

Republic's huge Thunderbolt was one of the most important fighters in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. The largest plane of its type, the P-47 was designed around the most powerful engine then available. Added to this was a battery of eight .50 cal. machine guns, making the Thunderbolt one of the most heavily-armed fighters in the sky. The final package was a heavyweight fighter capable of meeting the enemy on its own ground, yet strong enough to absorb an amazing amount of damage and return home. Proof of this lies in the fact that all ten of the top P-47 aces survived the war.

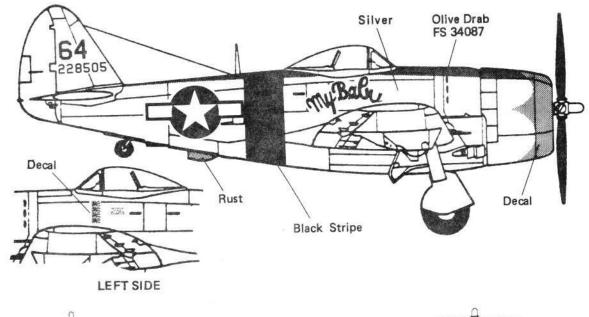
There was one apparent shortcoming, however, to the basic design of the Thunderbolt. When originally designed, the fuselage behind the canopy was faired straight back from the windshield to the tail. While this was efficient streamlining it offered very poor rearward visibility. To overcome this problem one P-47D was modified to use the canopy from a Hawker Typhoon. The result was so successful that all subsequent Thunderbolts were built with the bubble canopy.

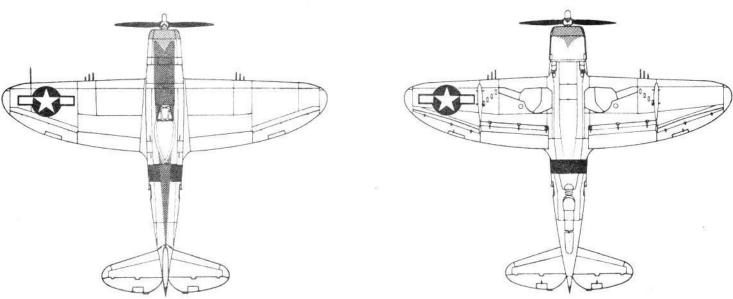
SPECIFICATIONS

DIMENSIONS: Wingspan 40 feet 10 inches. Length 36 feet 2 inches
POWERPLANT: One Pratt & Whitney R-2800-21 eighteen-cylinder aircooled radial engine, 2,300 hp
PERFORMANCE: Maximum speed - 433 mph at 30,000 feet

ARMAMENT: Eight .50 cal machine guns, three 500 lb bombs

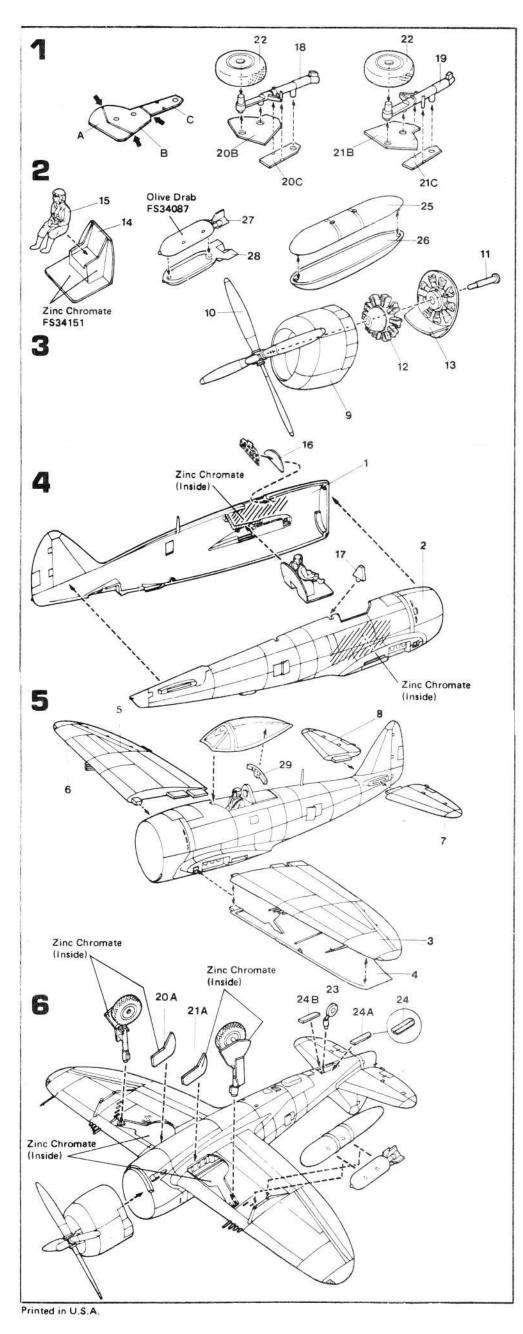
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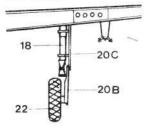


PARTS LIST

- 1. Fuselage (L)
- 2. Fuselage (R)
- 3. Upper Wing (L) 4. Lower Wing (L)
- 5. Upper Wing (R)
- 6. Lower Wing (R)
- Stabilizer (L)
- 8. Stabilizer (R)
- 9. Cowling
- 10. Propeller
- 11. Prop Shaft
- 12. Engine Front
- - 13. Firewall 14. Cockpit Interior
 - 15. Pilot
 - 16. Instrument Panel
 - Headrest 17.
 - 18. Landing Gear Strut (L)
- 19. Landing Gear Strut (R)
- 20. Gear Doors (L)
- 21. Gear Doors (R)
- 22. Tires (2) 23. Tail Wheel
- 24. Tail Wheel Doors
- 25. Drop Tank Top (2)
- 26. Drop Tank Bottom (2)
- 27. Bomb Top (2)
- 28. Bomb Bottom (2)
- 29. Canopy Brace

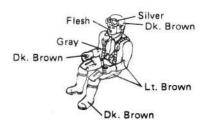


Separate gear doors 20 and 21, A, B and C into three parts as shown by arrows. Cement one 22 to 18 then cement 20B and 20C to 18. 20C overlaps 20B. Repeat with 22, 19, 21B and C.



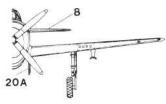
Cement 15 to 14. Cement 27 and 28 together to make two bombs. Cement 25 and 26 together to make two drop tanks.

Cement 12 to 13 then cement 13 to raised ledge inside 9. Place 11 through hole in 13 and carefully cement 10 to 11.



Cement cockpit assembly to 1 as shown. Apply instrument decal to 16 then cement 16 to 1. Cement 17 to 2. Cement 1 and 2 together.

Cement 3 and 4 together and attach to fuselage. Cement 5 and 6 together and attach to fuselage. Cement 7 and 8 to fuselage. Cement 29 inside canopy where indicated by fine lines then cement canopy to fuselage.



Cement engine unit to front of fuselage.
Cement landing gear assemblies to locators in wheel wells on fuselage. Cement 20A and 21A next to wheel wells on fuselage. Separate 24 into two parts and cement to fuselage as shown. Cement 23 into tail wheel well.
Cement either bombs or fuel tanks under wings to pylon.

