

MITSUBISHI ZERO FIGHTER (A6M2)



ZERO-SEN TYPE 21 (ZEKE)

HISTORY

Designed in 1938 and first flown on April 1, 1939, Japan's nimble Zero fighter still presented a rude shock to the Americans when it accompanied the attack force over Pearl Harbor in 1941. The A6M2, second model of the new fighter, had been in combat in China since mid-1940 where eighteen months of service had proven the Zero-Sen was an outstanding fighting machine.

Performance of the Japanese Navy's new fighter was superior to the best land planes the Allies had and no other carrier planes could even compare to the Zero-Sen. Its great range and uncanny manoeuvrability led to a belief that it was invincible, to the Allies as well as the Japanese. Thus it was a discovery of great importance to the Americans who found one of the remarkable machines nearly intact in a marsh on Akutan Island in the Aleutians.

The captured Zero-Sen was tested by American pilots and soon revealed the secrets of its great performance. Light of weight with a powerful engine, the Zero-Sen sacrificed pilot safety for speed and manoeuvrability. Neither armor plating or self-sealing fuel tanks were among the Japanese fighters features. For carrier stowage the wingtip panels could be folded to reduce overall span.

CHARACTERISTICS

Wingspan: 39 feet 4½ inches

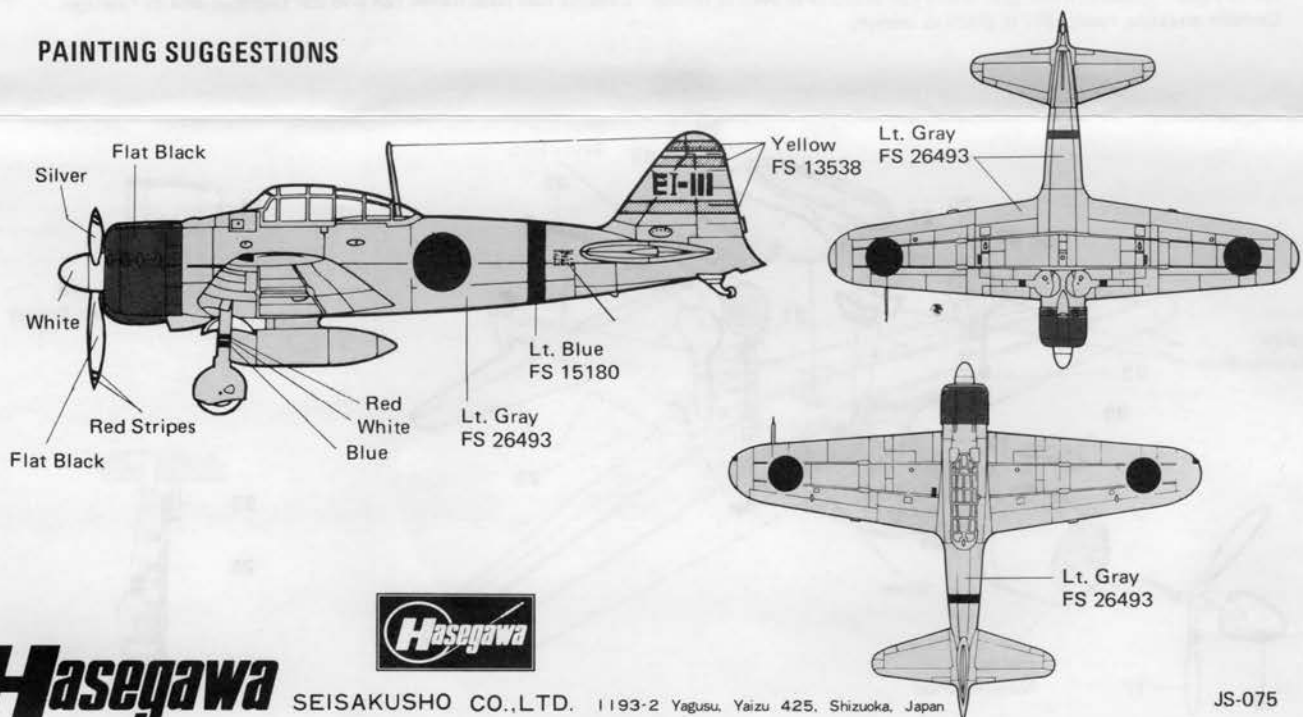
Length: 29 feet 9 inches

Powerplant: One Nakajima Sakai 12 fourteen cylinder 925 hp engine

Maximum Speed: 336 mph at 19,680 feet

Armament: Two 7.7 mm Type 97 machine guns, two 20 mm Type 99 cannon and two 66 lb or 132 lb bombs

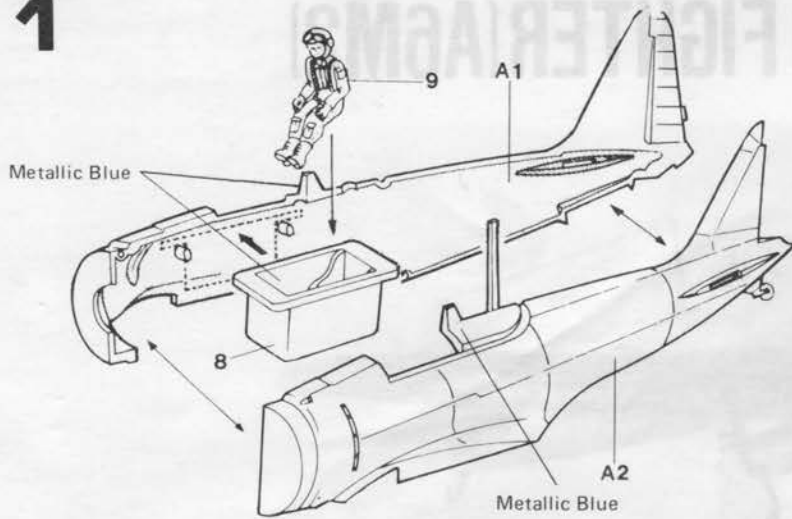
PAINTING SUGGESTIONS



Hasegawa

SEISAKUSHO CO.,LTD. 1193-2 Yagusu, Yaizu 425, Shizuoka, Japan

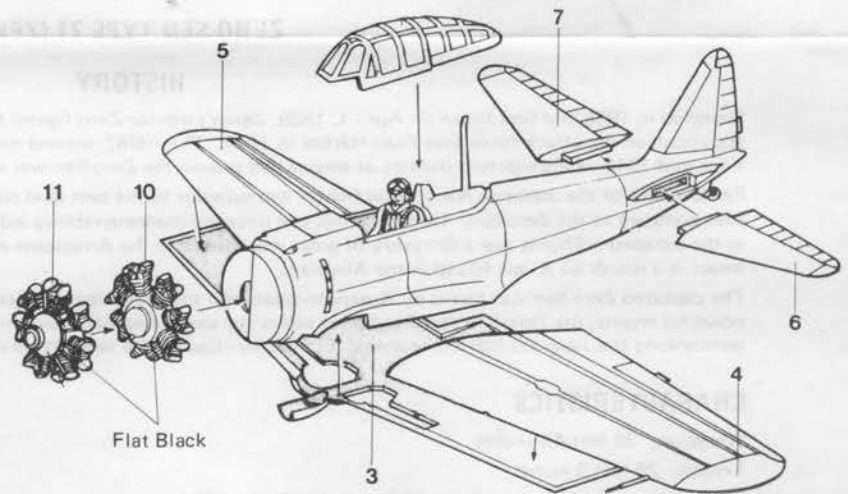
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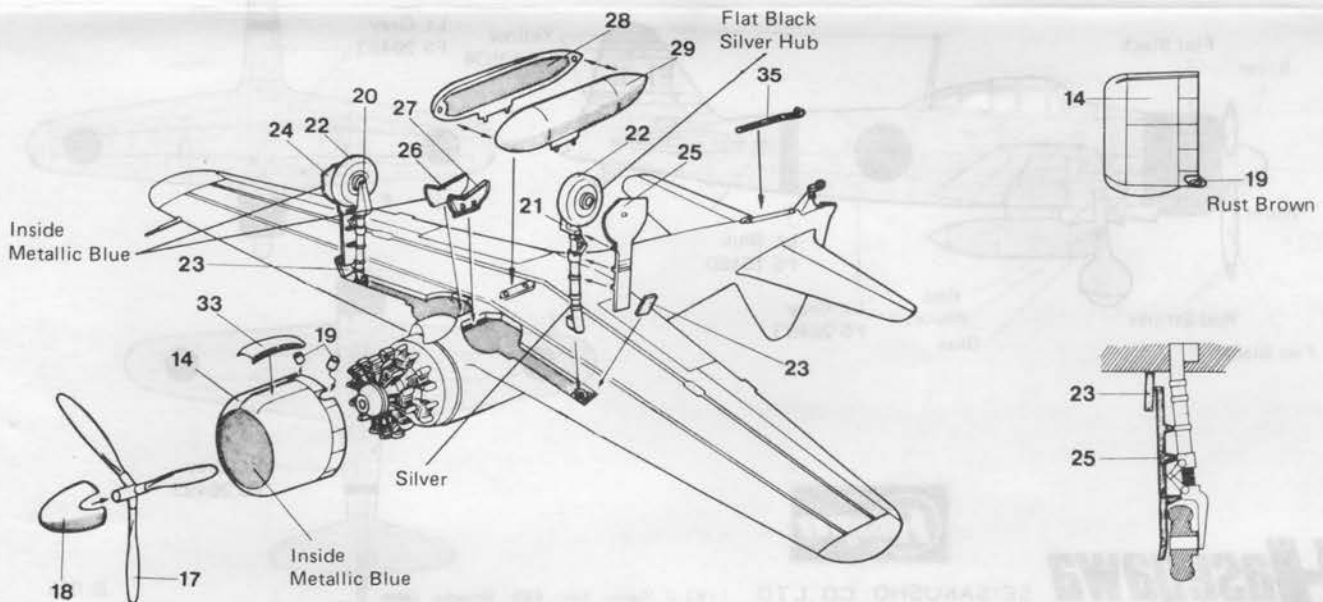
Cement pilot figure (9) into seat in cockpit (8) and cement cockpit to right fuselage side (A1). Cement left fuselage side (A2) to right side.

**2**

Cement clear canopy over cockpit. Cement upper wing halves (4 and 5) to lower wing section (3) and cement wing to fuselage. Cement stabilizers (6 and 7) to fuselage as shown. Cement engine front (11) to engine rear (10) and cement engine to fuselage.

**3**

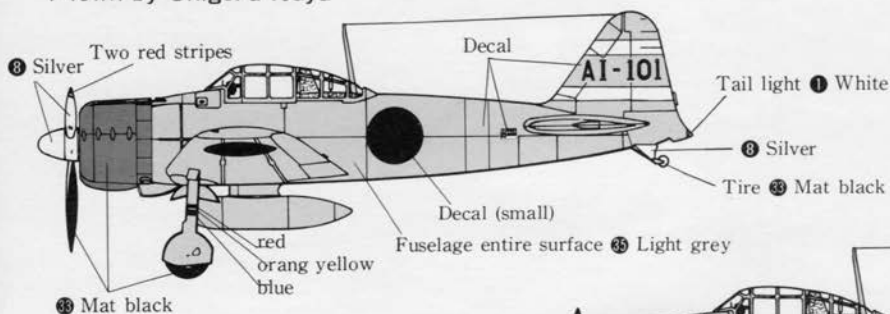
Cement exhaust stacks (19) and air scoop (33) to cowling (14) and cement cowling to fuselage. Cement spinner (18) to propeller (17) and cement propeller to engine. Place wheel (22) over axle on gear strut (21). Cement gear (25) to strut trapping wheel. Cement gear into right wheel well and cement small door (23) in place as shown. Repeat with parts (20, 22, 23 and 24) for left gear. Cement inner gear doors (26 and 27) to well as shown. Cement fuel tank halves (28 and 29) together and to fuselage. Cement arresting hook (35) in place as shown.



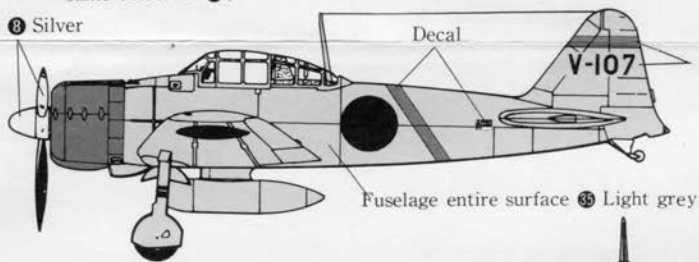
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Marking & Color Painting Guide

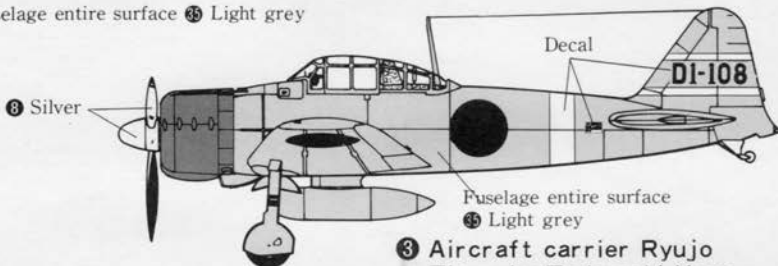
1 Aircraft carrier (Akagi) Flown by Shigeru Itaya



2 Tainan Air Corps Flown by Saburo Sakai (Paint the details in the same colors as 1)



3 Aircraft carrier Ryujo Flown by Tadayoshi Koga (Paint the details in the same colors as 1)



- Inside of landing gear cover — (37) Malachite green
- Interior of landing gear — (37) Malachite green
- Interior of cockpit — (8) Silver or (37) Malachite green
- Head rest — (36) Grey
- Exhaust pipe — (30) Burnt iron

Top and Bottom View of 1 2 3

