

BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER MK.1F

0251

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As the evening skies began to darken into night, the citizens of the British Isles began preparations for a rain of death and destruction from the blackness above. The date was the early 1940's. The German Air Force had been rebuffed in its attempt to smash England by day, so now the bombers came under cover of the night. But even the night could not conceal the enemy raiders from a determined Royal Air Force. One of the very same weapons which forced the Luftwaffe into the darkness was waiting somewhere in that same black sky for the German bombers, the Bristol Beaufighter.

With rader-eyes and painted a dull soot-black the powerful Beaufighter could see but not be seen in the inky skies above London. On the night of November 19, 1940, the first radar-equipped Beaufighter to score a kill downed a Junkers JU 88. This was also the first victory for John Cunningham who was to earn the nickname "Cat's Eyes" in the months to follow. By the end of the war Gp. Capt. Cunningham had been credited with 20 kills, 19 of them at night. Cunningham's markings are provided with Revell's Beaufighter model.

The Beaufighter served well in both Europe and the Pacific. To the Japanese it was "the Whispering Death" because of the muted sound of its engines, but to those vho flew it she was the marvelous "Beau". With a torpedo she was the "Torbeau" and with rockets they called her "Rockbeau".

The Bristol Beaufighter actually began as a hybrid development of an earlier Bristol bomber, the Beaufort. Designed as a private venture, the Beaufighter was to be a large, cannon-armed fighter which could be built on the Beaufort igs. The short, blunted nose of the new fighter was necessary because of the large diameter (12'9") of the propellers, but this resulted in an excellent forward view for the

The prototype Beaufighter made its maiden flight on July 17, 1939, and initial deliveries to the Royal Air Force began a year later. The Battle of Britain was at its peak when the Beaufighter arrived on the scene. The big fighter rapidly gained popularity among its pilots for its fighting abilities, although it did display some tricky characteristics during take-offs. Demand for the fighter was so great that many of the planes were assembled by Fairey in addition to Bristol.

An interesting feature of the Beaufighter was the system for emergency exit from the plane. Two hatches were located in the belly of the fuselage which balanced and pivoted horizontally. A quick-release opened the hatches and the slipstream locked them in place creating a dead-air zone through which the two crewmen could safely drop at speeds up to 400 mph.

Six machine guns were mounted in the wings, four in the right wing and two in the left. In addition, four 20 mm cannon were carried under the nose giving a combined firepower of 780 lbs. of bullets per minute, thus making the Beaufighter the most heavily armed fighter in the world.

SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions: Wingspan: Length:

57 feet 10 inches 41 feet 4 inches

Performance:

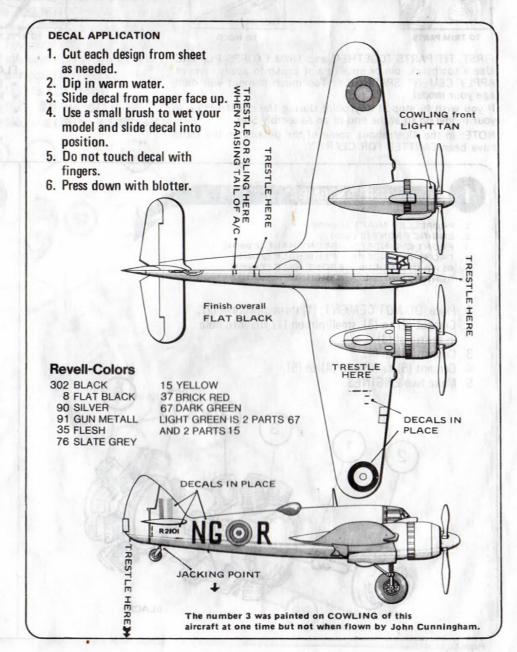
Maximum speed - 321 mph. at 15.800 feet.

Range - 1,170 miles Service ceiling - 26,500 feet

Powerplant: Two Bristol Hercules X1 fourteen cylinder sleeve-value Aircooled engines of 1,400 hp.

Armament:

Six .030 Browning machine guns Four 20 mm Hispano



GET YOUR TOOLS READY: ,

* * BEFORE YOU BEGIN * *



TO TRIM PARTS

age your model.





TO HOLD FIRST, FIT PARTS TOGETHER and TRIM EXCESS PLASTIC. Use a toothpick, pin or small paint brush to apply cement. APPLY CEMENT SPARINGLY. Too much cement will dam-

If you wish to stop at any point during the construction of your model do so at the end of an Assembly Step.

NOTE: In the illustrations some of the details on the parts have been OMITTED FOR CLARITY.

CEMENT



TO APPLY



TILL PARTS DRY



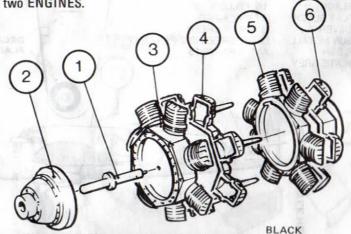
REMOVE WHEN CALLED FOR

IF YOU WISH TO PAINT YOUR MODEL - See PAINTING

- . Use paints made for plastics only.
- · Paint small parts before detaching from runner.
- · Start with the lighter colors.
- · Scrape off paint where cement is to be applied. Cement will not work on paint.

ENGINE ASSEMBLY

- PROPELLER SHAFT (2 parts)
- ENGINE FRONT (2 parts)
- 3. FRONT CYLINDERS FRONT HALF (2 parts)
- 4. FRONT CYLINDERS REAR HALF (2 parts)
- 5. REAR CYLINDERS FRONT HALF (2 parts)
- 6. REAR CYLINDERS REAR HALF (2 parts)
- 1. Place, DO NOT CEMENT, (1) through hole in (2).
- 2. Cement (2) to (3), small pin on (1) fits into hole in centre of (3).
- 3. Cement (3) to (4).
- 4. Cement (5) to (6) and (4) to (5).
- 5. Make two ENGINES.



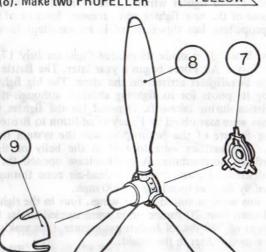


- 7. PROPELLER HUB (2 parts).
- 8. PROPELLER (2 parts).
- 9. SPINNER (2 parts).

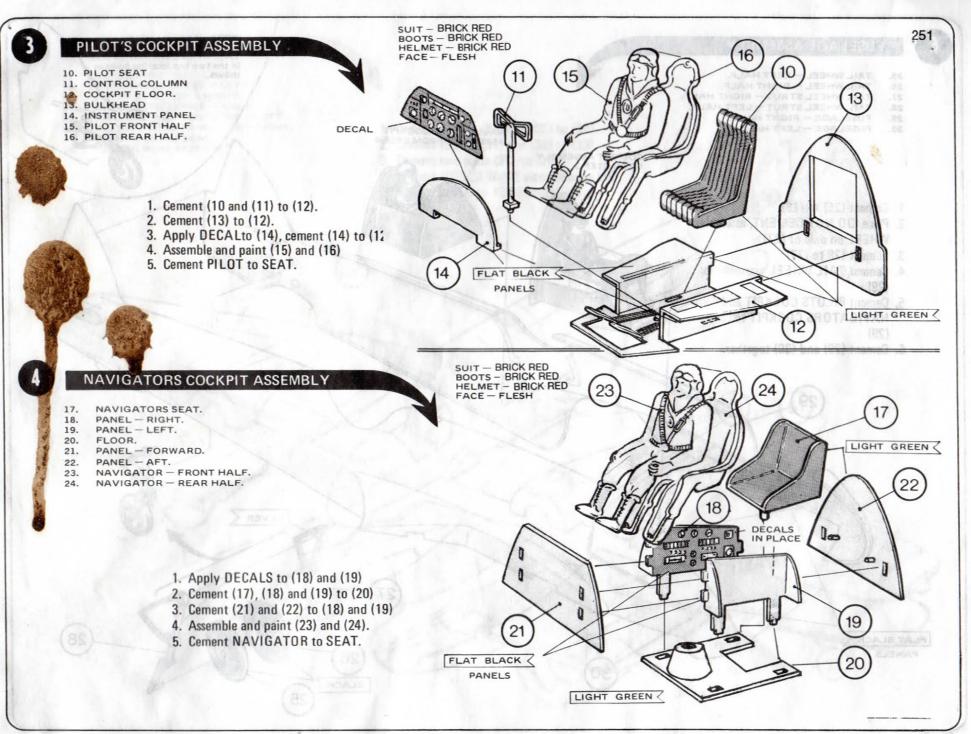
BLACK

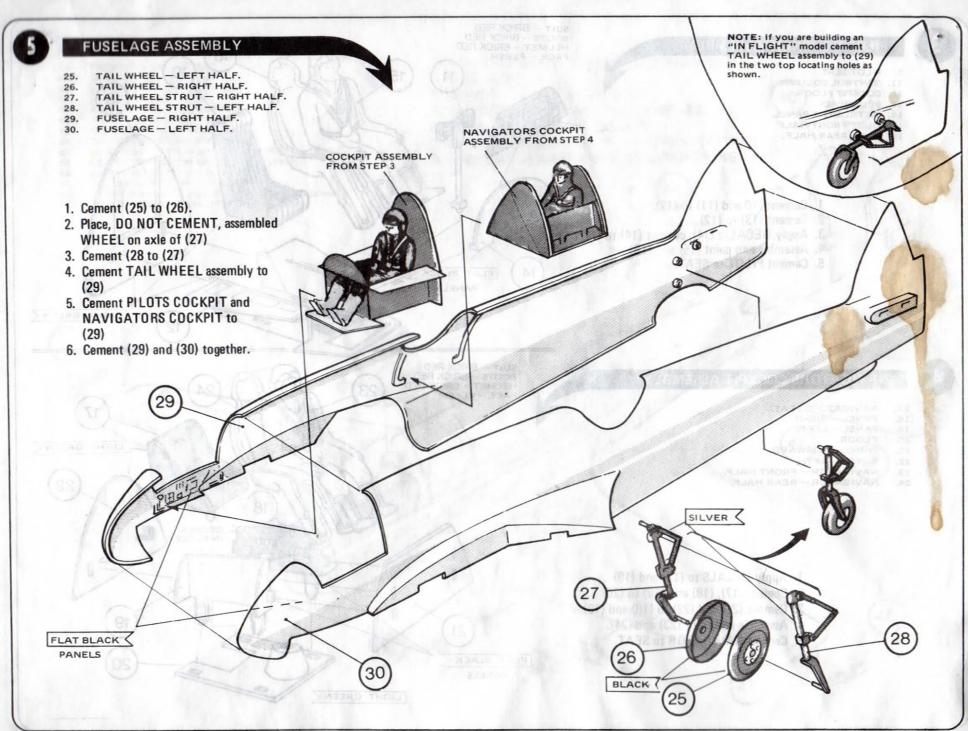
1. Cement (7) to (8).

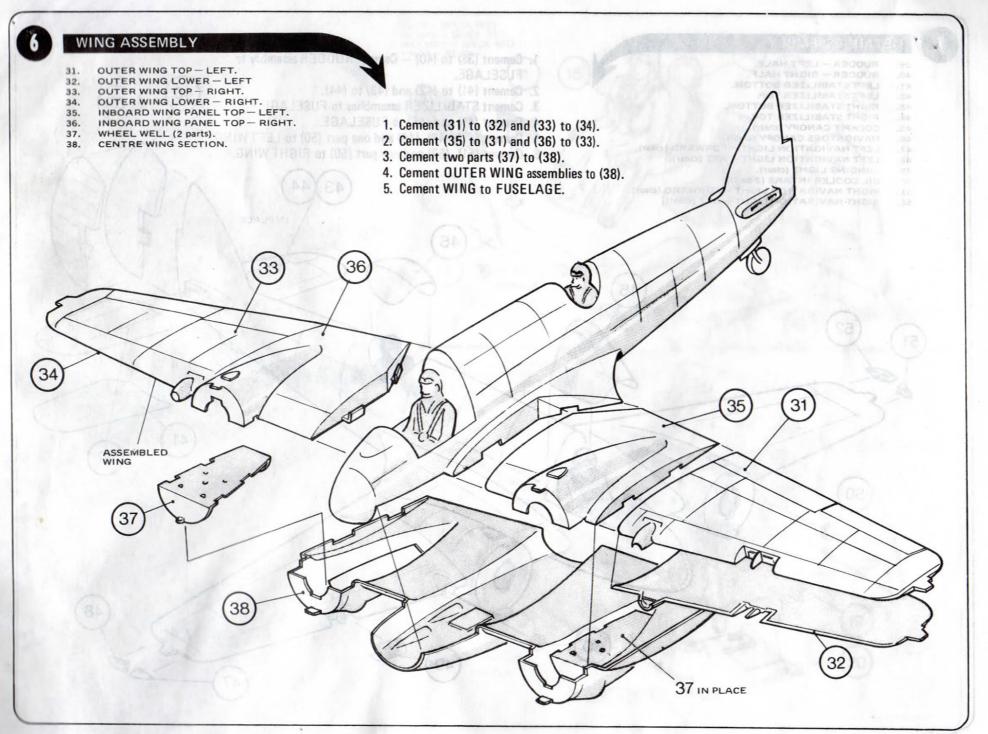
2. Cement (9) to (8). Make two PROPELLER assemblies.

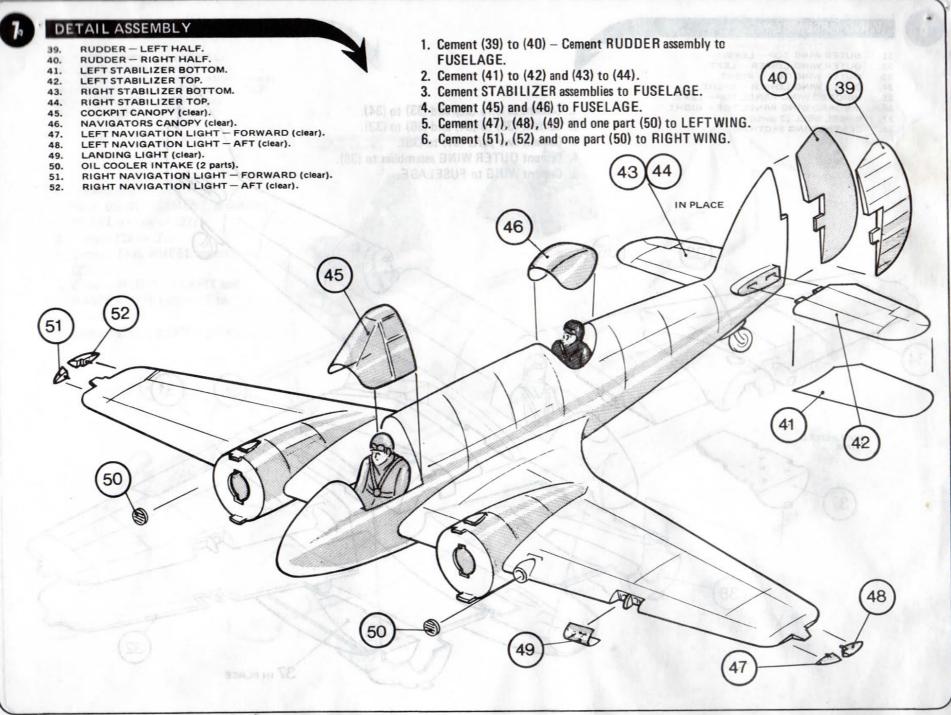


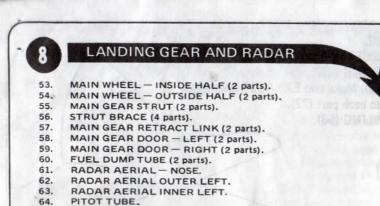












RADAR AERIAL INNER RIGHT.

65.

NOTE: If you wish to build an "IN-FLIGHT" model, discard MAIN GEAR parts. Cut off locating tabs and cement DOORS (58) and (59) in place.

- 1. Cement (53) to (54). Make two WHEELS.
- 2. Assemble, DO NOT CEMENT, one WHEEL to each part (55)
- 3. Cement one part (55) to each WHEEL WELL.
- 4. Cement two parts (56) and one part (57) to each LANDING GEAR.
- 5. Cement one part (58), one part (59) and one part (60) to RIGHT WING.
- 6. Cement one part (58), one part (59) and one part (60) to LEFT WING.
- 7. Cement (61) to FUSELAGE.
- 8. Cement (62), (63) and (64) to LEFT WING.
- 9. Cement (65) and (66) to RIGHT WING.

