1/48th SCALE **THUNDERBIRD F-16** FIGHTING FALCON



Seen by millions of spectators at air shows all over the world, the famed Thunderbird Demonstration Squadron F-16C Fighting Falcons just might be the best known fighter airplanes in the world.

The F-16 Fighting Falcons of the Thunderbird Squadron are regularly "off-the-shelf" production aircraft, that have been slightly modified for their special role. However, by re-installing the 20mm M-61 cannon and some avionics, a 24 hour job, these planes can be made combat ready.

Resulting from a 1972 Air Force request for a light-weight simple and inexpensive fighter, the F-16 has evolved into a all weather fighter or bomber that can fulfill a multitude of roles as proven in the Gulf war. Because many components of the F-16 are interchangeable with other aircraft in the USAF inventory, the Fighting Falcon is easy to maintain and service in comparison to other contemporary aircraft. Its F-100 engine is the same used in the F-15 Eagle, something handy to know in case an emergency engine change is required.

With a top speed of Mach 2.2 and an absolute ceiling of over 60,000 feet, the F-16C is normally armed with four air-to-air missiles and 500 rounds of ammunition for its 20mm cannon. In the bomber role, it can carry nearly 10,000 pounds of bombs and/or additional fuel in underwing tanks.

Well over a 1,300 F-16 Flying Falcon aircraft are on active duty in a wide number of countries. Long known as the General Dynamic F-16, the nomenclature was changed in 1993 to the Lockheed F-16 when General Dynamics sold their F-16 division to Lockheed.







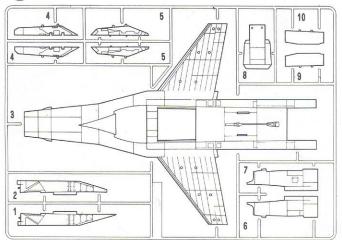


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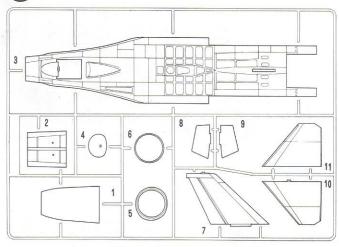


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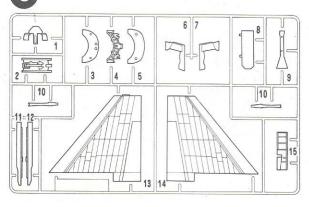




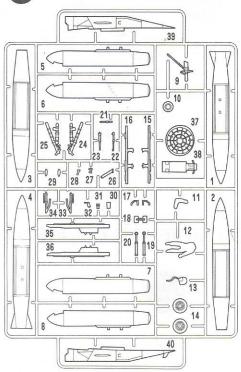
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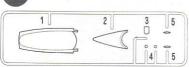
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