

## **Instructions for Decal Placement**

### **General painting instructions:**

The standard paint scheme for U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aircraft during the "Golden Age" (1930 to early 1941) was an overall glossy aluminum pigmented dope finish on the fuselage, lower wings and fabric surfaces. This finish gave the appearance of a very light silvery-gray color. Earlier aircraft from 1930 to approx. 1936 also used glossy lt. gray on all metal surfaces. The upper surface of the wings were painted a glossy orange-yellow, which served as a tool in search and rescue should the plane go down. The tails of the aircraft were also painted with a gloss finish in a number of different colors according to the squadron the plane was attached to or its individual assignment.

We have included a list of model paints that closely match the colors used by these services at the time.

**NOTE:** Since all our decals are custom printed by Microscale, we highly recommend the use of their decaling system and products. Please read and follow their instructions for use to achieve the best results.

### **Painting:**

Using the color guide provided with this decal sheet, completely paint the model in the color scheme of your choice. Now here's the hard part, WAIT till the paint has completely dried before proceeding to the next step.

### **Fuselage Band:**

Once the painted model has dried thoroughly, carefully cut the desired fuselage band from the decal sheet in the color of your choice. Remember the fuselage band color and the wing chevron colors **MUST** match. Test fit the decal on the model before you immerse it in water to be sure it is facing in the correct direction. Refer to your reference photos or our diagram for the correct placement of the fuselage band on the model. Using the Microscale system or the system of your choice apply the decal to the aircraft and allow to dry. Once the fuselage band decal has dried thoroughly you can proceed with adding the fuselage codes of your choice right over the fuselage band. You can find the fuselage codes for all of the F3F-1/2/3's produced on our decal sheets 48-027, 48-028 and 48-029.

### **Tri-Color Prop Tips:**

Completely paint the prop according to the kit instructions and let dry. Once that's done carefully cut from the decal sheet the number of tri-colored prop tips needed for the back of the prop. Begin by applying the prop tip decals to the flat backside of the prop and let dry completely. **REMEMBER** that the **RED** part of the decal is at the tip of the prop. When dry, cut off excess decal material using a sharp razor blade or exacto knife with a number 11 blade. Now proceed to the front side of the prop and repeat the same steps.

## Wing Chevrons:

The wing chevrons should be the next decals to be applied, but before they can be installed you must first apply the wing-walks if they were supplied with the kit, some wing chevrons ran over the wing-walks on the portion of the walkway that extends out onto the wings of the aircraft. Be sure to let the wing-walks dry completely before proceeding with the next step. Carefully cut from the decal sheet the pair of wing chevrons in the Squadron color you have chosen. Be sure to select the same color as the fuselage band you applied earlier. You should notice that there is a right and left chevron that may have slightly different angles on each end. Once again as you did earlier with the fuselage band dry fit the chevrons to be sure they are facing in the right direction. The chevrons are placed on the top surface of the wings running from the leading edge (front) to the trailing edge (rear) of the wings at approximately a 45 degree angle. Again refer to your reference photos or our diagram for correct placement.

## Squadron Badges:

The next items to be applied to the model are the squadron badges or insignia. We have included squadron badge decals for squadrons that flew the F3F-1/2/3. They are to be applied to both sides of the fuselage. Again refer to your photos or our diagram for proper placement of the squadron badges.

## LSO Tail Stripes:

The LSO or landing signal officer tail stripes are next if they were used on this aircraft. We have included different colors of LSO stripes depending on the color of the tail. Again refer to your reference material as to what color was used for the LSO stripes on the particular aircraft you are modeling. The LSO stripes are placed on the side of the fin of the plane and wrap around the front of the fin. There are a number of photos showing the square ends of the stripes slightly wrapping around the front of the fin to the other side.

### SUGGESTED MODEL PAINTS:

Below is an updated list of hobby paints we have used and had very good results with.

#### Official U.S.Navy & Marine Corps Colors

#### Color Match

Gloss Aluminum Pigmented Dope FS-17178	Tamiya Gloss Aluminum #TS-17 (Comes in spray can only), best match for pre-war aluminum doped finish.
Orange-Yellow Gloss FS-13538	Tamiya Camel Yellow #TS-34 (3oz spray can)
Insignia Red Gloss FS-11136	Testors Flame Red #28110 (3oz spray can)
Insignia White Gloss FS-17875	Tamiya Pure White #TS-26 (3oz spray can)
True Blue Gloss FS-15102	Tamiya Brilliant Blue #TS-44 (3oz spray can)
Gloss Black FS-17038	Tamiya Gloss Black #TS-14 (3oz spray can)
Willow Green Gloss FS-14187	Testors Willow Green #2028 (1/2oz bottle (No spray can)
Lemon Yellow Gloss FS-13655	Tamiya Yellow #TS-16 (3oz spray can)
Blue-Gray FS-35189	Tamiya Haze Gray #TS-32 (3oz Spray Can)
Bronze Green FS-24050	Tamiya British Green #TS-9 (3oz Spray Can)
Non Specular Lt. Gray FS-36622	Testors Light Aircraft Gray #1233 (3oz spray can)
Neutral Gray FS-36440	Tamiya Light Gray USAF #AS-16 (3oz spray can)

The Tamiya spray paints are Lacquer based, dry quickly and are very hardy once fully cured.

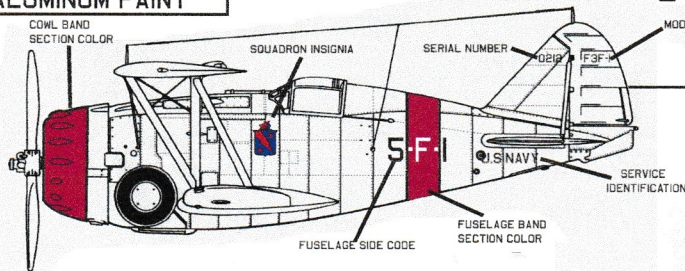
The Testors spray paints are enamel based, and are slower to dry but are just as hardy once fully cured.



FUSELAGE COLOR FOR ALL AIRCRAFT  
ALUMINUM PAINT

48-030

# USN VF-5B USS RANGER 1936-1937



TAIL COLOR FOR ALL RANGER AIRCRAFT  
WILLOW GREEN

## Specifications

### Grumman F3F-1

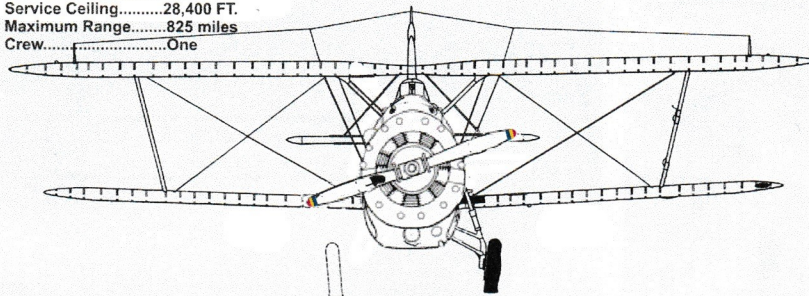
Wingspan.....32 feet  
 Length.....23 feet 3 inch  
 Height.....10 feet 6 inches  
 Empty Weight.....3258 lbs.  
 Maximum Weight.....4170 lbs.

Powerplant.....One 650 HP Pratt & Whitney R-1535-84  
 air cooled, radial engine.

Armament.....One .30 caliber and one .50 caliber  
 machine gun.

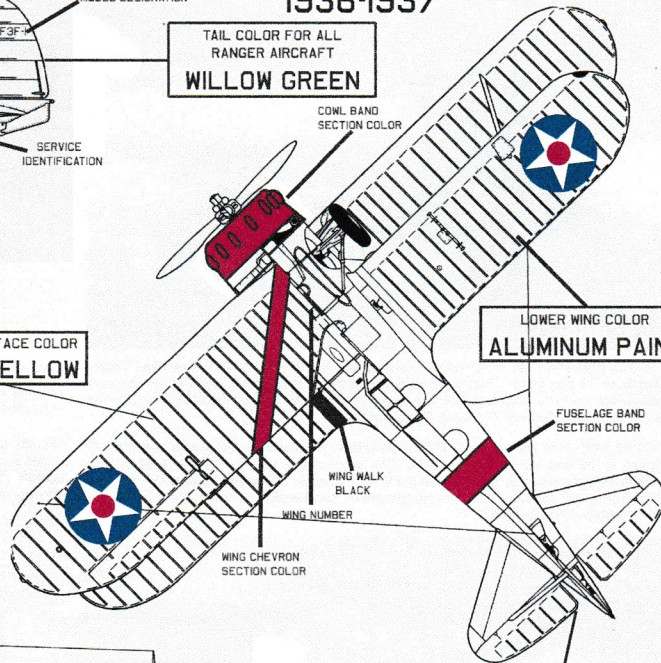
#### Performance:

Maximum Speed.....231 MPH  
 Cruising Speed.....142 MPH  
 Rate of Climb.....1730 FPM  
 Service Ceiling.....28,400 FT.  
 Maximum Range.....825 miles  
 Crew.....One




ALL AIRCRAFT HAVE TRI-COLOR PROP TIPS

UPPER WING SURFACE COLOR  
ORANGE-YELLOW



TAIL COLOR FOR ALL RANGER AIRCRAFT  
WILLOW GREEN

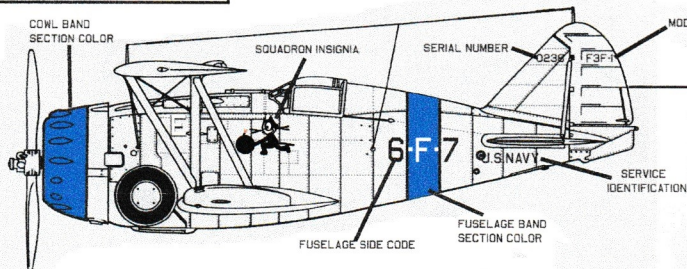
**Suggested Model Kit:**  
Accurate Miniatures F3F-1

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FUSELAGE COLOR FOR ALL AIRCRAFT  
ALUMINUM PAINT

48-030

# USN VF-6B USS SARATOGA 1936-1937



TAIL COLOR FOR ALL SARATOGA AIRCRAFT  
INSIGNIA WHITE

## Specifications

### Grumman F3F-1

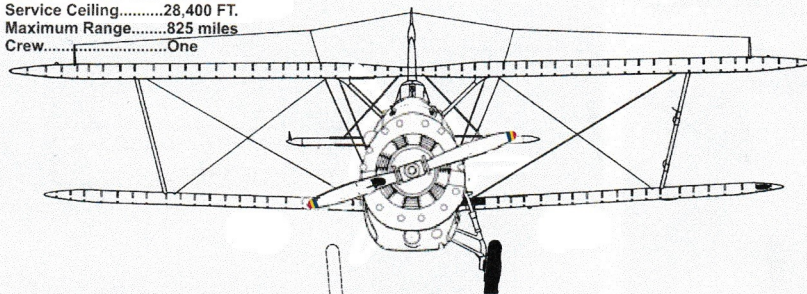
Wingspan.....32 feet  
 Length.....23 feet 3 inch  
 Height.....10 feet 6 inches  
 Empty Weight.....3258 lbs.  
 Maximum Weight.....4170 lbs.

Powerplant.....One 650 HP Pratt & Whitney R-1535-84  
 air cooled, radial engine.

Armament.....One .30 caliber and one .50 caliber  
 machine gun.

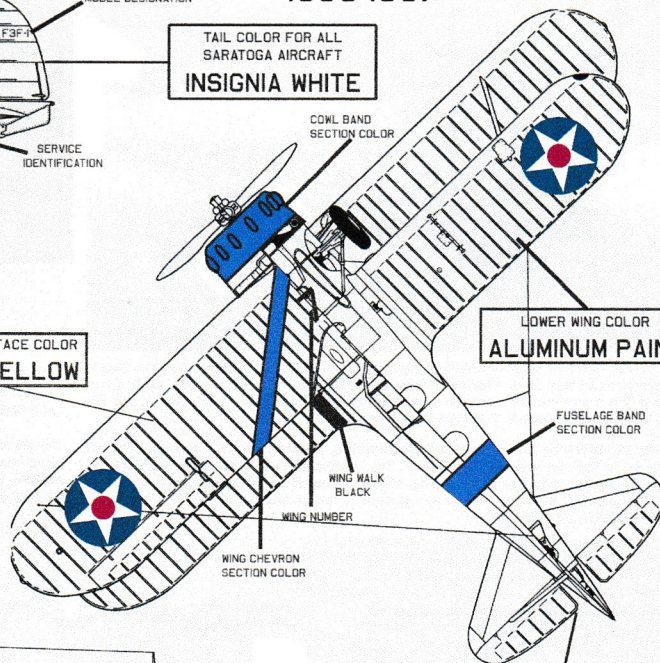
#### Performance:

Maximum Speed.....231 MPH  
 Cruising Speed.....142 MPH  
 Rate of Climb.....1730 FPM  
 Service Ceiling.....28,400 FT.  
 Maximum Range.....825 miles  
 Crew.....One




ALL AIRCRAFT HAVE TRI-COLOR PROP TIPS

UPPER WING SURFACE COLOR  
ORANGE-YELLOW



TAIL COLOR FOR ALL SARATOGA AIRCRAFT  
INSIGNIA WHITE

**Suggested Model Kit:**  
Accurate Miniatures F3F-1

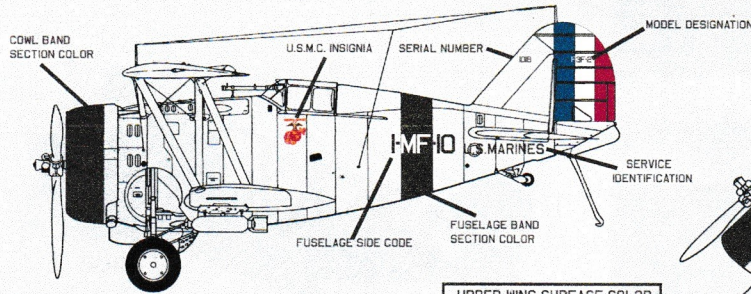
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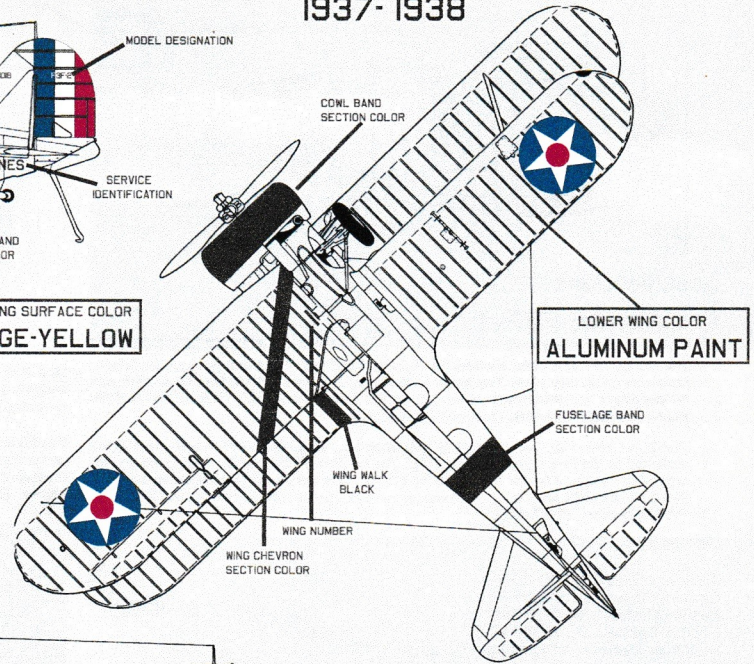
FUSELAGE COLOR FOR ALL AIRCRAFT  
ALUMINUM PAINT

48-030

# USMC VMF-1 QUANTICO, VA. 1937- 1938



UPPER WING SURFACE COLOR  
ORANGE-YELLOW



## Specification

### Grumman F3F-2

Wingspan.....32 feet (9.75 m)  
Length.....23 feet 2 inches (7.1 m)  
Height.....10 feet 9 inches (3.17 m)  
Empty Weight.....3,258 pounds (1,477.8 kg)  
Maximum Weight.....4,502 pounds (2,042 kg)

Powerplant.....One 950 hp Wright R-1820-22 Cyclone  
air-cooled radial engine

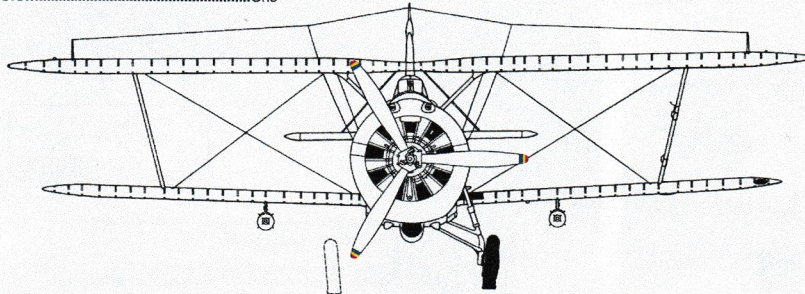
Armament.....One .30 caliber and one .50 caliber  
machine gun.

Speed.....242 mph (389.4 kph)

Service Ceiling.....30,200 feet (9,204.9 m)

Range.....825 miles (1,327.6 km)

Crew.....One



ALL AIRCRAFT HAVE TRI-COLOR PROP TIPS

**Suggested Model Kit:**  
Accurate Miniatures F3F-2

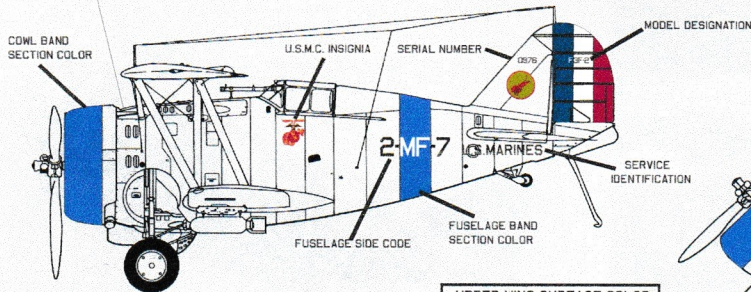
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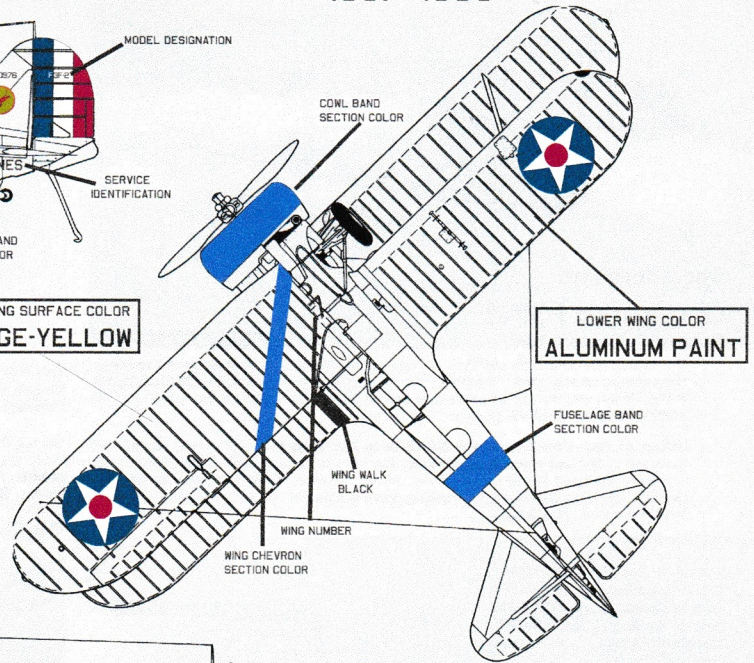
FUSELAGE COLOR FOR ALL AIRCRAFT  
ALUMINUM PAINT

48-030

# USMC VMF-2 SAN DIEGO, CA. 1937- 1938



UPPER WING SURFACE COLOR  
ORANGE-YELLOW



## Specification

### Grumman F3F-2

Wingspan.....32 feet (9.75 m)  
Length.....23 feet 2 inches (7.1 m)  
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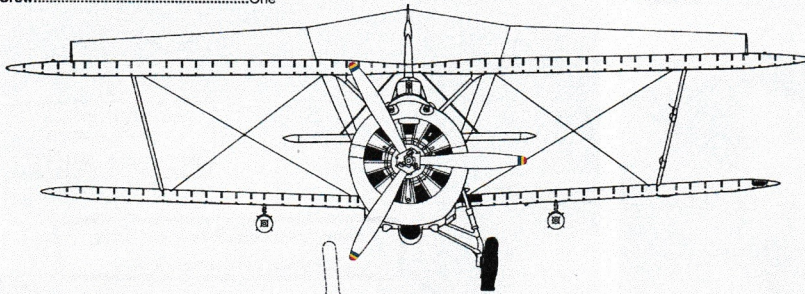
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