



# FALCON

# Clear-Vax Canopies

©

## 1/72 SCALE CANOPY SET No.43 USAF Part 1

### USING REPLACEMENT CANOPIES

**Trimming:** Insert a new blade into your modelling knife or scalpel. To separate the canopy from its base, score very gently around the ledge moulded at the bottom. Do this very lightly at first, with minimum pressure. Repeat the process until the canopy pops away from the ledge. If you score too heavily at first you risk slipping and ruining the canopy. Finally, any rough edges can be cleaned up by lightly sanding with fine wet-and-dry paper. If you intend separating the canopy for display in the open position, we suggest cutting the break-lines before you cut the canopy from its base.

**Gluing:** Cyanoacrylate (superglue) can be used to fix the canopy to the kit. It gives a fast-setting permanent joint, but fumes given off when setting can cause frosting on clear parts. Where possible, mask around the joint with masking fluid or tape. PVA (white glue) is also useful as it is partly gap-filling, doesn't attack the plastic, and dries clear.

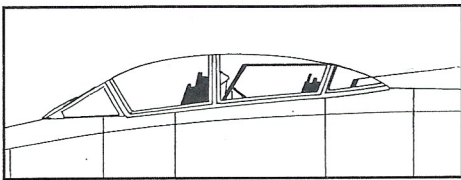
**Painting:** The best way to achieve crisp and convincing frame lines is by applying pre-painted strips of decal film. Paint part of a sheet of clear decal film, then cut strips of the correct width with a sharp blade and a straight-edge. Decal film sticks better to a painted surface than to bare plastic, so you will have to paint an undercoat on the frame lines marked on the canopy. This technique may not be suitable for canopies with large or irregularly shaped framed areas. For these canopies we suggest you mask the clear areas with clear adhesive tape and then remove the masking after painting.

**Details:** Most aircraft canopies are fitted with handgrabs, latches, locks and mirrors. Take note of these details when studying close-up photos of the cockpit area you are working on, and fabricate them from plastic card, stretched sprue or other materials. Some brass-etch manufacturers include such items in their ranges. In our endeavour to produce thin clear mouldings, it may happen that the edges of the canopy are in fact too thin for scale appearance. It is a relatively simple matter to build up the thickness from the inside using strips of adhesive cut to the width of the frames. We recommend adhesive vinyl sheet as used by signwriters and in the automotive industry for signage and striping on cars. The adhesive is very durable.

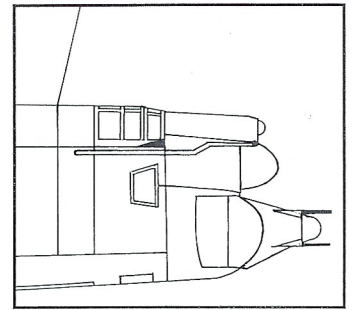
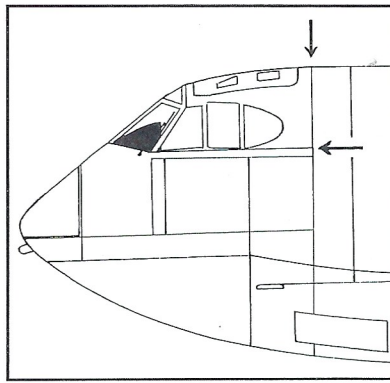
**Which kit?** Please note that where we suggest a certain kitset as suitable for our replacement canopy, the suggested kit is generally regarded as the most accurate model to the given scale. We cannot guarantee that our canopy will fit other kits of the same subject.

- Boeing B-47E Stratojet.** *Suggested kit: Hasegawa B-47E.* The Clear-Vax canopy directly replaces the kit item. Note that the bottom rim of the rear piece flares onto the fuselage. Note also the windscreen wiper – fabricate this from thin stretched sprue or wire. Later aircraft had a frame running down the centre of the canopy; add the frame if modelling this type. *Reference:* Detail & Scale vol.18 (Squadron/Signal).
- Boeing B-52D Stratofortress.** *Suggested kit: Monogram B-52D.* In order to fit the Clear-Vax main canopy, cut away the kit cockpit area at the lines arrowed in the drawing. Fabricate and fit windscreen wipers from wire or stretched sprue. Note the small window above the pilots' stations. To fit the tail gunner's canopy, cut away the shaded area from the kit fuselage. *References:* B-52, Ageing BUFFS Youthful Crews (Osprey); B-52 In Action #130 (Squadron/Signal).
- Convair F-106A Delta Dart.** *Suggested kit: Hasegawa F-106A.* Both standard and "blown" rear sections are provided. Note the angle of the rear section in the fully open position. *References:* Detail & Scale vol.13 (Squadron/Signal); Bunrin-do "Fighters of the World" No.129.
- Fairchild C-123 Provider.** *Suggested kit: Mach 2 C-123.* The Clear-Vax canopy directly replaces the kit item. Some early versions had extra plexiglass above the windscreen as provided; paint this over for later types. Fabricate and fit windscreen wipers from wire or stretched sprue. Use the kit side windows. *References:* Replic 115 (good article on building the Mach 2 kit, plus useful detail photos); C-123 In Action #124 (Squadron/Signal).
- Lockheed F-80C Shooting Star.** *Suggested kit: Airfix F-80.* The Clear-Vax canopy directly replaces the kit item. We recommend replacement of the kit ejection seat with True Details TD72405 – F-80/T-33 ejector seat. *References:* P-80/T-33/F-94 In Action #40 (Squadron/Signal); Bunrin-do "Fighters of the World" No.63.
- Lockheed F-94C Starfire.** *Suggested kit: Emhar F-94C.* The Clear-Vax canopy directly replaces the kit item. Note that some F-94C aircraft were fitted with windscreen wipers. *Reference:* Lockheed F-94 Starfire, Isham & McLaren (Schiffer).
- Martin B-57B Canberra.** *Suggested kit: Italeri B-57B.* The Clear-Vax canopy is sectioned for display in the open position. The drawing shows the correct angle for the rear piece when open. Fabricate and fit windscreen wipers from wire or stretched sprue. This canopy is also suitable for the Mach 2 RB-57F. *Reference:* B-57 In Action #77 (Squadron/Signal).
- North American F-86A Sabre.** *Suggested kit: Hobbycraft F-86E/Sabre Mk.VI.* In order to fit the Clear-Vax canopy, cut away the forward decking from the kit fuselage halves along the dotted line shown on the drawing. Apart from the canopy, the main difference between the F-86A and later versions was in the tailplanes and rear fuselage. Using the scrap drawing as a guide, cut away from the fuselage the area shown as a dotted line, and smooth it off. Re-profile the fairing around the tailplanes, and scribe elevators into the tailplanes as indicated. Note that early F-86Es also used this canopy. *References:* F-86 Sabre In Action #126 (Squadron/Signal); F-86 Sabre, Modern Combat Aircraft 4 (Ian Allan); F-86 Sabre: The Operational Record, Jackson (Airlife); F-86 Sabre in Color (Squadron/Signal).
- North American F-86F Sabre.** *Suggested kit: Fujimi F-86F.* The Clear-Vax canopy is sectioned for display in the open position, and directly replaces the kit item.
- North American F-100D Super Sabre.** *Suggested kit: Esci/Italeri F-100D.* The Clear-Vax canopy is sectioned for display in the open position. Note the angle of the rear section when fully open. *References:* Detail & Scale vol.33 (Squadron/Signal); F-100 In Action #190 (Squadron/Signal).
- Northrop F-89D/J Scorpion.** *Suggested kit: Revell F-89D/J.* The Clear-Vax canopy is sectioned for display in the open position, and directly replaces the kit items.
- Republic F-84E Thunderjet.** *Suggested kit: Academy F-86E/G.* The Clear-Vax canopy is sectioned for display in the open position, and directly replaces the kit items. *References:* F-84 In Action #61 (Squadron/Signal); Detail & Scale vol.59 (Squadron/Signal).

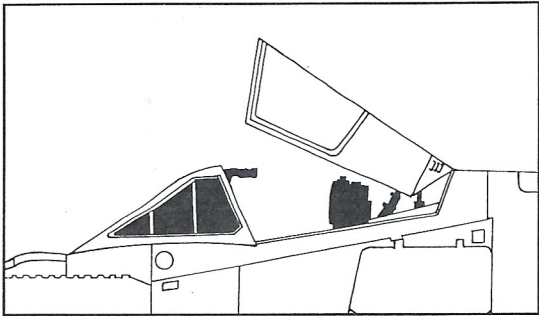




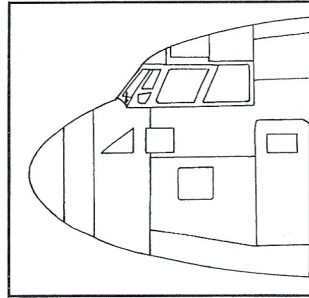
1. Boeing B-47E Stratojet



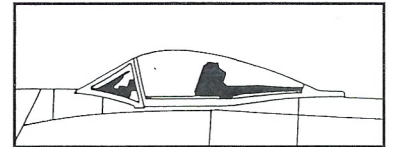
2. Boeing B-52 Stratofortress



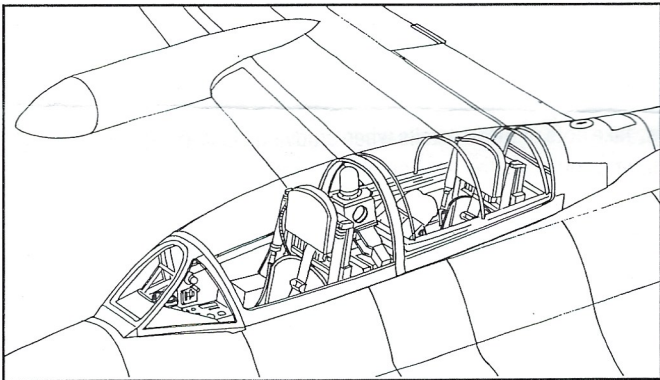
3. Convair F-106A Delta Dart



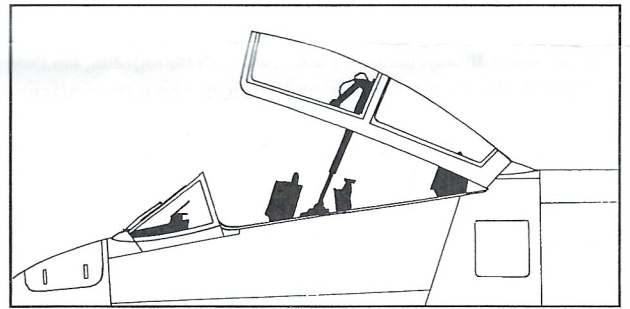
4. Fairchild C-123 Provider



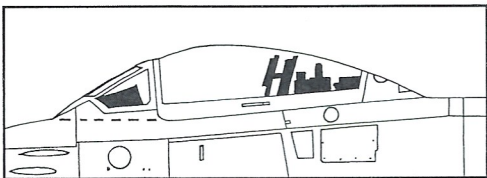
5. Lockheed F-80C Shooting Star



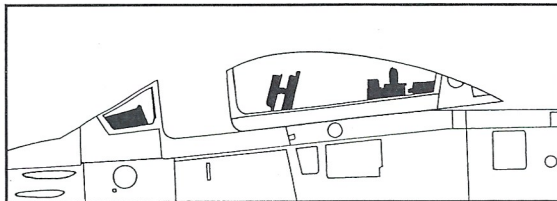
6. Lockheed F-94C Starfire



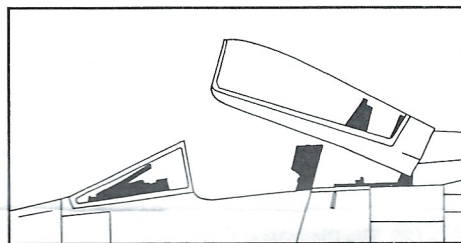
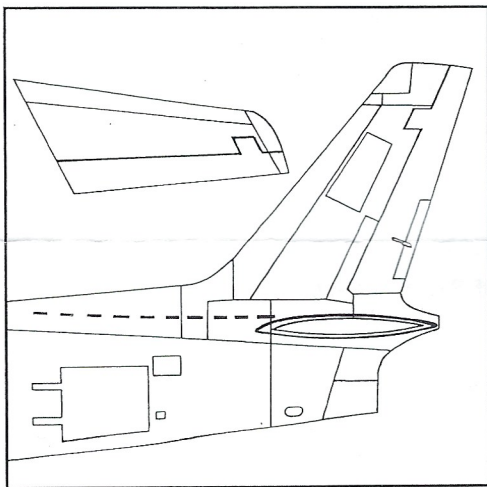
7. Martin B-57B Canberra



8. North American F-86A Sabre ↓ ↑

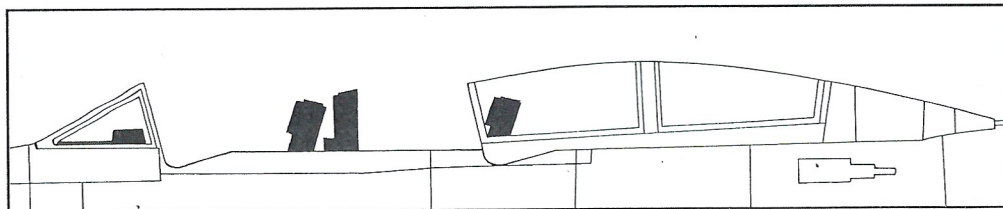
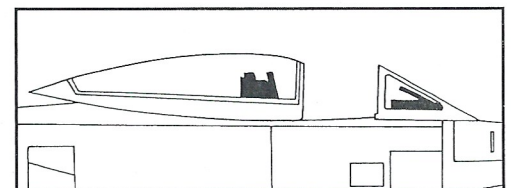


9. North American F-86F Sabre



10. North American F-100D Super Sabre

12. Republic F-84E Thunderjet →



11. Northrop F-89D/J Scorpion ←

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