

Bristol Blenheim Mk.I / IF

The Bristol Blenheim first flew in June 1936; initial deliveries of the Mk I version to RAF squadrons began in mid-March of 1937. The Blenheim immediately aroused much excitement with its high speed and modern appearance and went a long way to create the belief that the RAF had a world class light bomber. No fewer than 28 RAF squadrons were equipped with this type. However by the outbreak of WW II, few Mk Is remained in service with home based bomber squadrons, having been superseded by the Mk IV.

Their usefulness was by no means ended. About 200 were converted to serve as fighters and designated Mk IF with a special gun pack fitted to carry four .303 caliber machine-guns. The type was also used for training with OTUs.

The design of the Blenheim probably peaked with MK IV version, which was also produced in Canada under the name of Bolingbroke. Deliveries of this type commenced in March 1938 and was used by more than 70 squadrons. The Mk IV bore the brunt of the Bomber Commands "Daylight campaign" until replaced by Bostons and Mosquitos in 1942. This version was also used as a night fighter, designated Mk IVF.

The last development of the Blenheim was the Mk V, briefly known as the Bisley. This version however was seriously underpowered and it suffered accordingly when it went into action in the summer of 1942 on the Mediterranean Theater and in the Far East.

The Blenheim created much interest in foreign countries and was used by Canada, Finland, Greece, Portugal, Rumania. South Africa, Yugoslavia, Croatia and the Free French.

Blenheim Mk. 1 Specifications

Powerplant: Two 840hp Bristol Mercury radial engines Armament:

One .303 Browning mg in port wing,

Wing Span:

56' 4"

one .303 Vickers K or Browning .303 mg in turret. Bombload 1000 lbs.

Length:

39' 9"

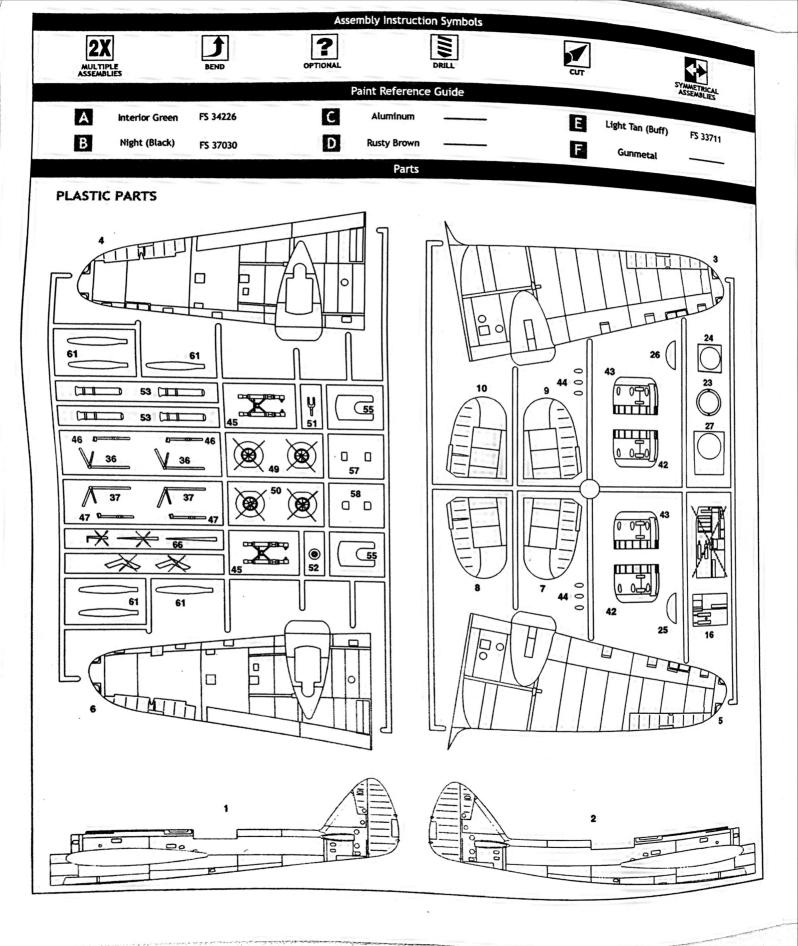
Maximum Speed:

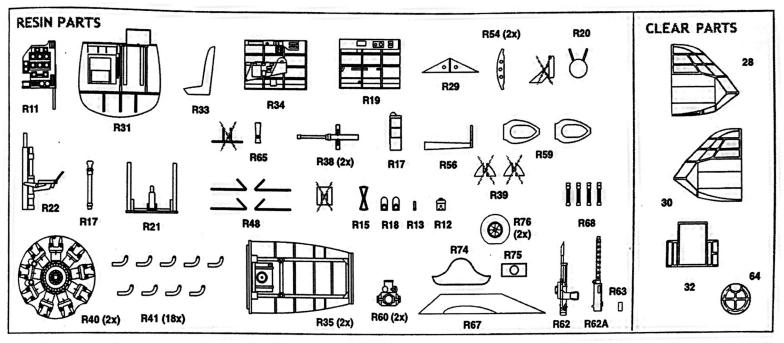
279 mph

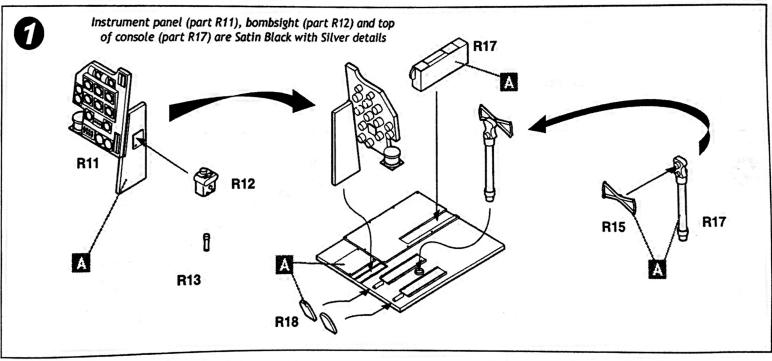
Mk.IF carried four Browning .303s in belly pack

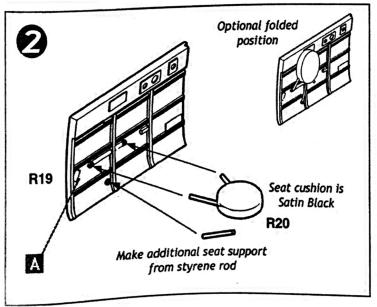
This model kit is intended for experienced modelers. The nature of low-pressure molded kits such as this require additional time and effort to clean up and fit the parts, as well as experience with the various media utilized to provide the most accurate effect on the finished model. Use CyA ('super') glue to assemble Resin parts.

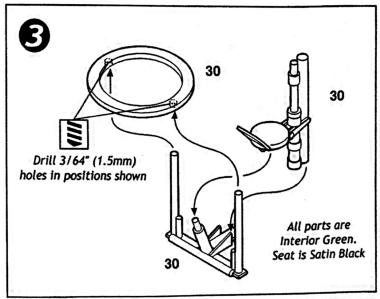
> Classic Airframes, Inc. P.O. Box 577580 Chicago, IL 60657-7580 USA

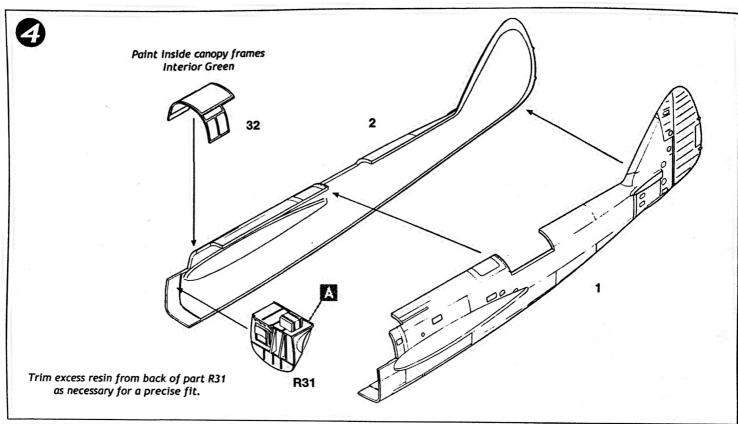


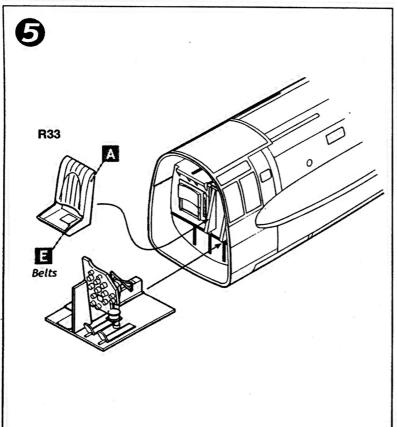


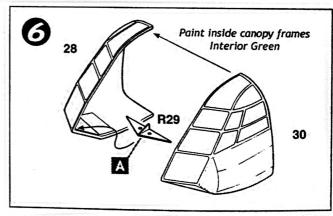


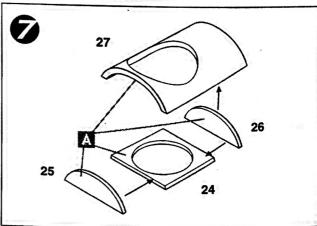


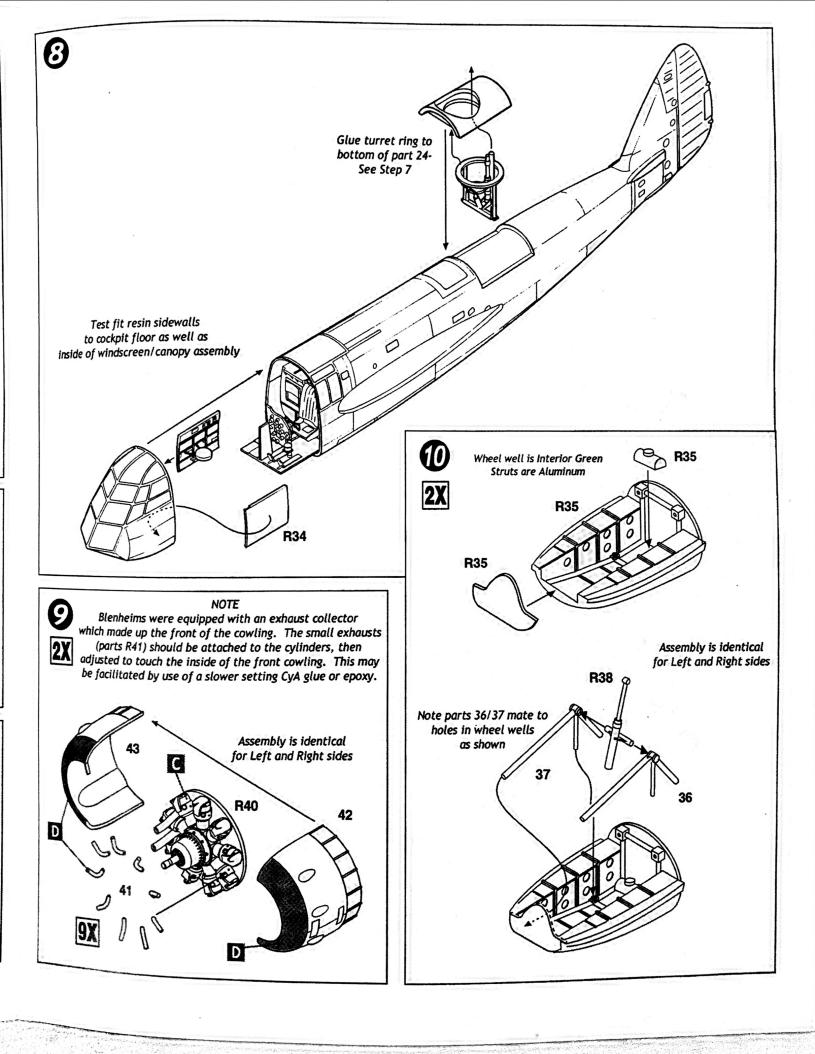


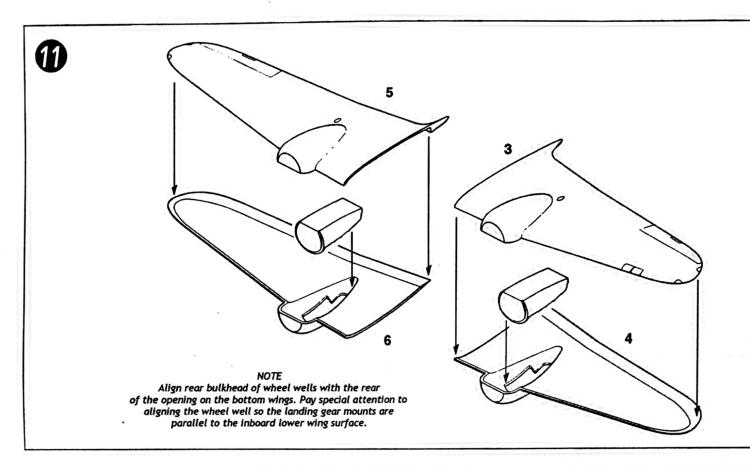


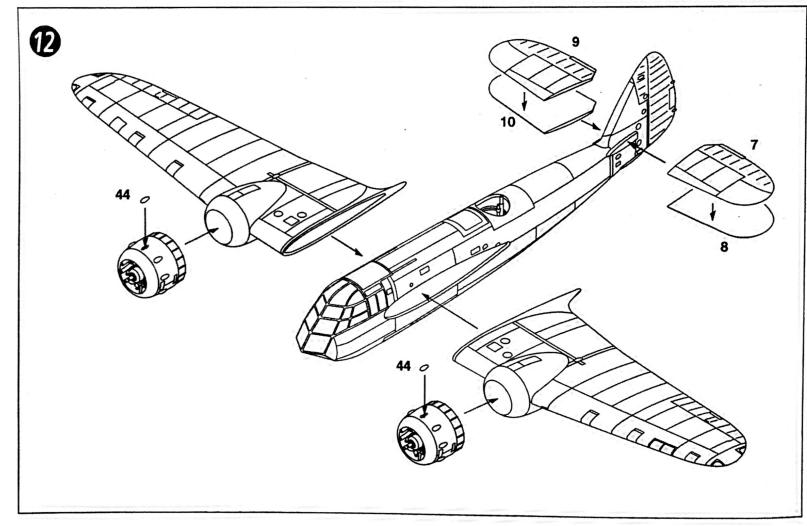


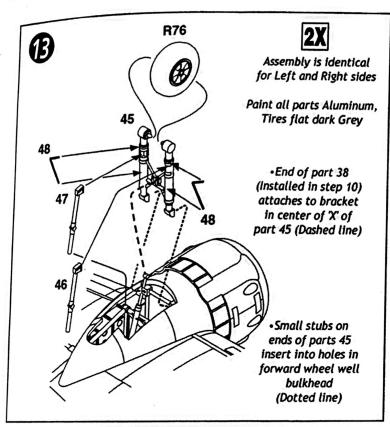


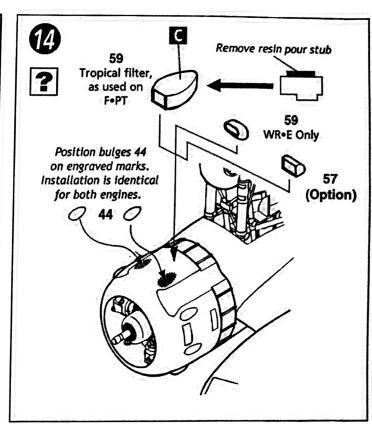


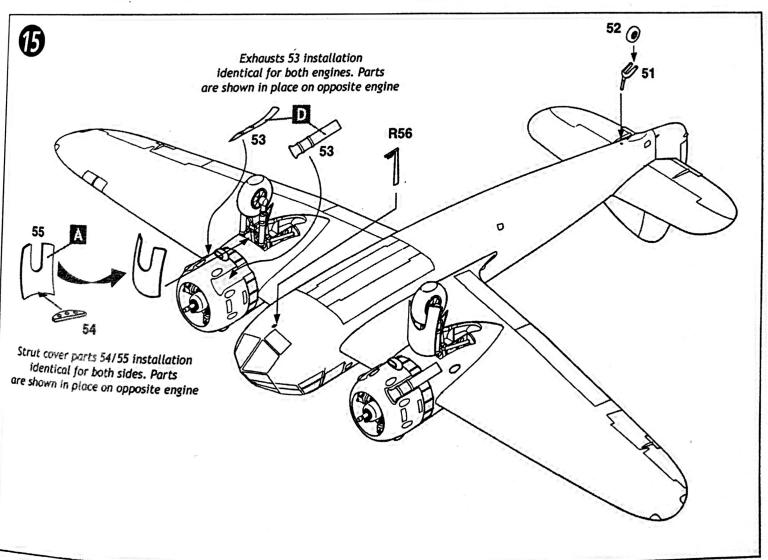


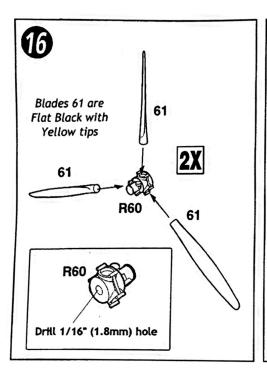














Turret mount Browning .303

Most Mk.I Blenheims were equipped with the Vickers K gun; some were field-fitted with the Browning. Check your references for the appropriate choice.

