

AIRFIX CONSTRUCTION KIT

1/72 SCALE MODEL CONSTRUCTION KIT

GRUMMAN F6F-3 HELLCAT

The Hellcat was one of the most successful carrier-borne fighters of the second World War, and was a direct descendant of Grumman's earlier Wildcat which served with distinction in the early war years.

The prototype Hellcat first flew in June 1942 and the F6F-3, which was the first production version, began to reach the U.S. Navy by the end of the same year. The Hellcat first went into action on 1st September 1943 over Marcus Island in the Pacific and from then until the end of the war was continually in service with the U.S. Navy and the Fleet Air Arm. When production ceased in November 1945 over 12,000 Hellcats had been produced, over 1,000 of which were used by the British.

The F6F-3 Hellcat which can be modelled from this kit is that flown by Commander James Flatley the commander of Air Group 5 from the carrier U.S.S. Yorktown (CV-10). This particular aircraft was also flown by Lt. Commander Charles L. Crommelin who later took over the VF-5.

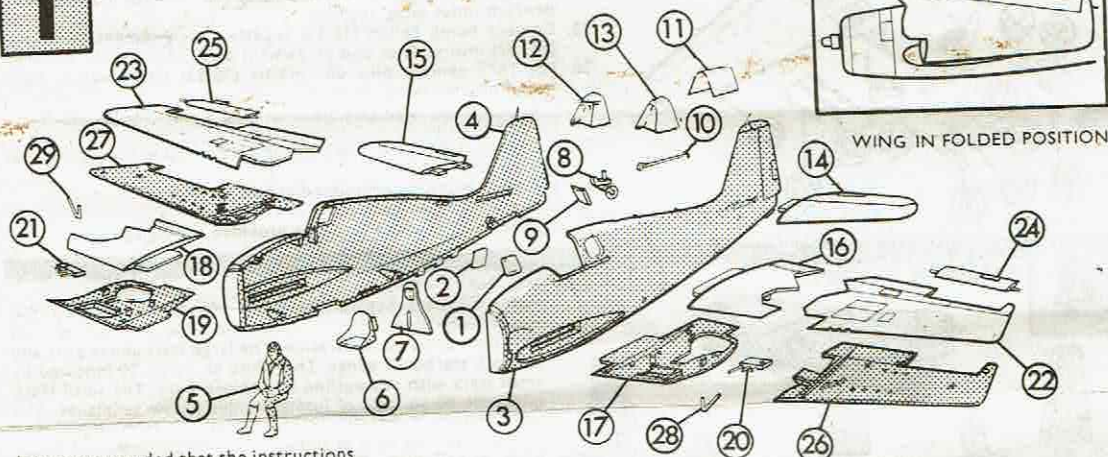
The alternative model, the F6F-5, was a Fleet Air Arm Hellcat II of 800 Squadron F.A.A. and was one of the 24 Hellcats of the Squadron embarked in H.M.S. Emperor in February 1945. Emperor was an escort carrier, one of many in the Indian Ocean in 1945 for the final assault upon the Japanese, and her aircraft carried out continuous attacks on Japanese military installations in Burma, Malaya and the Nicobar Islands. This aircraft, C3B, finally came ashore in November 1945 having been flown by a pilot in the Netherlands Navy since June, when 800 Squadron was taken over by Dutch officers and ratings.

The Hellcat was powered by a 2,000 h.p. Pratt Whitney Double Wasp giving a maximum speed of 371 m.p.h. Armament consisted of six 0.5 in. machine guns and either rockets or two 1,000 lb. bombs could be carried. Wing span was 42 ft. 10 ins. and length 33 ft. 7 ins.

INSTRUCTIONS

PAINT ALL DETAILS AND LET DRY BEFORE ASSEMBLING (SEE SECTION 4)
N.B. FOR PAINTING USE "AIRFIX" PAINTS, FOR FIXING USE "AIRFIX" POLYSTYRENE CEMENT

1 FUSELAGE AND WING ASSEMBLY



WING IN FOLDED POSITION

It is recommended that the instructions and exploded views are studied before assembly. Note that some parts are best painted before assembly. If stand is to be used cut away wall of plastic from stand slot in fuselage halves.

Note two variants: either U.S. NAVY F6F3 or FLEET AIR ARM F6F5 can be constructed from this kit.

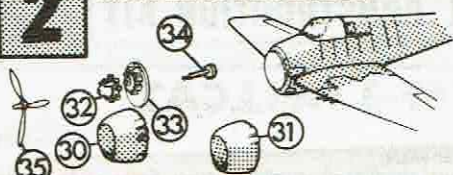
1. From inside cement fuselage window transparencies (1, 2) into port and starboard fuselage halves (3, 4), carefully applying cement to edges of transparencies only.
2. Locate and cement pilot (5) to seat (6).
3. Cement locating tab at rear of seat into locating slot in bulkhead (7), then cement bulkhead to inside and against web in starboard fuselage half.
4. Cement locating pins on tail wheel (8) into locating holes in tailwheel door (9). Place, DO NOT CEMENT, pivot pin on one side of tailwheel

into hole in bush in starboard fuselage half.

5. Place, DO NOT CEMENT disc on arrester hook (10) into groove at rear of starboard fuselage half then cement fuselage halves together.
6. Position and cement canopy transparency (11) to rear of cockpit opening, carefully applying cement only to edges of transparency.
7. According to which version you wish to model, cement windshield transparency for F6F3 (12) or windshield transparency for F6F5 (13) to top and front of cockpit opening, again carefully applying cement only to edges of transparency.
8. Cement tabs on port and starboard tailplanes (14, 15) into rear slots in fuselage sides. NOTE: starboard tailplane has two tabs.
9. Cement upper and lower inner port and starboard wing halves

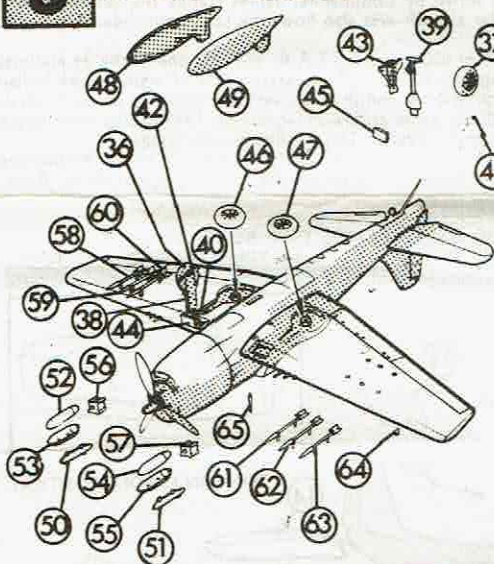
- (16-19) together.
10. Cement tabs on inner wing halves into slots in recesses in port and starboard fuselage sides.
11. With longest guns inboard cement locating holes in tabs on port and starboard wing guns (20, 21) over locating pins in port and starboard outer upper wing sections (22, 23).
12. Place DO NOT CEMENT pivot pins on port and starboard ailerons (24, 25) into recesses in port and starboard outer lower wing sections (26, 27) then cement port and starboard upper wing sections to lower outer wing sections.
13. If the model is to stand on its under-carriage with wings folded, cement angled wing plugs (28, 29) into holes in bosses in inner wing section wheel wells, then cement plugs into locating holes in outer wing sections, see inset.

2 COWLING ASSEMBLY



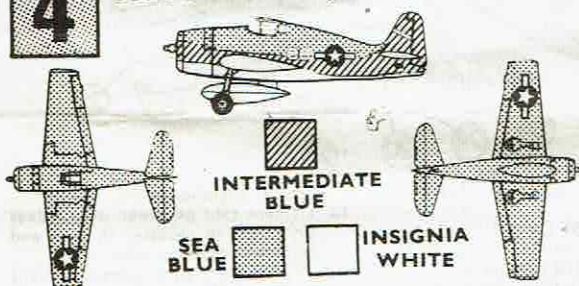
14. Select cowling for variant you wish to model, for F6F3 (30), for F6F5 (31), then cement forward radial engine half (32) to rear engine half (33), locating lug on top and front of rear engine half into cut out in recess behind forward radial half.
15. Cement engine assembly into rear of selected cowling, cut out in rear engine half fitting over rib inside top of cowling.
16. Press propeller shaft (34) through rear of engine, DO NOT cement, then carefully cement end of shaft into propeller (35). Keep cement from engine and check propeller revolves freely.
17. Cement cowling to front of fuselage.

3 UNDERCARRIAGE BOMB & ROCKET ASSEMBLY



18. The desired undercarriage position should now be selected. For a model with lowered undercarriage cement wheels (36, 37) onto axles at bottom of port and starboard undercarriage legs (38, 39), then cement tabs on legs into slotted boxes in flap openings within port and starboard inner wing sections. NOTE: axles to outside.
19. Cement ends of port and starboard leg supports (40, 41) into holes in lugs within wheel wells and onto locations at rear of legs.
20. Cement locations on main doors (42, 43) to inner side of legs.
21. Cement doors (44, 45) to ribs on front of legs, doors angled slightly outwards.
22. For a model with retracted undercarriage omit legs, wheels and supports, cement half wheel (46, 47) over boss within wheel wells and doors in closed position, doors as desired open or closed, push tail wheel up into fuselage.
23. Cement drop tank halves (48, 49) together. Cement tab on drop tank into slot in fuselage.
24. Cement locating pins on bomb racks (50, 51) into locating holes beneath inner wing sections.
25. Cement bomb halves (52-55) together then cement bomb fins (56, 57) into ends of bombs, cement assembled bombs to racks.
26. For F6F5 cement pins on rockets (58-63) into locating holes beneath outer wing sections.
27. Cement pitot tube (64) into locating hole beneath starboard outer wing tip.
28. Cement antenna (65) into locating hole in top of fuselage to rear of cockpit.
29. Painting should be completed at this stage.
30. Cement together both parts of stand.
31. Cement arm of stand into slot provided in fuselage.

4 COLOUR SCHEME



U.S. NAVY F6F-3.

Apply transfers. Separate appropriate subjects, dip each into warm water for a few minutes and slide off backing into position shown on illustration. The large stars above port and beneath starboard wings. The white numerals 00 followed by small stars with red outline to fuselage sides. The small black numerals 00 to rear of fuselage sides below tailplanes. The white stripe diagonally around front and sides of fin. The aircraft name to base of stand.

- SEA BLUE (DK. BLUE) Upper surfaces.
- INTERMEDIATE BLUE (PALE BLUE) Fuselage sides, fin, spinner.
- INSIGNIA WHITE (OFF WHITE) Undersurfaces.
- BLACK M6. Wheel tyres, engine, propeller, guns.

BRITISH (FLEET AIR ARM) F6F-5.

The large blue circles with white outline above port and starboard wings. The medium blue circles with inner white ring and large white centre below port and starboard wings. The small blue circles with white letters and numerals C3B to fuselage sides. The white letters and numerals ROYAL NAVY JZ785 to rear fuselage sides. The word JOY to upper port fuselage side to rear of cowling. The white letters B to front of flaps. The aircraft name to base of stand.

- DARK BLUE: All surfaces.
- BLACK M6: Wheel tyres, engine, propeller, guns.
- WHITE G3: Spinner, bands around cowling, wings, tailplane, fin and rudder.

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