

hawk

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LOCKHEED F-104A

STARFIGHTER

1/4" SCALE REPLICA OF THE AIR FORCES' RECORD BREAKING JET INTERCEPTOR

The Starfighter Story . . .

The Lockheed F-104A Starfighter is an air superiority day fighter of advanced design. The aircraft has a length of 54 ft. 9 in. It has a span of 21 ft. 11 in. Height of the aircraft is 13 ft. 6 in. Powerplant is a General Electric J79-GE-3A axial flow turbojet with afterburner. This engine has an approximate thrust of 10,000 pounds with afterburner out and 15,000 pounds with afterburner in.

Armament of the F-104A is an M61 six-barrel cannon, however, almost all F-104A aircraft are armed with Sidewinder infra-red missiles when assigned to interception missions. The M61 cannon is then removed and extra fuel tanks placed in the cannon's space.

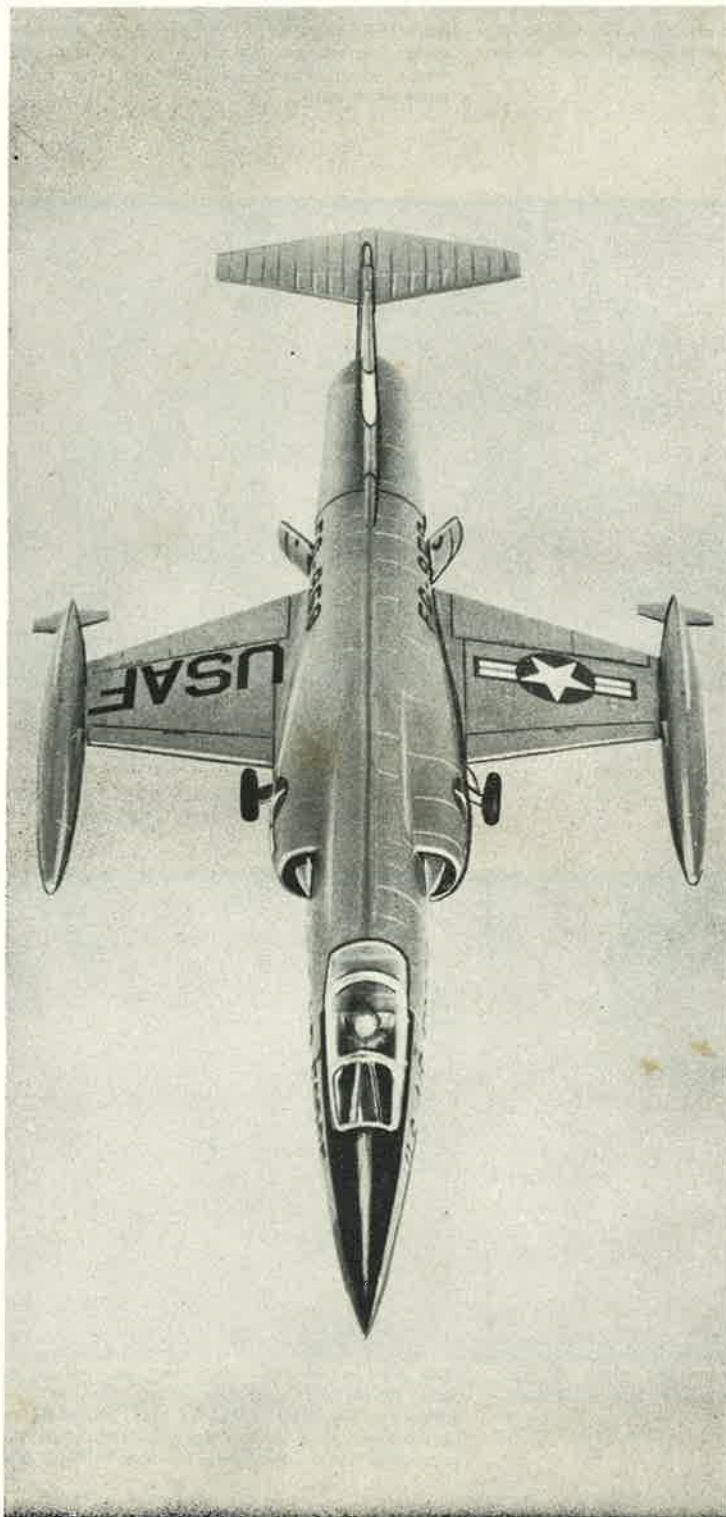
Normal fuel load of the Starfighter is carried in fuselage tanks with provisions for wingtip fuel tanks and underwing pylon tanks. The F-104A is not equipped for in-flight refueling.

Top speed of the Starfighter is in the order of Mach 2, or, twice the speed of sound. The airframe design is estimated to possess a speed potential of Mach 2.2 to 2.4. Speed limitation of Mach 2 is imposed due to aerodynamic heating of air entering the engine and the danger of this hot air damaging the compressor section of the powerplant.

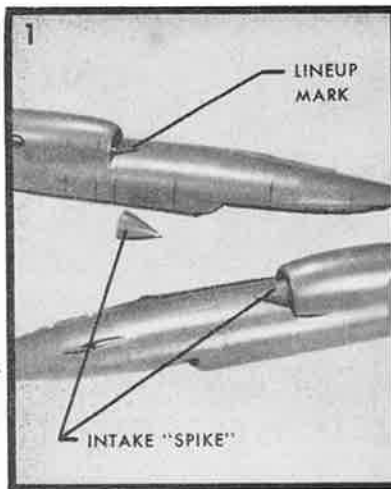
The first prototype of the Starfighter flew for the first time in February of 1954. Two years later, after an extensive test program, the first production F-104A lifted into the air.

Numerous developments on the basic Starfighter theme have come into being. The F-104B is the two-seat version of the A. The F-104C is a fighter-bomber development with a two-seat version called the F-104D. The F-104G Super Starfighter is a redesign with internal changes suiting the F-104 for NATO missions. The F-104F is the two-seat version of the F-104G. The F-104J, being built for Japan, is a progressive development of the F-104C.

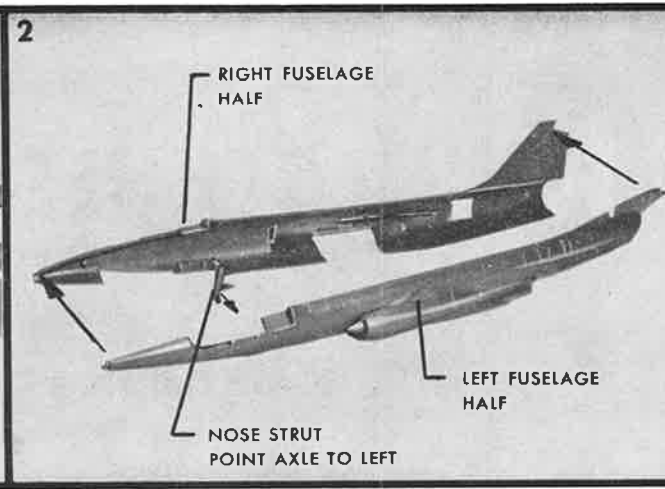
The Starfighter is undoubtedly one of the most outstanding airplanes of our time and sure to be flying in the world's skies for some time to come.



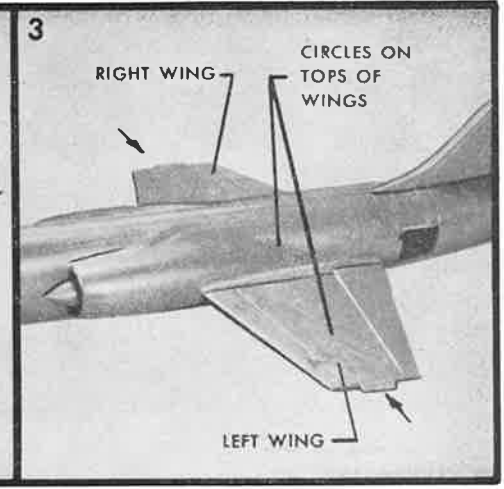
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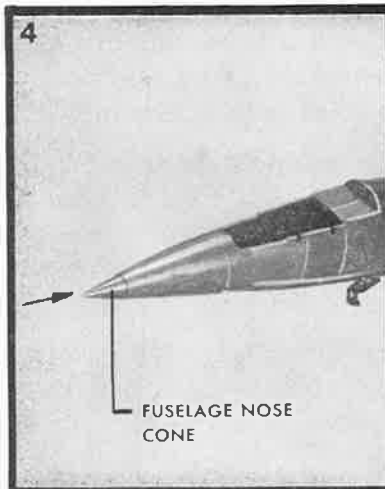
Glue the intake spikes into the air intakes of the fuselage halves in position as marked on the fuselage halves.



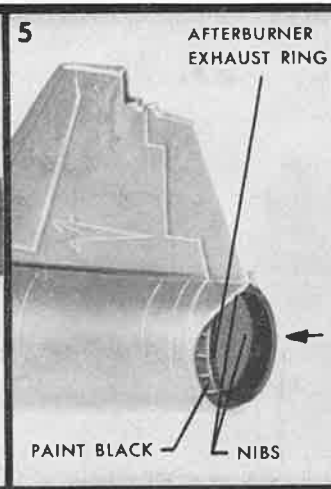
Glue the nose strut into its socket hole in the right fuselage half. Be sure the axle points to the left. Now glue the fuselage halves together.



Glue the wings to the fuselage. Be sure the circles marked on the wings are on top. The wings when properly attached to your F-104 hang downward.



Glue the fuselage nose cone to the fuselage halves.



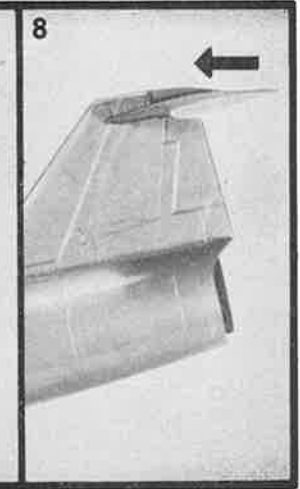
Paint the afterburner exhaust ring black and cement it into the rear of the fuselage against the four nibs.



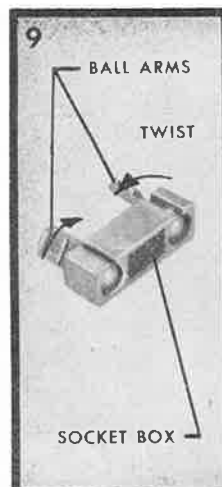
Slide the stabilizer into place as shown here and in the next two photos. Slide it down and forward . . .



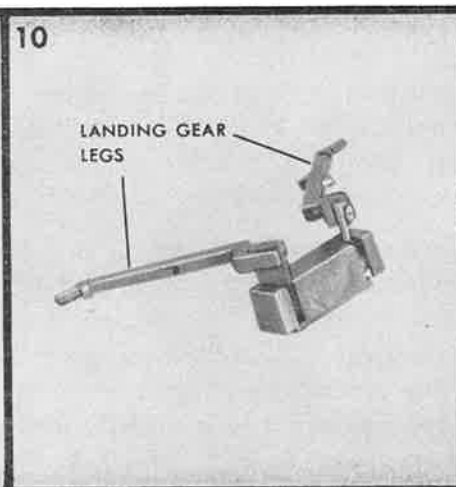
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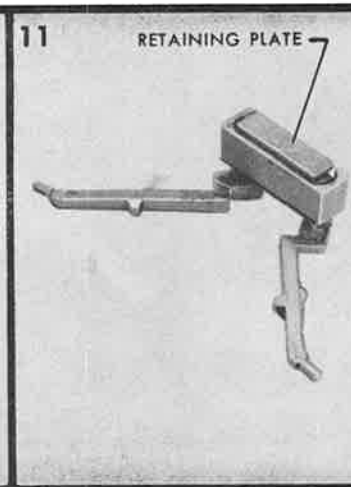
. . . until it snaps into place. You can now glue it in place or leave it loose so that you can move it up or down as on the real Starfighter.



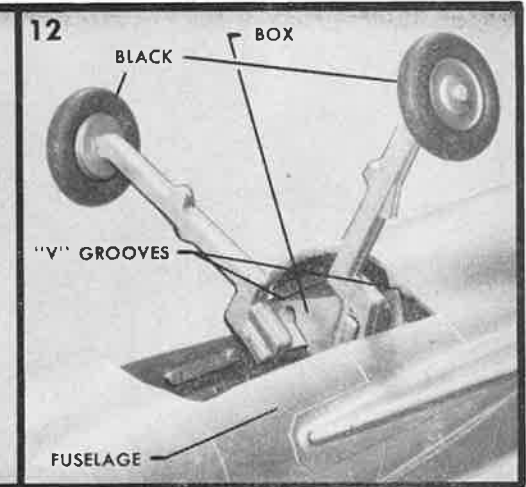
Slide ball arms into slots in socket box and twist them into place as shown. Now glue them securely.



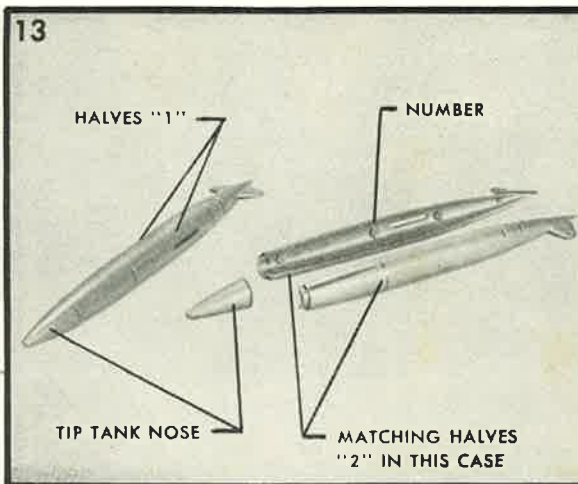
Glue the landing gear legs to the ball arms as shown.



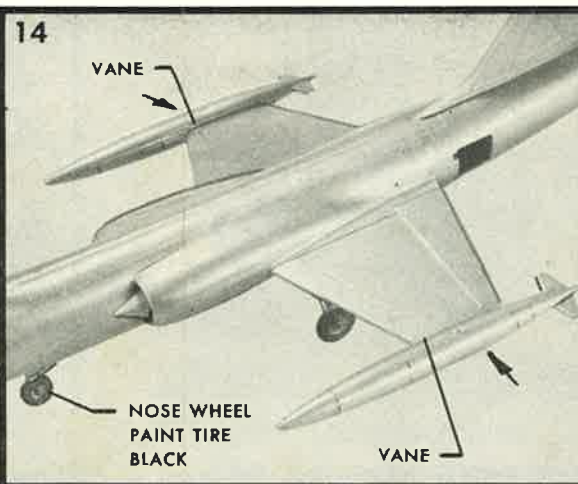
Glue the retaining plate to the back of the socket box as shown.



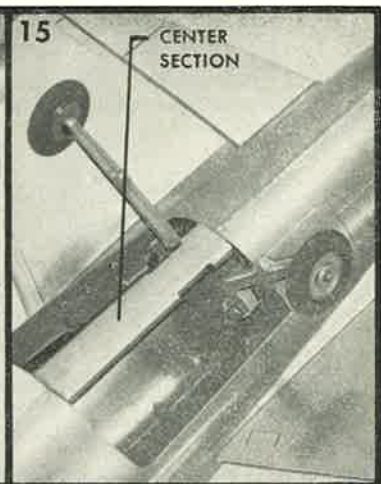
Paint main wheel tires black and glue wheels to axles of landing gear legs. Place glue in "V" grooves of fuselage and guide gear into place as shown here. Hold in this position until glue has set awhile. Set the Starfighter fuselage aside to dry.



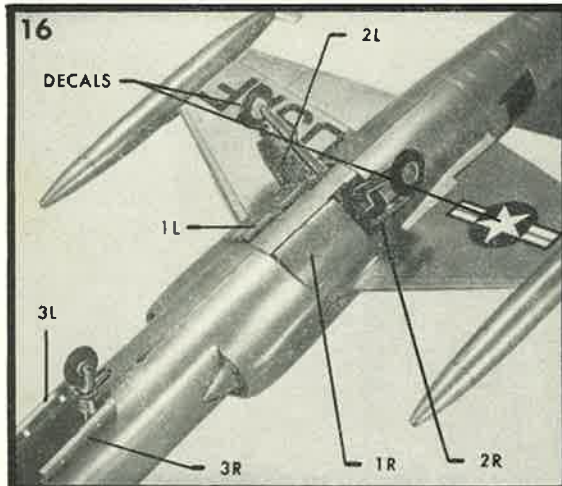
Assemble matching (1 with 1, 2 with 2) tank halves together as shown. Glue the tank noses in place.



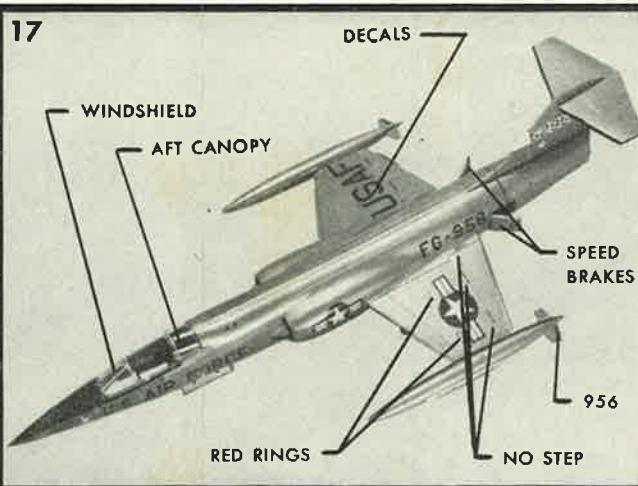
Glue the nose wheel to the nose gear strut. Glue the tip tanks to the wing tips as shown. Be sure the small vanes on the tanks are above the wings.



Glue center section of the landing gear well into place. The round ribs at the ends of the center section glue into the inside of the fuselage.



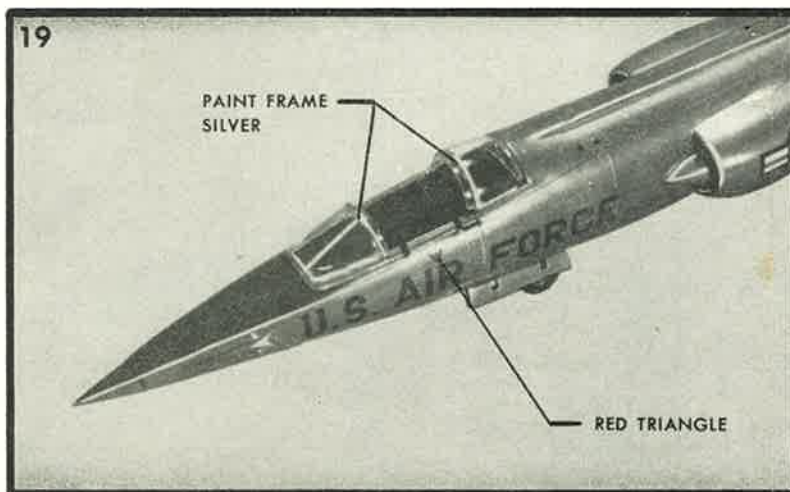
Read the instructions on the back of the decal sheet and apply the star and "USAF" to the bottoms of the wings. Now glue the landing gear doors into place as shown.



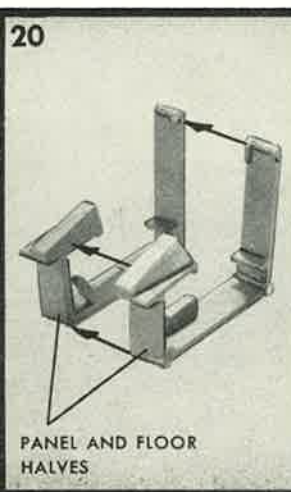
Glue the windshield and aft canopy into place as shown. Begin apply the rest of decals as indicated here and in the following photos.



This close-up of the tail area shows clearly the decal placement and position of the speed brakes.



Paint the canopy frames silver. This photo also shows the decal layout on the forward section of the airplane.



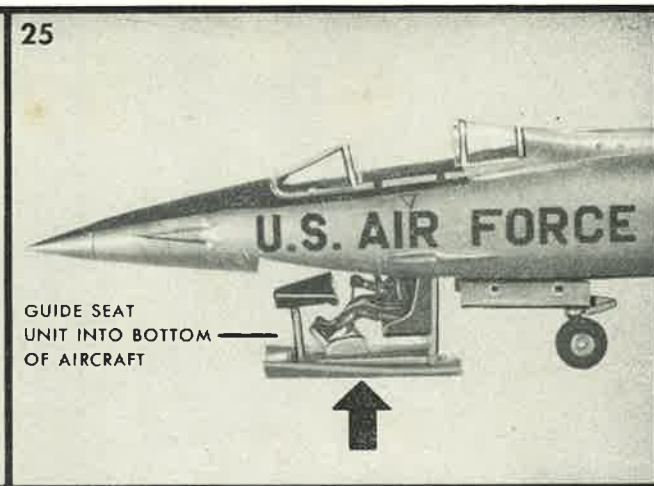
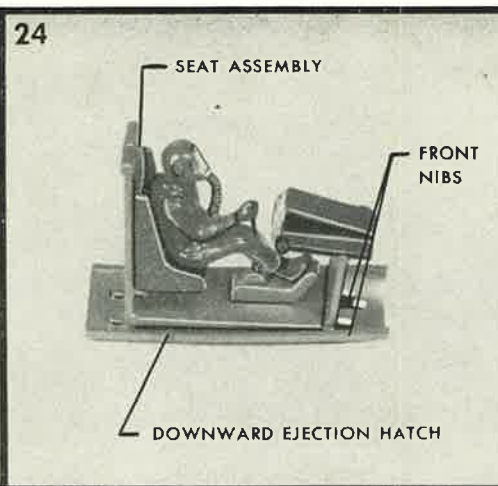
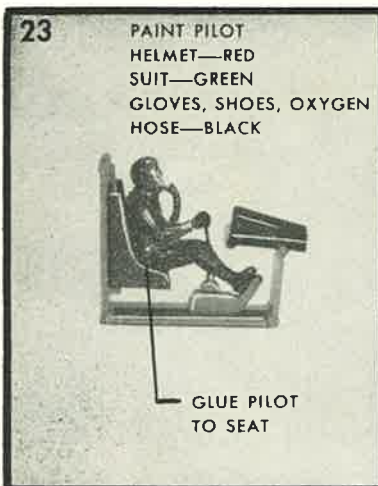
Cement the panel and floor halves together as shown.



Paint top and sides of instrument panel black. When dry apply decal instrument face as shown.



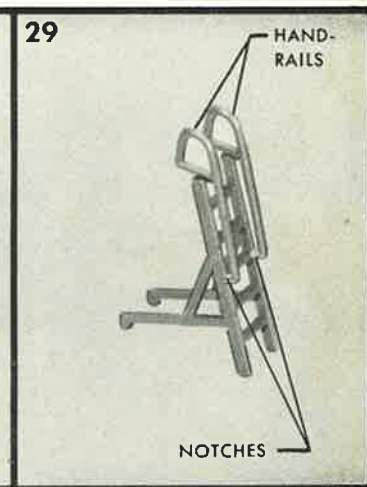
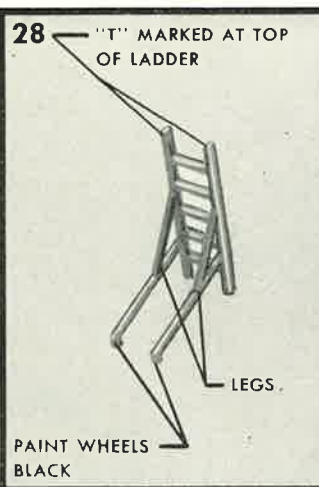
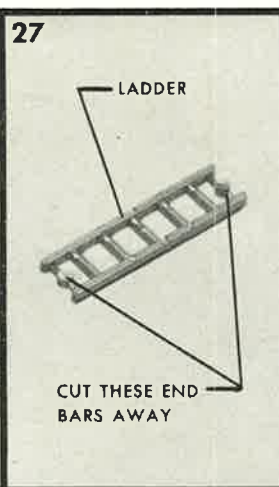
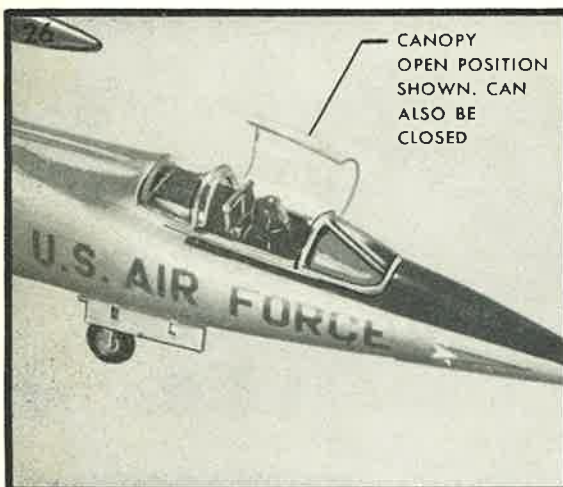
Paint seat green and cement it to panel and floor unit as shown.



Paint pilot as shown. When the paint has dried cement the pilot to the seat.

Glue the seat assembly to the downward ejection hatch. The front edge of the seat assembly should rest against the front nibs on the ejection hatch as shown.

Guide seat assembly up into bottom of the model. You can either glue it in place or leave it wedged in place. Pressing the top of the pilot's head down will then cause the seat to eject.

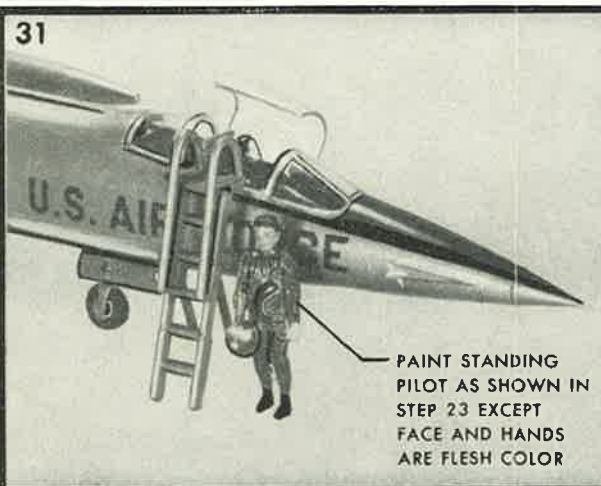


Attach the canopy to the notches in the fuselage side. Canopy can be either open or closed.

Cut the end bars away from the ladder.

Glue legs to ladder as shown. Note the small "T"s marked on one end of ladder. These "T"s show which end of the ladder is the top.

Glue the handrails to the ladder assembly as shown.



Glue platform into place as indicated. Paint the platform black and the remainder of the ladder yellow.

Paint standing pilot as shown for sitting pilot in Step 23.

This photo shows your finished Starfighter poised for action. Placing the standing pilot near the model gives a reference of the size of the real aircraft.

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