ATLANTIS

KIT H273

B-52 WITH X-15

"Preserving the Past while Building the Future"

One of the major steps in America's program to conquer space is the X-15 Project. The stated aims of the tests are to discover how well an aircraft can be controlled in near-space environment, and what problems are inherent in re-entering the atmosphere in a piloted aircraft.

In order to gain as much altitude as possible without expending fuel from the X-15's limited supply, the aircraft is carried aloft nested under the wing of a modified B-52 Jet Bomber. In the fuselage of the bomber rides a crew of technicians who service the X-15 during the climb to launch altitude. Through special inspection windows, they can watch the pilot of the X-15, who is closed in the plane before take-off, as contrasted to earlier air-dropped rocket planes, whose pilots climbed in while the mother plane was gaining altitude. A constant radio contact is maintined with the pilot, and a closed circuit television monitors sections of the aircraft not visible from the inspection windows. When the B-52 reaches the drop altitude of about 40,000 feet, the X-15 drops free of its mating pod, and as the pilot cuts in the rocket engines it noses up to its programmed objective. The pilot has at his command an engine that develops 50,000 pounds of thrust, and burns 10,000 pounds of fuel per minute. It is capable of pushing the X-15 to altitudes approaching 100 miles, and speed of 4000 miles per hour.

As the X-15 reaches the peak of its climb and begins its long glide back to the dry lake bed, the pilot goes through a period of weightlessness, and as the aircraft re-enters the denser atmosphere closer to the earth, certain portions of the plane will heat up to nearly 1000° F. Then, as the pilot begins his final approach, he jettisons the lower portion of the ventral fin, and as he flares out for the final touch down, he lowers the landing skids and nose wheel. Landing speed is about 140 miles per hour.

During the early stages of the program, all of the launches were in the general vicinity of Edwards Air Force Base in the California Desert, but when the final all out efforts are made, the launches are from Wendover, Utah. Some twenty minutes later the X-15 will touch down at Edwards.

The X-15 has a wingspan of 22 feet and an overall length of 50 feet, while the B-52 has a wingspan of 185 feet, and an overall length of 156 feet. This David and Goliath combination is one of the most significant steps in aviation history, and will be remembered as one of the major experiments in man's effort to move safely into space.

ASSEMBLY HINTS

GET YOUR TOOLS READY:

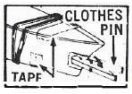
★ ★ ★ BEFORE YOU BEGIN ★ ★ ★

KNIFE TO DETACH AND TRIM PARTS

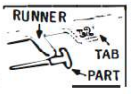
FILE TO REMOVE EXCESS PLASTIC

TWEEZERS TO PICK UP AND HOLD SMALL PARTS

CEMENT USE TOOTHPICK PAINT BRUSH OR PIN TO APPLY IT



TAPE AND CLOTHES PINS TO CLAMP AND HOLD PARTS UNTIL THEY ARE DRY



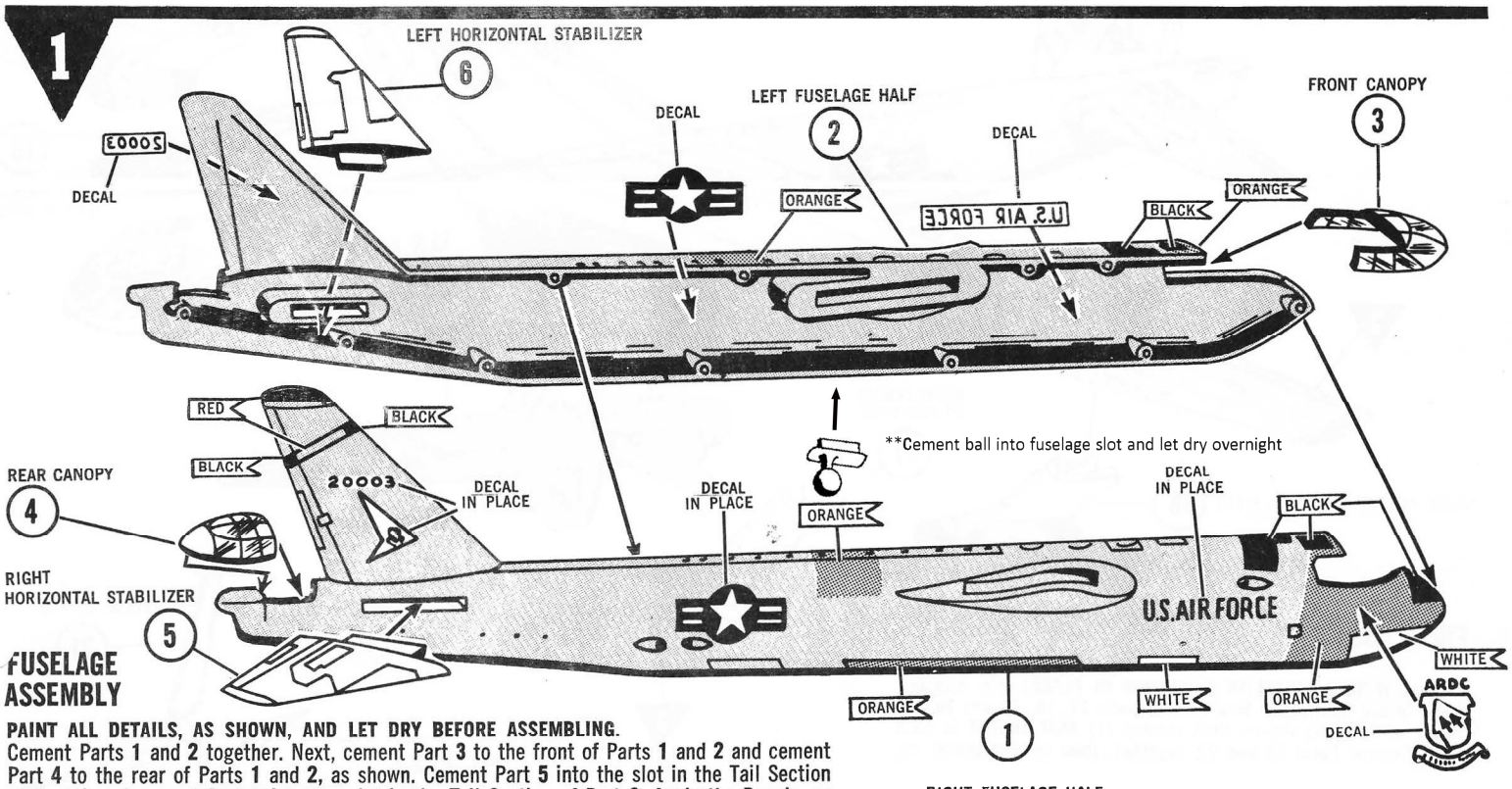
DO NOT DETACH PARTS UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO USE THEM! PARTS ARE NUMBERED TO HELP YOU FIND THEM. LOOK FOR THE NUMBER ON TAB NEXT TO PART OR ON PART ITSELF.

FIRST, FIT PARTS TOGETHER and TRIM EXCESS PLASTIC. THEN, APPLY CEMENT SPARINGLY. Too much cement will damage your model. Use a toothpick, pin or small paint brush to apply cement.

If you wish to stop at any point during the construction of your model do so at the end of an Assembly Step.

IF YOU WISH TO PAINT YOUR MODEL — See PAINTING on all steps for color suggestions.

- Paint small parts **before** detaching from runner.
- Start with the lighter colors.
- Scrape off paint where cement is to be applied. Cement will not work on paint.



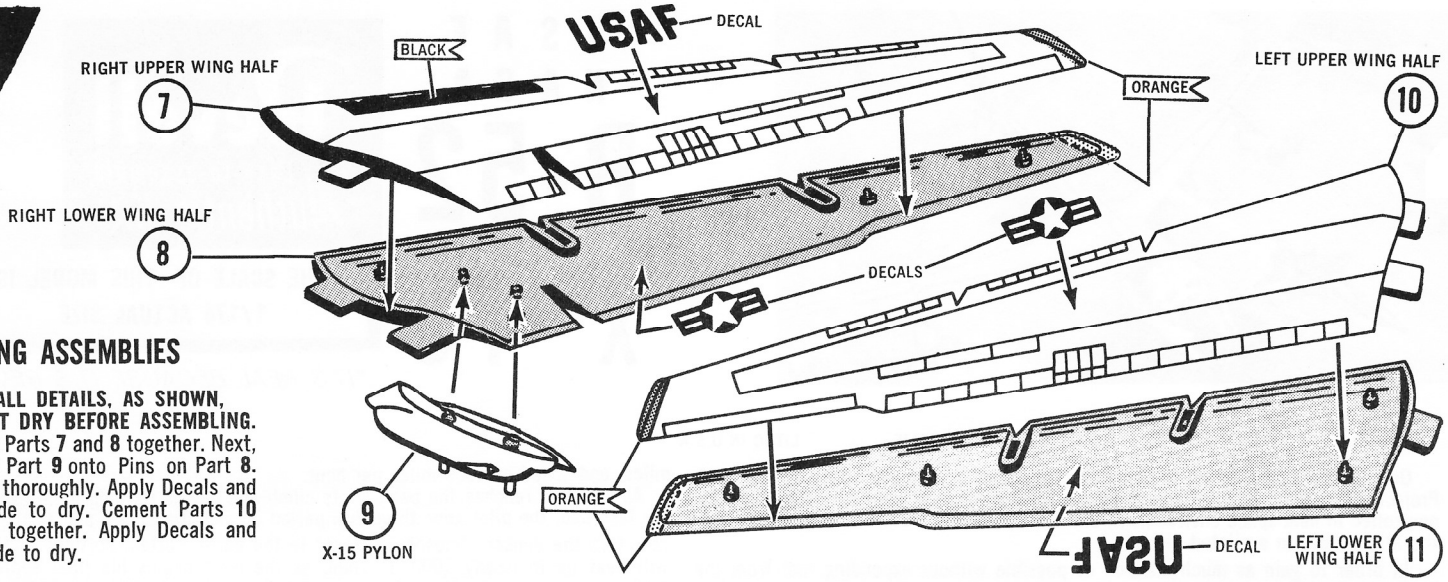
RIGHT FUSELAGE HALF

FUSELAGE ASSEMBLY

PAINT ALL DETAILS, AS SHOWN, AND LET DRY BEFORE ASSEMBLING.

Cement Parts **1** and **2** together. Next, cement Part **3** to the front of Parts **1** and **2** and cement Part **4** to the rear of Parts **1** and **2**, as shown. Cement Part **5** into the slot in the Tail Section of Part **1** and cement Part **6** into the slot in the Tail Section of Part **2**. Apply the Decals, as shown and set aside to dry.

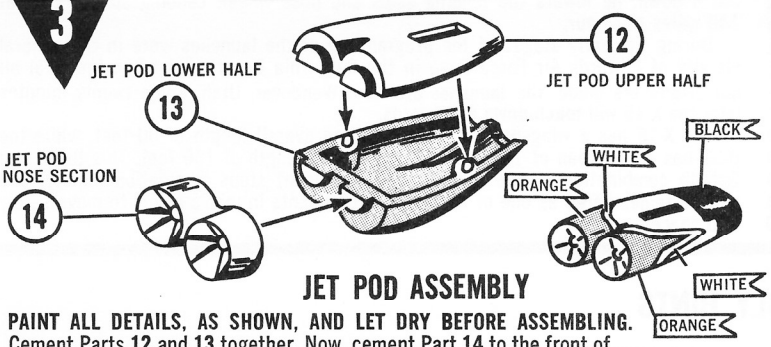
2



WING ASSEMBLIES

PAINT ALL DETAILS, AS SHOWN, AND LET DRY BEFORE ASSEMBLING. Cement Parts **7** and **8** together. Next, cement Part **9** onto Pins on Part **8**. Let dry thoroughly. Apply Decals and set aside to dry. Cement Parts **10** and **11** together. Apply Decals and set aside to dry.

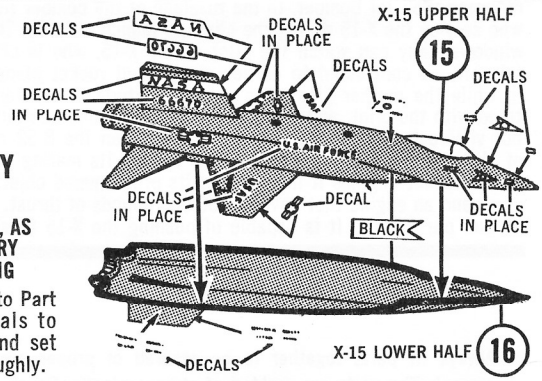
3



JET POD ASSEMBLY

PAINT ALL DETAILS, AS SHOWN, AND LET DRY BEFORE ASSEMBLING. Cement Parts **12** and **13** together. Now, cement Part **14** to the front of Parts **12** and **13**, matching contour. **MAKE 4 SETS.**

4

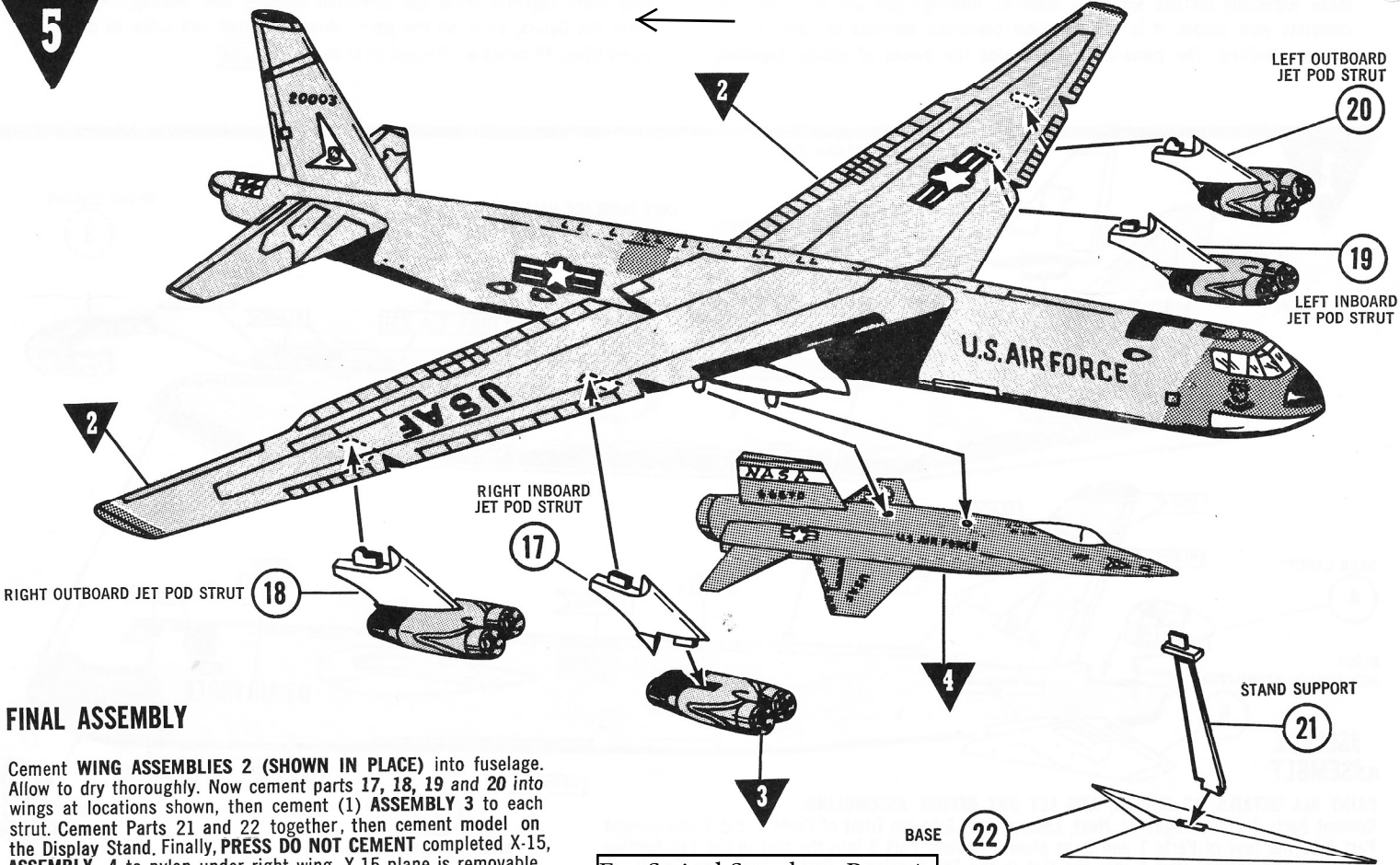


X-15 ASSEMBLY

PAINT ALL DETAILS, AS SHOWN AND LET DRY BEFORE ASSEMBLING

Cement Part **15** onto Part **16**. Apply all Decals to your X-15 model and set aside to dry thoroughly.

5

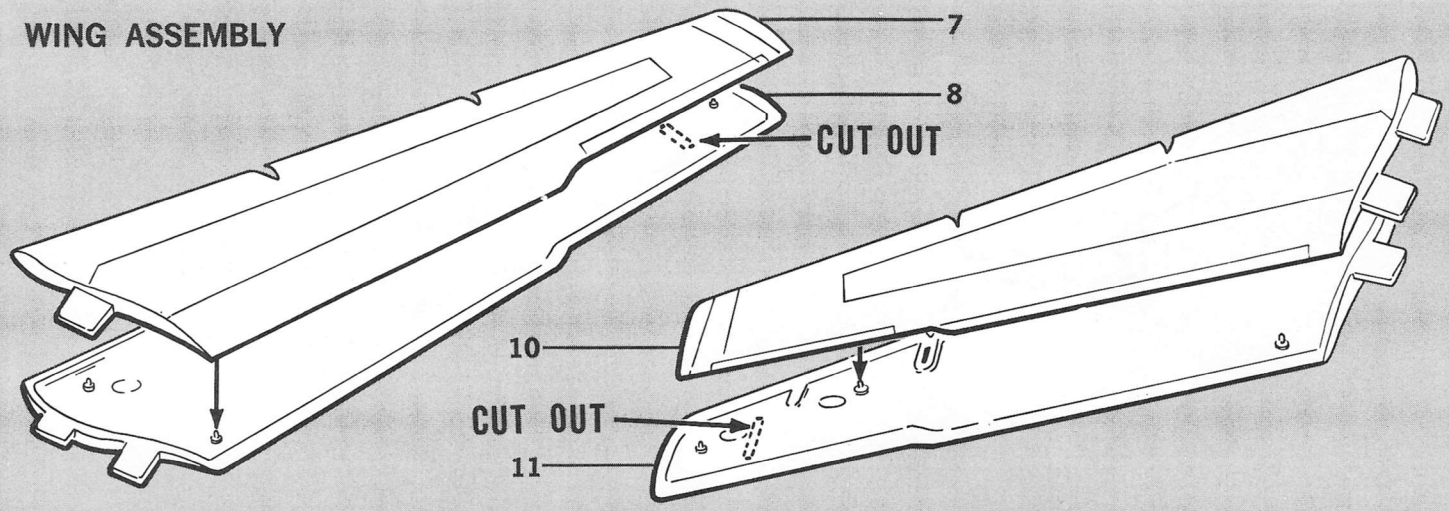


FINAL ASSEMBLY

Cement **WING ASSEMBLIES 2 (SHOWN IN PLACE)** into fuselage. Allow to dry thoroughly. Now cement parts ***17, 18, 19*** and ***20*** into wings at locations shown, then cement (1) **ASSEMBLY 3** to each strut. Cement Parts 21 and 22 together, then cement model on the Display Stand. Finally, **PRESS DO NOT CEMENT** completed X-15, **ASSEMBLY 4** to pylon under right wing. X-15 plane is removable.

For Swivel Stand see Page 4

WING ASSEMBLY



PARTS LIST

7 RIGHT WING TOP
8 RIGHT WING BOTTOM
10 LEFT WING TOP
11 LEFT WING BOTTOM

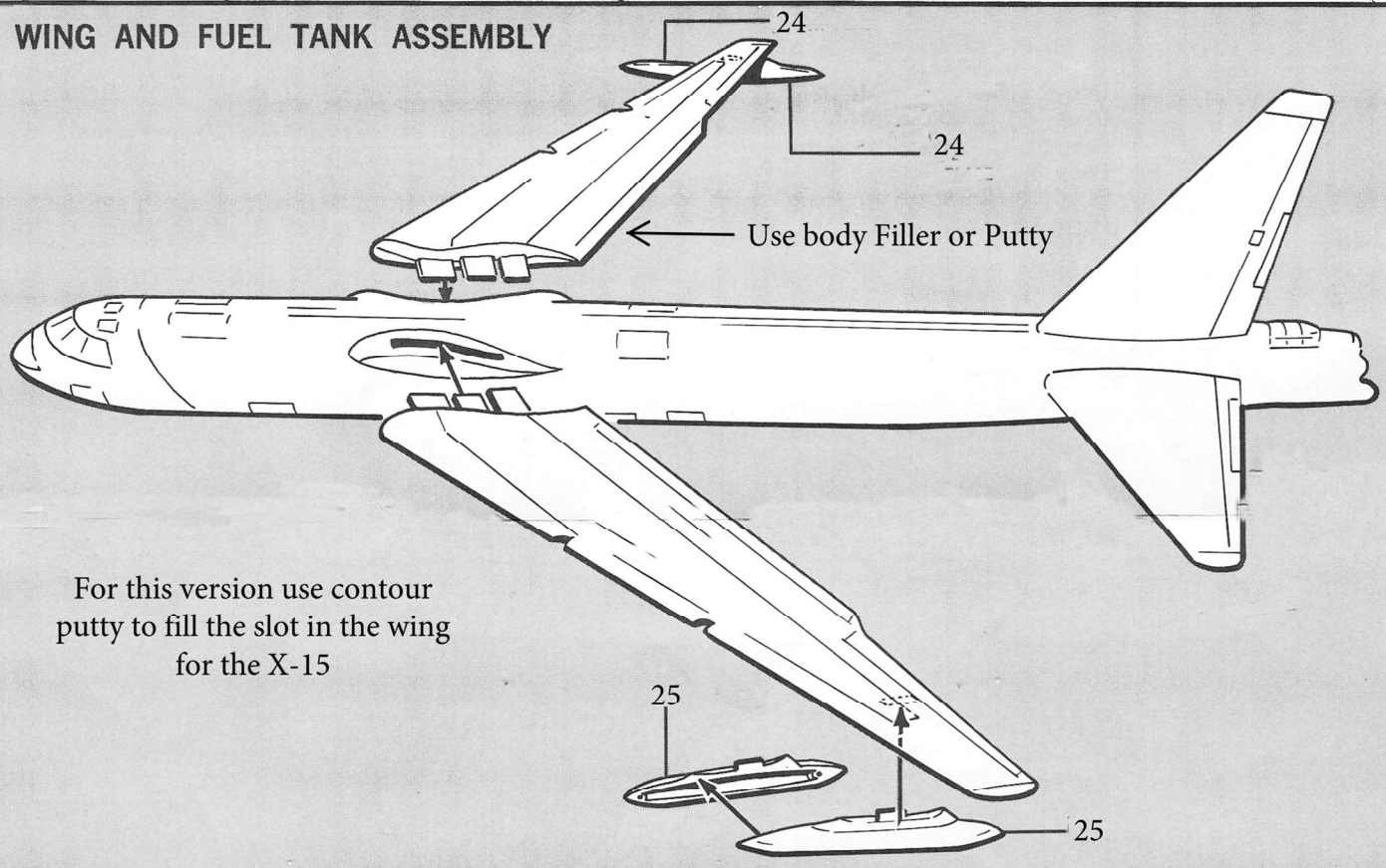
PAINTING

NO PAINTING NEEDED IN THIS STEP

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

1. With a sharp knife or small file, clean out flash for WING TIP FUEL TANKS in LOWER WING SECTIONS **(8)** and **(11)**.
2. Cement RIGHT WING TOP **(7)** to RIGHT WING BOTTOM **(8)**.
3. Cement LEFT WING TOP **(10)** to LEFT WING BOTTOM **(11)**.

WING AND FUEL TANK ASSEMBLY



For this version use contour putty to fill the slot in the wing for the X-15

PARTS LIST

Part 24-Wing Tip Tank Halves Right Side
Part 25-Wing Tip Tank Halves Left Side.

PAINTING

NO PAINTING NEEDED IN THIS STEP

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cement the RIGHT and the LEFT WINGS to the Fuselage.
2. Cement WING TANK RIGHT HALF to LEFT HALF. MAKE TWO.
   Then cement to LOCATOR SLOTS at WING TIPS

Parts List

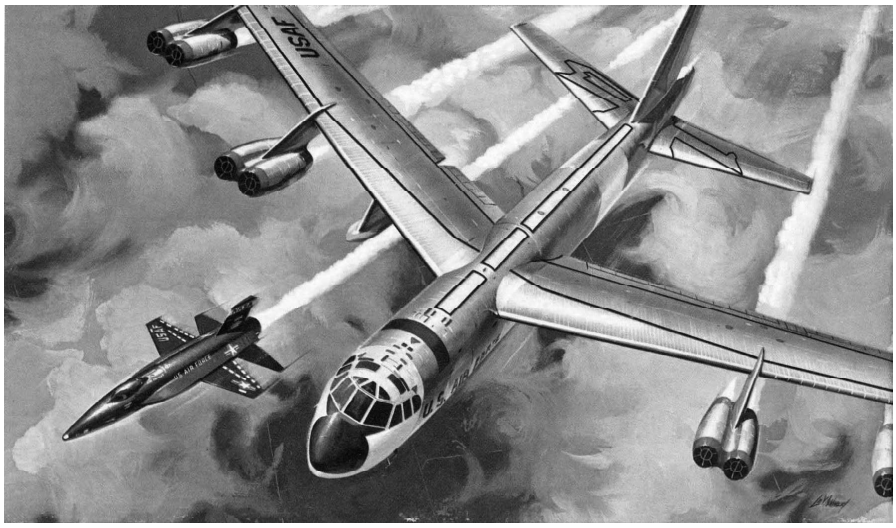
1- Right Fuselage Half
2- Left Fuselage Half
3- Front Canopy (clear)
4- Rear Canopy (clear)
5- Right Horizontal Stabilizer
6- Left Horizontal Stabilizer
7- Right Upper Wing Half
8- Right Lower Wing Half
9- X-15 Pylon
10- Left Upper Wing Half
11- Left Lower Wing Half
12- Jet Pod Upper Half (4 pcs)
13- Jet Pod Lower Half (4 pcs)
14- Jet Pod Nose Section (4 pcs)
15- X-15 Upper Half
16- X-15 Lower Half
17- Right Inboard Jet Pod Strut
18- Right Outboard Jet Pod Strut
19- Left Inboard Jet Pod Strut
20- Left Outboard Jet Pod Strut
21- Optional Stand Support
22- Optional Base
23- Mounting Ball

Optional Parts

24- Right Wing Tip Tank Half (2 pcs)
25- Left Wing Tip Tank Half (2 pcs)

Clear Display Base

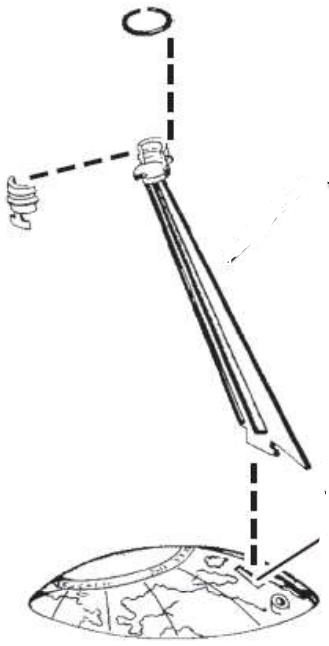
A- Ball Support Half
B- Ball Main Support
C- Spring Ring
D- Globe Base



DECAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut desired decal from sheet.
2. Dip decal in water for a few seconds.
3. Place wet decal on paper towel.
4. Wait until decal is movable on paper backing.
5. Place decal in position on model, face up and slide backing away.
6. Press out air bubbles with a soft damp cloth.
7. Milkiness that may appear is for better decal adhesion and will dry clear. Wipe away any excess adhesive.
8. Do not touch decal until fully dry.
9. Allow the decals 48 hours to dry before applying clear coat.
   NOTE: Decals are compatible with setting solutions or solvents.

GLOBE STAND ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS



GLUE STAND ARM INTO STAND BASE AND LET DRY OVERNIGHT