



# FALCON

# Clear-Vax Canopies

©

## 1/48 SCALE CANOPY SET No.35 Luftwaffe part 3

### 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.

**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.

- 1. Messerschmitt Bf 110G-2 & G-4.** *Suggested kits: Monogram Bf 110G-2 & G-4.* The Clear-vax canopy directly replaces the kit item. No holes are marked for the 'Schragemuzik' cannons, as they were not always fitted. Also, some aircraft had them fitted one panel further forward – consult your references before deciding which configuration is suitable. *Suggested references: Monogram Close-up 18 'Bf 110G'; Model Art 480 'Luftwaffe Night Fighters'; Aerodetail 21.*
- 2. Heinkel He 178.** *Suggested kit: Condor He 178.* The Clear-vax canopy directly replaces the kit item. Note how the cross section has been altered for better accuracy. *Suggested reference: Model Art 348 'German Jets in WWII'.*
- 3. Junkers Ju 88G.** *Suggested kit: Dragon Ju 88G.* In order to make assembly a little easier, the rear fairing is included as part of the moulding. *Suggested references: Squadron/Signal In Action 113; Aerodetail 20.*
- 4. Junkers Ju 88A-1/A-5 early.** *Suggested kit: Revell/Monogram ProModeler Ju 88A-4.* The Clear-vax main canopy and gondola rear directly replace the kit items. Use the kit nose canopy, forward gondola and nose lower windows. In order to complete this conversion the engines will need to be modified by removing the fairings from the lower cowlings (shown dotted in diagram 4A). For the A-1, the wingtips will need to be shortened as in diagram 4B.
- 5. Dornier Do 17E.** *Suggested kit: Hobbycraft Do 17E/F.* In order to fit these canopies, carefully cut away the kit fuselage at the lines marked X, Y and Z (line Y is 1 mm below the kit sill line, which is shown dotted). This is necessary because the kit canopies lack depth, and the forward decking has to be altered to accept the corrected nose canopy. Although falling outside the scope of these parts, it is necessary to mention a serious problem with the fuselage shape. Referring to the small diagram (kit fuselage shown dotted), fix the upper fuselage half to a flat surface, cut wedges out of the bottom half at the front and rear wing joins, and reassemble. Some filling and reshaping will be needed, but this operation will result in a "flying pencil" rather than a "flying banana". *Suggested reference: 'The Flying Pencil' (Schiffer Military History, vol 25).*
- 6&7. Messerschmitt Bf 109E-3.** *Suggested kits: Hasegawa Bf 109E-3, Tamiya Bf 109E-3.* These canopies directly replace the kit items and are intended for display in the open position. Note that some of the framing of the rear section is internal. The canopy for the Hasegawa kit is marked 6, the canopy for the Tamiya kit is marked 7. *Suggested references: Aerodetail 1; Squadron/Signal In Action 44; Model Art 375.*
- 8. Heinkel He 162.** *Suggested kit: Trimaster/Dragon He 162.* The Clear-vax canopy directly replaces the kit part. If you build the canopy in the open position, we suggest that for better scale accuracy you fabricate rear hinges from wire, and fill in the corresponding area in the kit fuselage. *Suggested references: Monogram Close-up 11; Model Art 348 'German Jets in WWII'; Aero 4.*

