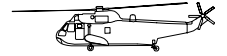


Belcher Bits No. 15:

Lancaster Engines

Kit: Tamiya Lancaster 1/48

Belcher Bits



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Background

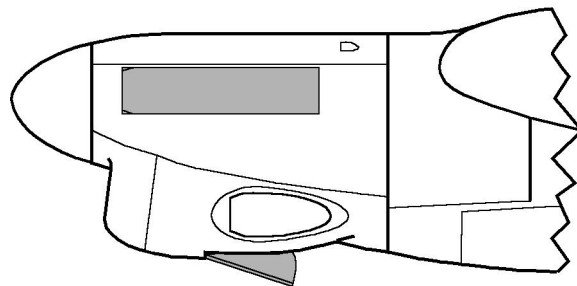
The only kit of the Avro Lancaster in 1/48 scale is from Tamiya. This kit is certainly not new, but is basically accurate. The engine cowlings are somewhat simplified and suffer from inaccuracies in the exhaust area. These resin replacement pieces are intended to improve the appearance of the kit through more accurate looking exhaust areas, separate exhaust shields and a more detailed oil cooler / radiator area with a separate airflow control door.

Installation

Remove the casting sprue from the rear of the engine by cutting with a razor saw. You can leave the small step, as it will fit into the kit part. Note that the outboard engines have smaller carburetor intakes than the inboard set; it is helpful to mark the end of the cowlings so that you don't get them glued on the wrong spot. Glue the wings in place, and the kit cowlings on the wings as per the kit instructions. When set, use a razor saw and remove the kit cowlings where indicated below in Figure 1. It is best to cut a bit forward of the desired line, and use a file and/or a sandpaper block to square up the cut face. Tape all four resin cowlings in place and ensure they are all facing straight forward, and they are all perpendicular to the ground. If a little additional joint preparation is required, now is the time to do it. Tack in place with a touch of cyanoacrylate, and remove the tape. Look at the aircraft from all angles ... the human eye is a very sensitive measurement device and can pick up very small misalignments. When satisfied, finish gluing in place, and fill the seams when dry.

Exhaust Installation

The resin parts are handed left and right; they should be glued in place with the exhaust ports facing aft and down. If you want a fun evening's work, drill out the exhausts (all 48 of them!). Be warned though that if you are fitting the exhaust shields, most of that effort will be hidden.



Exhaust Shield installation

The resin exhaust shields should be removed from the pouring sprue by carefully cutting them off flush. Install as per the sketch at left. Note that many post-war Lancs did not use these exhaust shields.

Air outlet door installation

The doors can be glued in place in a fully open position as shown at left. They would be closed in flight only.

References

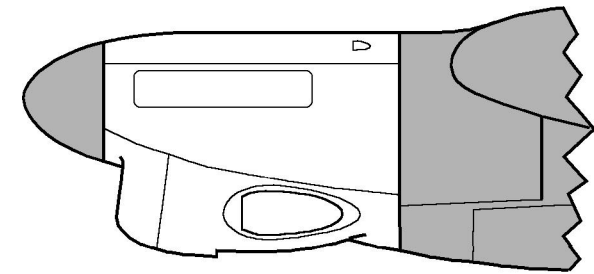
1. Photos of Canadian Mk 10s at Canadian Warplane Heritage and National Aviation Museum.

Thanks

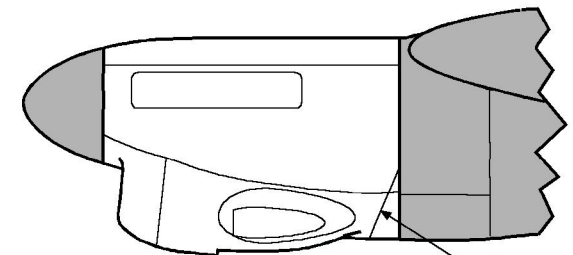
The masters for this set were produced by Garfield Ingram of Toronto, a fine modeller and a big fan of the RAF heavy bomber.

Shameless Plug

Don't forget that **Belcher Bits** also produces 2,000 and 4,000 lb HC bombs (**BB9**), 8,000 and 12,000 lb HC bombs (**BB10**) and smooth (no tread) tires (**BB12**), all applicable to the Tamiya Lancaster. Check out www.belcherbits.com or call 613-836-6575 for more info.



Inboard



Outboard

Scribe this line