

Douglas C-47A KLM The Flying Dutchman "Post War" *(designed for 1/72 scale)*

After the Second World War KLM "Royal Dutch Airlines" used many C-47A to resume flight operations. The C-47A was a DC-3 with strengthened floor, bigger rear cargo door, astrodome and no rear tail cone installed. The popular name was Dakota. KLM Dakota airliners got passenger seats in either 21 (7 rows x 3) or 28 (7 rows x 4) seats. Flown by 2 pilots and assisted by radio-operator/ navigator. It had a small cargo hold aft of the cockpit. The 1950s' schemes provided here have on the right side trim lines with the title THE VLEGENDE HOLLANDER and on the port side the title THE FLYING DUTCHMAN.

Decals for two registrations are provided:

PH-DAT (C-47A c/n 42-93424) used by KLM and registered from February 1954 to November 1961.

PH-DAZ (C-47A c/n 42-93463) used by KLM and registered from April 1954 to October 1957.

MODEL KITS

In 1/72 scale several C-47 / DC-3 plastic model kits have appeared over the years. Many of these have some inaccurate shapes. The latest Airfix 1/72 kits C-47A kit #A08014 or Dakota #A08015 are very nice and includes the "paddle blades" props.

DECAL SYSTEM and APPLICATION

The decal sheet has ONE continuous print film, so EACH decal needs to be cut out with fine scissors. No other prior decal preparation is needed. Each cut out decal can be applied as usual after soaking it a short while in water. Decals are EXTREMELY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on a horizontally held GLOSSY model surface. Do not use tweezers! They will fold doubled!

Note that a decal that contains a white section is often split in two parts. To apply the full decal marking, first set the white decal section at correct position and on top of that the coloured section. On the decals sheet you will often see an "arrow" to indicate this way of application (on white surfaces, the white section is optional).

After all decals have been applied, finish the model with your preferred final gloss, matt or semi-matt varnish coats. This will also protect all the decals.

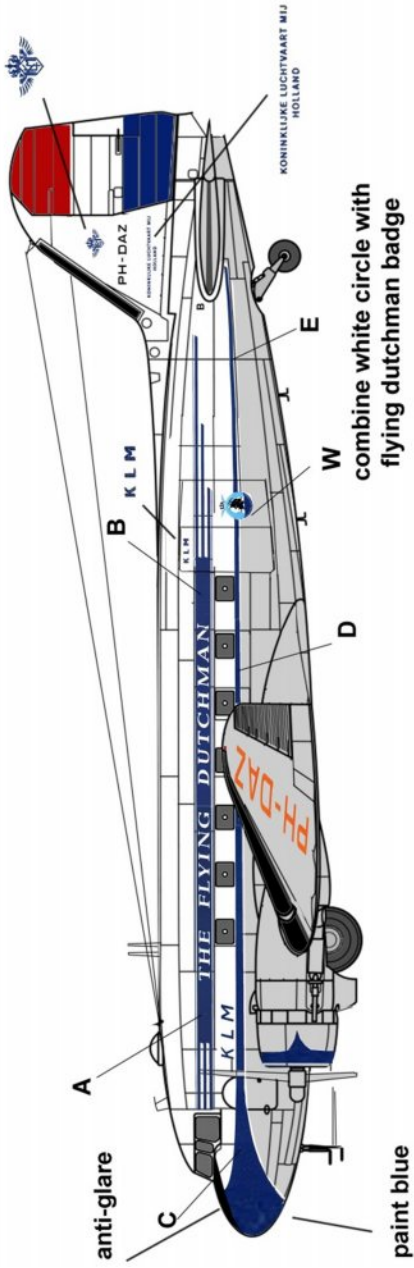
DC-3 KLM PAINTING AND DECALS

The decals include the long blue trim lines, needed codes and KLM markings. But first paint the model with the main colours: gloss white upper fuselage / roof and vertical tail; lower fuselage areas below the lower cheatlines (indicated as C/E/M/N) are natural metal. Note that the KLM schemes have a very thin white line running below the lower cheatlines. Look at the lower trim line decals' shapes to make a tape mask and airbrush these areas. (on the sheet also very thin white lines are provided as well as some extra blue lines).

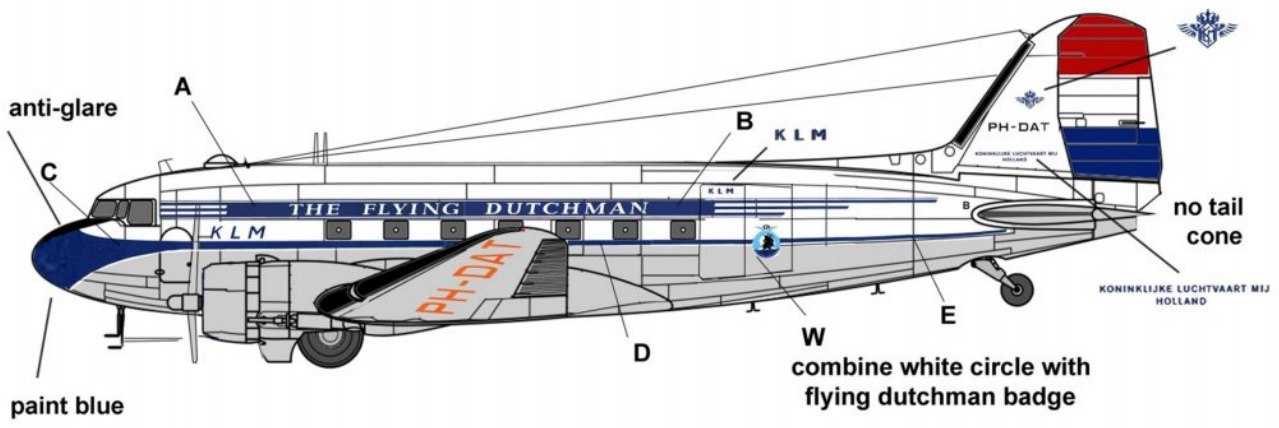
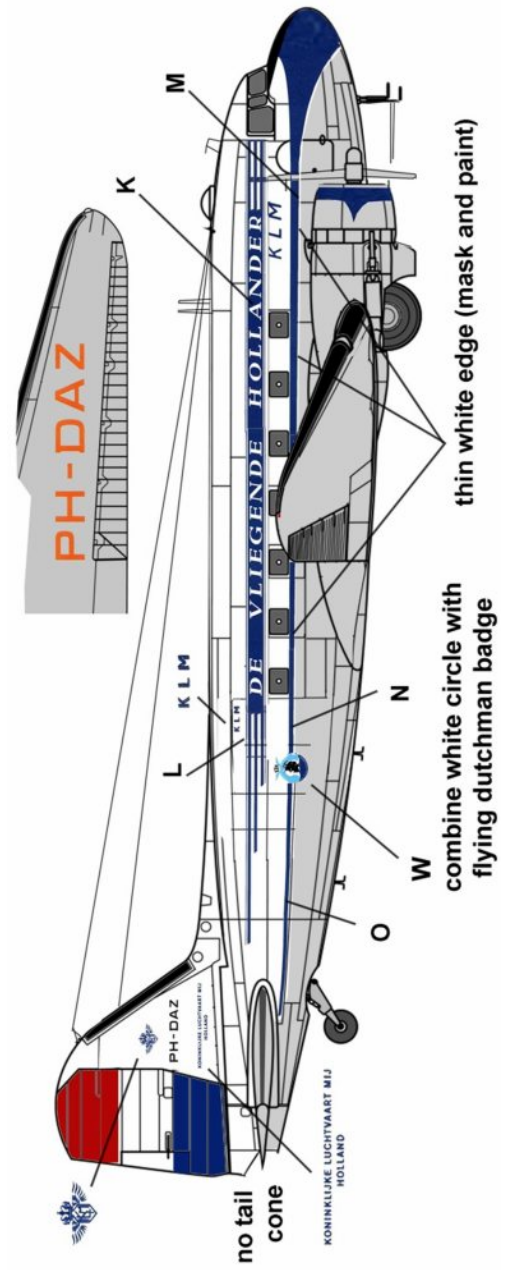
The remainder of the airframe like wing and flying surfaces are also natural metal. On the leading edges black anti-icing areas are seen. The KLM scheme rudder is base RAL 9010 white with red-white-blue Dutch flag colours coded RAL 2002 red and RAL 5013 blue. Cockpit interior is probably olive green and cabin interior light buff/ grey with red window curtains. Seats had blue cushions with white head covers. The lower decals C and M and smaller nose bits may not cover the blue nose entirely; it is better to paint the nose in a matching colour RAL 5013 blue. Paint a black anti-glare panel in front of the cockpit wind screen. On the PH-DAZ there is also blue trim on the cowlings (decals are provided) but front cowling front edges are natural metal. Note that PH-DAT cowlings do not have any blue trim. The propellers are light grey with yellow tips.

Apply after painting the decals. For the blue trim lines at port: start with decal A aft of the cockpit. Than decal B. Below the windows apply the decal C. Trim the end of decal C to end slightly aft of the port passenger cabin door. Apply than the "white" circle base decal of small FLYING DUTCHMAN badge and add the badge on top. Than continue to set the curved rear decal trim line E and this may need a bit trimming in length. (The large white THE FLYING DUTCHMAN title is normally not needed as the base roof paint is white but the decals are provided on the decals sheet just in case). Repeat the same procedure on the starboard side: starting with decal K, than L. Than the lower trim M, N. Again add the badge and than the rear curved cheatline O.

At the wing the large upper starboard and lower port wing registrations are probably orange (but black codes are also provided). For the PH-DAT replace the "Z" with the "T". Note the typical C-47 astrodome and long antenna wires.



scheme 1: **PH-DAZ**



Scheme 2: **PH-DAT**

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