

AIRFIX CONSTRUCTION KIT

1/72 SCALE MODEL CONSTRUCTION KIT

SKY-RAIDER A-1J

The piston-engined Skyraider has one of the most remarkable records of any service aircraft; long obsolete it is still in action and even though production ended in 1957 no superior replacement has yet emerged.

Design of the Skyraider began early in 1944 when the U.S. Navy was seeking a replacement for the Dauntless and its contemporary torpedo-bombers. The single-seat Douglas X BT2D 1 first flew in March 1945 and was ordered one month later. With the end of the war the order was reduced and the aircraft re-designated AD-1, entering service in 1947.

When the Korean War broke out the Skyraider was due for replacement but no jet was capable of staying on patrol for as long as the Skyraider, or of carrying such a heavy weapon load and so it was granted a new lease of life and further improved models were developed.

In 1964 the Skyraider was again in combat, this time in Vietnam and it is employed in the counter-insurgency role by the U.S.A.F., the Vietnamese Air Force and by carriers of the U.S. Navy.

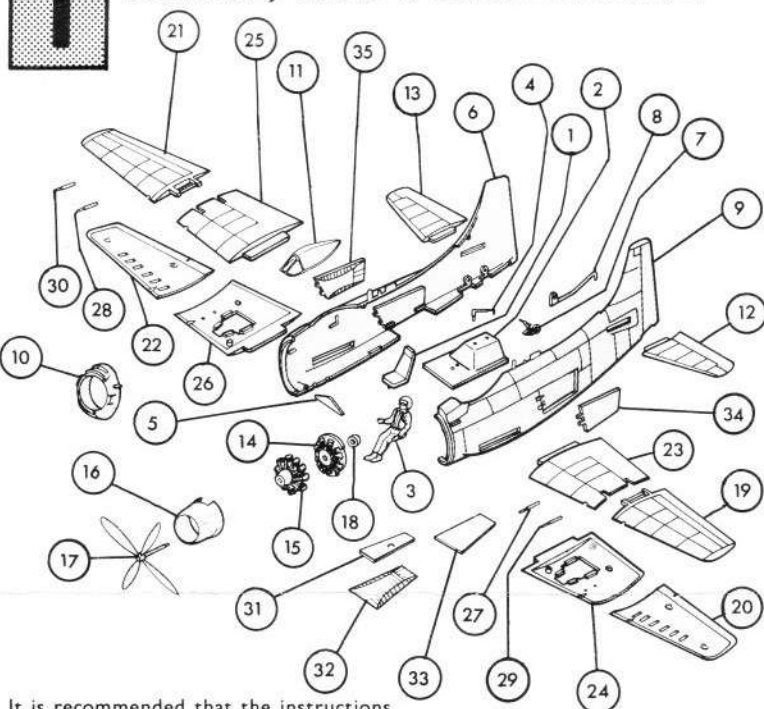
The aircraft represented in this kit is a A-1J, one of the last batch to be produced and is operated by Attack Squadron 145. It was built in 1956, one of the 3,180 Skyraiders completed in twelve years.

The A-1J is powered by a Wright 18 cylinder radial engine giving a maximum of 3,050 h.p. and a top speed of 318 m.p.h. and a combat range of 1,300 miles. Armament varies according to mission and in addition to its four wing-mounted 20 mm. cannon it can carry up to 8,000 lb. of bombs. Wing span is 50 ft. 9 in. and length 38 ft. 10 in.

• INSTRUCTIONS

PAIN'T ALL DETAILS AND LET DRY BEFORE ASSEMBLING (SEE SECTION 3)
N.B. FOR PAINTING USE "AIRFIX" PAINTS, FOR FIXING USE "AIRFIX" POLYSTYRENE CEMENT

1 FUSELAGE, WING & ENGINE ASSEMBLY



It is recommended that the instructions and exploded views are studied before assembly. Note that some parts are best painted before assembly. If stand is to be used cut away wall of plastic from stand in fuselage halves. All parts should be as drawn and moulded tabs adhering to parts should be removed before assembly.

1. Cement locating pins beneath seat (1) into forward locating hole in cockpit floor (2).
2. Cement pilot (3) to seat.
3. Cement locating pins on ejector seat control unit (4) into locating holes in top of raised section at rear of cockpit floor.
4. Cement instrument panel (5) forward against rib in cockpit opening in

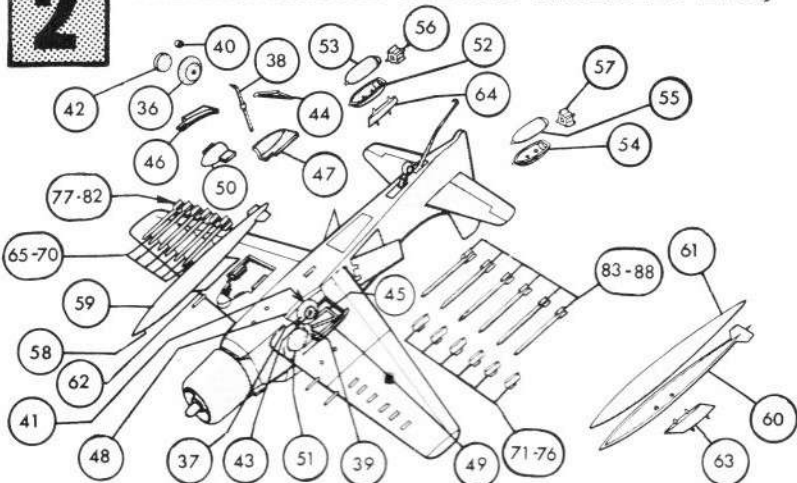
starboard fuselage half (6), gun sight protruding through fuselage.

5. Locate and cement cockpit floor assembly above ribs in starboard fuselage half.
6. Place pivot pins on tail port wheel (7) and arrester hook (8) into holes in bushes at rear of port fuselage half (9), DO NOT CEMENT. Then carefully cement starboard fuselage half to port fuselage half. Check tail wheel and arrester hook move freely.
7. Locate and cement fuselage nose (10) to front of fuselage.
8. Position and cement canopy transparency (11) to cockpit opening,

carefully applying cement only to edges of canopy.

9. Cement tabs on port (12) and starboard (13) tailplanes into rear slots in fuselage sides.
10. Locate and cement rear radial engine half (14) into rear of forward radial engine half (15). Then locate and cement completed engine into rear of cowling (16).
11. Press propeller shaft (17) through centre of engine, DO NOT CEMENT, place bush (18) onto protruding end of shaft and secure with a drop of cement on end of shaft. Check propeller revolves freely.
12. Locate and cement cowling to fuselage nose.
13. Locate and cement upper (19) and lower (20) outer port wing halves together. Repeat procedure with upper (21) and lower (22) outer starboard wing halves. Set aside to dry.
14. Locate and cement upper (23) and lower (24) port inner wing halves together, then cement completed wing into slot in port fuselage.
15. Repeat procedure with upper (25) and lower (26) starboard halves and cement into slot in starboard fuselage.
16. The port and starboard outer wings may now be cemented in either the folded or flying position as desired.
17. Cement inner and outer wing guns (27, 30) into holes in leading edges of port and starboard wings.
18. Locate and cement fuselage cover plate (31) onto small ribs within dive brake well beneath fuselage.
19. If dive brakes are required open. Dive brake "open version" (32) is cemented in angled open position to front of dive brake recess beneath fuselage.
20. For closed version cement underside dive brake closed version (33), rivet detail to outside, flush into dive brake opening.
21. Similarly position and cement port (34) and starboard (35) dive brakes in either open or closed position into wells in fuselage sides.

2 UNDERCARRIAGE & BOMB ASSEMBLY ETC.,



22. The desired undercarriage position should now be selected. For a model with lowered undercarriage, place wheels (36, 37) onto axles at bottom of undercarriage legs (38, 39). DO NOT CEMENT. NOTE: recess in wheels to outside. Place bushes (40, 41) over protruding ends of axles and secure with a drop of cement on ends of axles then cement wheel inserts (42, 43) into wheel recesses.

23. With wheels to outside, cement top

of undercarriage legs into bushes within port and starboard wheel wells.

24. Cement forks on port (44) and starboard (45) undercarriage supports around rear of legs and locating pins into locating holes within wheel wells.

25. Cement port (46, 47) and starboard (48, 49) undercarriage doors onto ribs within wheel wells, then locate and cement port and starboard forward undercarriage doors (50, 51)

in angled position with front ends resting on the wing fairings and rear ends resting over front of undercarriage legs.

26. For a model with retracted undercarriage omit legs, wheels and supports and cement all doors in closed position. Push tailwheel up into fuselage.

27. Locate and cement bomb halves (52-55) together and bomb tails (56, 57) onto square locations at end of bombs.

28. Locate and cement together upper and lower halves of drop tanks (58-61).

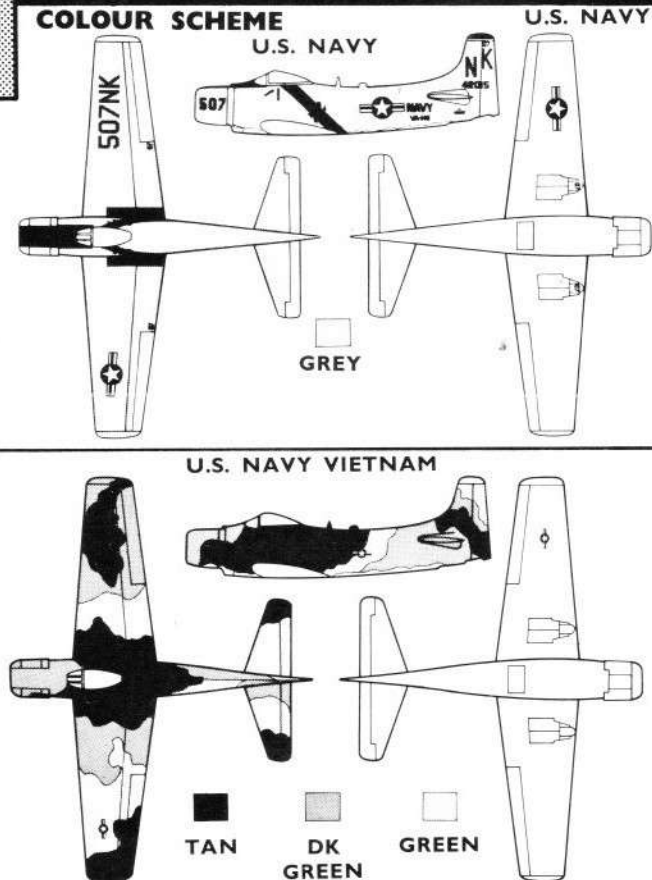
29. A varied choice of armament is provided with this kit. NOTE: outboard pylons (62, 63) are large, centre pylon (64) small. Apply insignia beneath starboard wing then cement desired pylons into corresponding holes beneath inner lower wing halves or beneath fuselage. Press desired armament into position on protruding pylon pins, i.e. central bomb with two wing tanks or central wing tank with two bombs.

30. Cement tabs on rocket pylons (65-76) into slots beneath outer lower port and starboard wings. Cement rockets (77-88) onto ribs on pylons.

31. Painting should be completed at this stage.

32. Cement together both parts of stand. Cement arm of stand into slot provided in fuselage.

3 COLOUR SCHEME



Apply transfers. Separate appropriate subjects, dip each into warm water for a few minutes and slide off backing into position shown on illustration. The large separated stars to fuselage side dive brakes.

The remaining large stars above port and beneath starboard wing. The black letters NAVY with VA-145 beneath to rear of dive brakes on fuselage side. The small numerals 07 to either side of rudder, to front of port and starboard wheel door fairings and to port and starboard upper trailing edges of wings. The letters N.K to either side of fin and rudder and numerals 42015 below. The small serial number A-1J 142015 to rear fuselage sides. The numerals 507 to either side of cowling. The large 507NK to top of starboard wing. The red stripes vertically to fuselage sides below cockpit. The red rescue arrow at angle below cockpit on port fuselage side. The green and black squadron marking at angle on fuselage sides. The aircraft name to base of stand.

GREY M13: Upper surfaces, wing tanks.

INSIGNIA WHITE: Upper surfaces, rudder, ailerons and elevators.

MATT BLACK M6: Anti-glare panel on top of cowling and front of fuselage. Black walkway strips on wings, propeller, wheel tyres, bombs, guns.

RED G1: Strip at top of fin and rudder, arrester hook stripes.

U.S. NAVY VIETNAM Apply transfers. The small stars above port and beneath starboard wings and to fuselage sides. NOTE: two spare stars are included on transfer sheet.

DK GREEN M17 over **TAN**; and **GREEN M3**: to give camouflage pattern to upper surfaces.

GREY M13: undersurfaces, drop tanks.

MATT BLACK M6: Propeller, wheel tyres, bombs, guns.

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