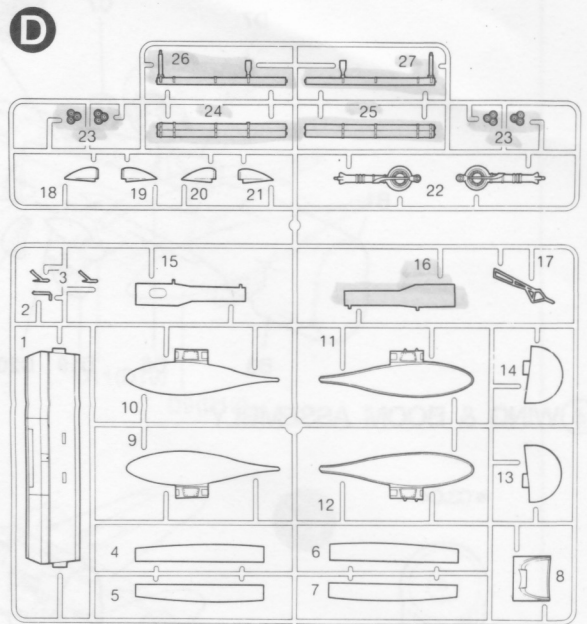


Repeat Operation
Répéter l'opération
Wiederholen
Repetir la operación
Repetir
Repetir a Operação
Herhalen

PARTS LOCATING DIAGRAM



P.V.C Tires



* UNUSED PARTS: C1, C2, D16, D23, D24, D25, D26, D27, E19, E24, E25, E26, E27, E29, E38, F13, F14, F15, F16, F18, F19, F20, F21, F22, F23, F24, F37

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