

THUNDERBIRD

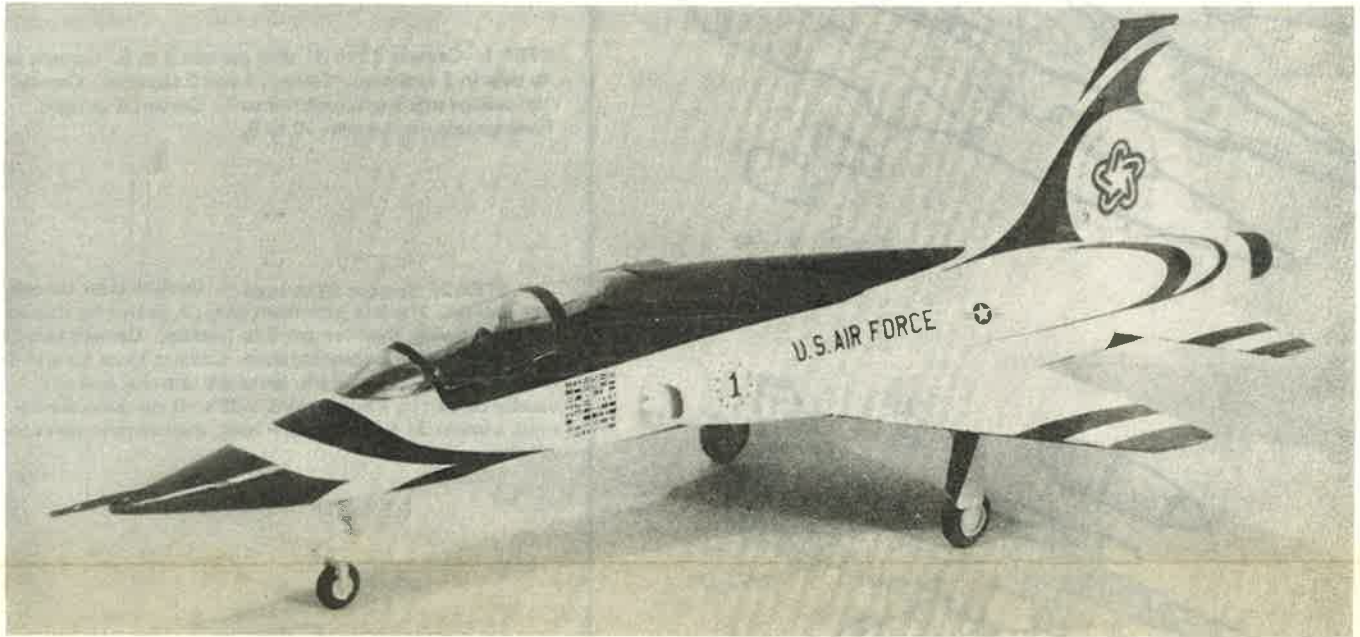
NORTHROP T-38A

Talon

MINICRAFT MODELS, INC.
1510 W. 228TH STREET
TORRANCE, CA 90501



1/72 SCALE 119



HISTORY

For nearly a quarter-century, the U.S. Air Force's Thunderbirds have flown the fastest, most maneuverable planes in the U.S.A.F. Until 1974, this meant the Air Force's latest fighters. However, the complexity of maintenance and unit cost of the new fighters made this unpractical and in 1974, the nimble T-38 supersonic trainer became the Thunderbird's showpiece.

Decorated with a stylized Thunderbird design on the underside and sweeping red and blue curves along the fuselage, the T-38 gives the impression of speed even while the plane is on the ground. In fact, the trim little trainer is capable of speeds that place it in the fighter class. Since the Thunderbird shows are confined to within a mile of the airfield audience and performed as low as 100 feet above the ground, its supersonic capability is restrained.

In celebration of the American Bicentennial, the Thunderbirds have decorated their planes to reflect this historic occasion for the 1976 season. These unique markings have been supplied with this kit to enable you to build an unusual memento of America's 200th anniversary.

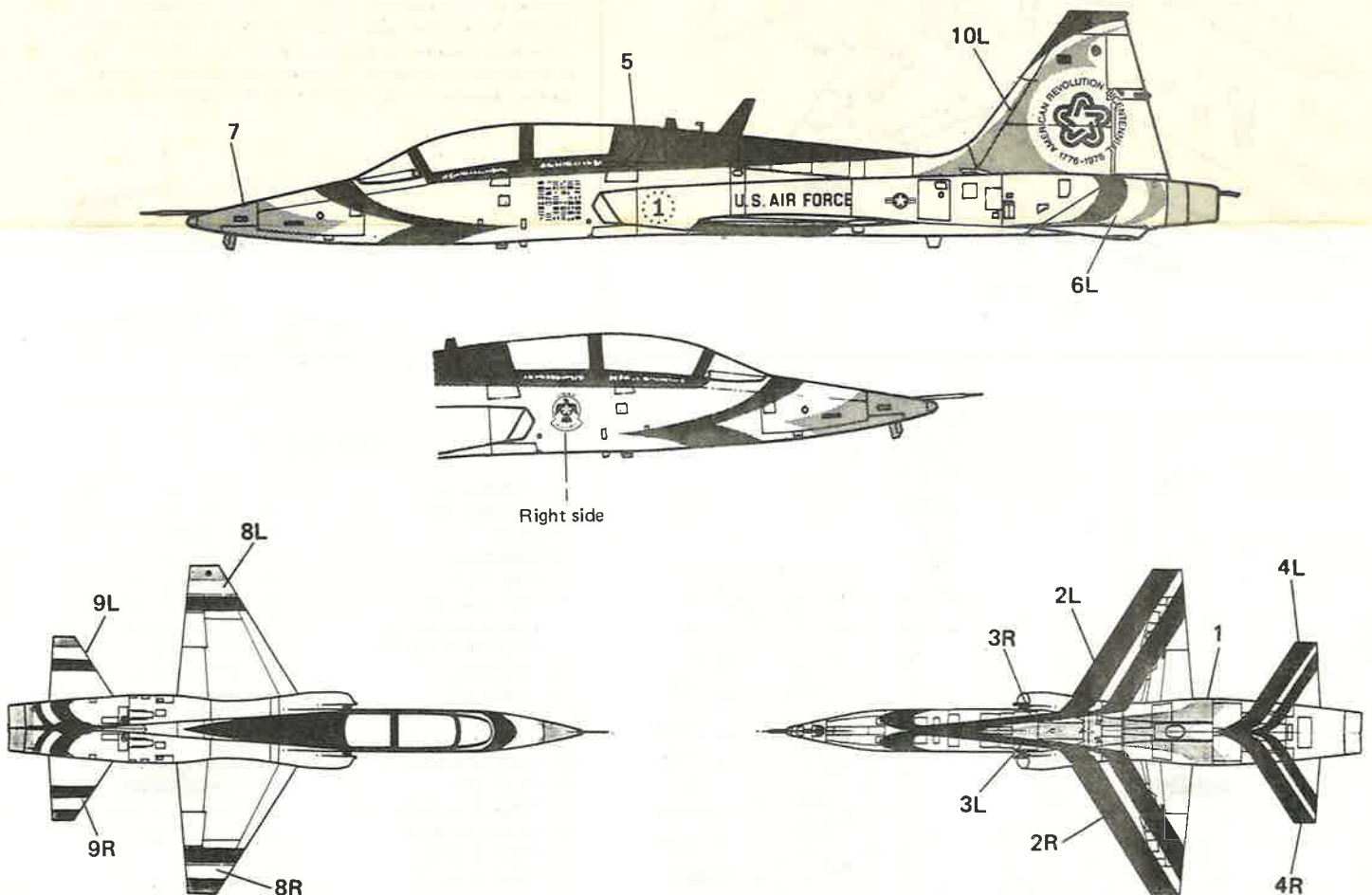
CHARACTERISTICS

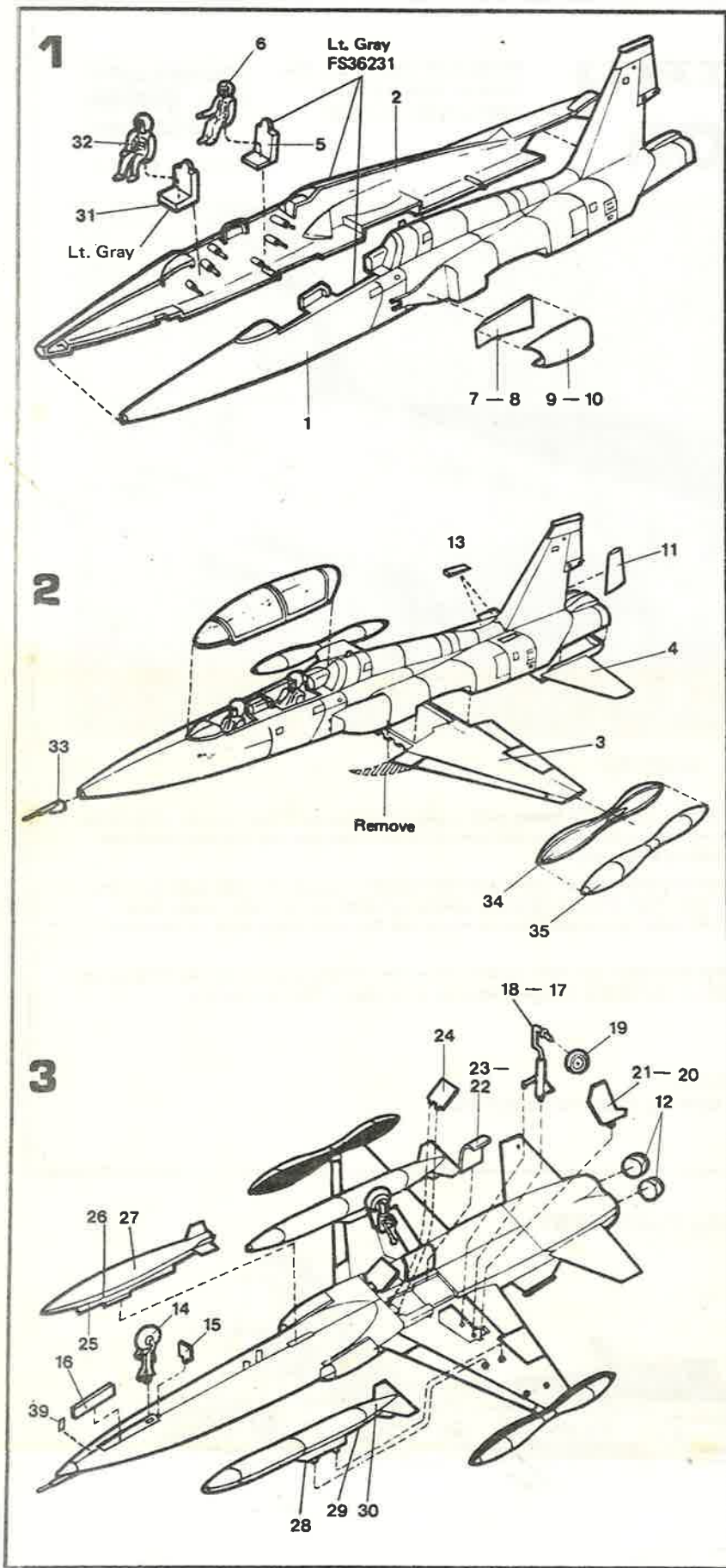
DIMENSIONS: Wingspan 25 feet 3 inches, length 46 feet 4 1/4 inches.

POWERPLANT: Two General Electric J85-GE-5 Turbojets of 5,800 lbs. thrust with afterburning.

MAXIMUM SPEED: 860 mph.

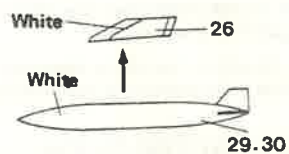
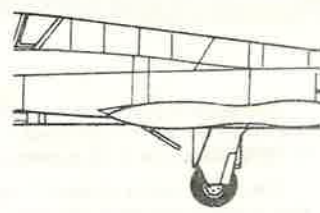
DECAL PLACEMENT



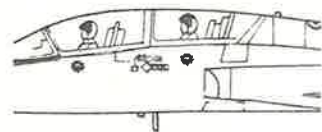
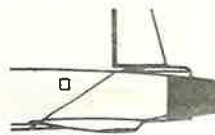


STEP 1: Cement 32 to 31 then cement 6 to 5. Cement seats to pegs in 2 as shown. Cement 1 and 2 together. Cement 7 to fuselage side then cement 9 to 7. Cement 8 to right fuselage side and cement 10 to 8.

STEP 2: Cement 33 to nose. Cement clear canopy over cockpit. Remove area from wing, 3, shown by shaded lines in drawing, then cement 3 to fuselage. Cement two 13's to fuselage beside fin leading edge. Cement 11 to fin and 4 to fuselage bottom. Wingtip tanks are optional and not usually carried by Thunderbird T-38's. If tip tanks are desired, cement 34 to 35 for each tank, then cement tanks to wingtips.



STEP 3: Cement 39, 14 and 15 in place as shown. Gear doors 16, 22 and 23 are usually closed except when the gear is retracting. However, they may be cemented open if desired. Cement one 19 to 17 and one 19 to 18. Cement 18 to right wheel well and 17 to left wheel well. Cement 20 to left wheel well as shown and 21 to right wheel well. Cement two 24's in place as shown. They may be cemented open or closed, as desired. Cement two 12's to rear of fuselage. Drop tanks and bombs are optional and not normally carried on Thunderbird T-38's. If tanks are desired, cement 29 and 30 together and cement 28 to 29. Cement pylon to inner wing locators as shown. Cement 25, 26 and 27 together then cement to fuselage. To assemble bombs, cement 37 to 38 then cement to 36. Cement 36 to locators near wingtip.



PARTS LIST

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Fuselage (L) | 21. Main gear door (R) |
| 2. Fuselage (R) | 22. Main wheel door (R) |
| 3. Wing | 23. Main wheel door (L) |
| 4. Stabilizer | 24. Speed brake (2) |
| 5. Rear seat | 25. Centerline tank pylon |
| 6. Instructor-pilot | 26. Centerline tank top |
| 7. Intake splitter (L) | 27. Centerline tank bottom |
| 8. Intake splitter (R) | 28. Wing tank pylon (2) |
| 9. Intake (L) | 29. Wing tank top (2) |
| 10. Intake (R) | 30. Wing tank bottom (2) |
| 11. Rudder | 31. Front seat |
| 12. Exhaust outlet | 32. Student-pilot |
| 13. Cooling scoops (2) | 33. Pitot tube |
| 14. Nose gear | 34. Tip tank inside (2) |
| 15. Nose strut door | 35. Tip tank outside (2) |
| 16. Nose gear door | 36. Bomb pylon (2) |
| 17. Main strut (L) | 37. Bomb top (2) |
| 18. Main strut (R) | 38. Bomb bottom (2) |
| 19. Main wheel (2) | 39. Antenna |
| 20. Main gear door (L) | Clear part -- canopy |

