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U-2 Dragon Lady Part 3

Notes on Aircraft



 Black wing walks, wing stencils, national insignia and additional warning stencils are available on Cutting Edge decal sheet CED48151.

All Pave Onyx U-2C aircraft (camo U-2s)

- The "Sabre scheme" painted on these jets was the result of the British Government's fear of leftist activists in the UK complaining about "black jets" being based in that country.
- Various sources each give different FS numbers for the grays used on these aircraft. These are listed here, along with our best estimates based on the color photos in our possession. The Testors U-2C kit instructions list the colors as approximately FS 36375 and FS 36320. They claim better representations of the true colors are: Light Gray-1 part FS 35237 and 4.3 parts FS 36622, Dark Gray-1 part FS 35237 and 1.6 parts FS 36320. Another Testors-provided mix is 1 part Testors 1163 paint to 7.5 parts Testors 1168 paint for the light gray and 1 part 1163 to 4 parts 1168 for the dark gray. Another source lists the colors as FS 25630 and FS 27780. These appear too light to us to be the true colors. Based on the color photos in our possession, the colors appear close to FS 26440 and FS 26270.
- Most of the Pave Onyx jets were equipped with the ALSS (Advanced Location Strike System) Q-Bay sensors.
 This system, which was ultimately unsuccessful, was flight tested in Europe starting in 1975.

56-6692

This 'C' model has features common to the earlier U-2A series. Study the profile drawing carefully.

N800X & N803X

These CIA U-2s were painted in the standard ANA 607 Non-Specular Sea Blue at the time they carried these
markings. N800X was the backdrop jet for the famous publicity photo of Francis Gary Powers wearing full
pressure flight gear. Note the black "Iron Ball" paint was not developed and applied to the U-2 fleet until the mid
1960s.

56-6707

- This jet WAS painted in the black "Iron Ball" paint when it flew mission in Vietnam and other locations. It carried only carried the tail number and red fuselage stripe.
- The "Ram's Horns" conversion is available in Cutting Edge conversion set CEC48290.

NASA 708

• The NASA U-2s were constantly being modified with different sensors and wing pods. 708 appeared in many different configurations, but we've shown its August 1980 appearance.

Applying the Decals

You probably already know all this stuff, so feel free to use your regular process; however, if you're new to aftermarket decals, here goes:

- Generally, use the Microscale Finishing System. We don't recommend extremely strong decal solvents such as Solvaset.
- Your model must have a smooth, glossy surface, as decals won't adhere well to matte surfaces. Use gloss paints
 or your favorite clear gloss overspray over matte or semigloss paint.
- Cut each subject out without trimming off the slight excess film (this helps the decal film disappear when dry).
- Put the decal in warm water that has a drop or two of liquid dishwashing soap or photo-flo for 10 seconds.
- When the decal will slide off the backing paper without forcing it, apply it to the proper position on your model.
 Slide the backing paper out from underneath.
- Gently blot off excess water and smooth out bubbles under the decal surface. If you wish, carefully brush on a mild decal softener such as Micro-Sol.
- When all decals are completely dry, gently wash off all excess decal adhesive.
- Finally, overcoat your model with a good quality gloss coat, followed by your choice of matte or eggshell clear topcoat.

FS 595 Color Cross Reference

FS 6440 Xtracolor X137, Modelmaster 1729/1730, Gunze Sangyo H315/325, Pro Modeler 88-0033, Polly Scale 505326

FS 6270 Xtracolor X3/133, Humbrol 165 & 126, Gunze Sangyo H335/306, Modelmaster 1725, Floquil 303151

Bibliography

Original photos from the collection of noted aviation photographer/historian Tony Landis Lockheed Blackbirds by A.M. Thornborough & P.E. Davies. Motorbooks International, 1988.