



# Lockheed SR-71A **BLACKBIRD**

1627

1/72 SCALE

Aerial reconnaissance has become one of the most important sources of strategic information for military planners. Where orbiting satellites are suitable for certain information, a piloted aircraft is much more versatile as a data gatherer. The most famous "spy plane" is Lockheed's U-2, a subsonic, high altitude photo platform. Although capable of flying as high as 85,000 feet, the U-2's top speed of some 500 mph made it vulnerable to interception by zoom-climbing fighters or surface to air missiles.

On April 26, 1962, the supersonic successor to the U-2 made its first flight. Known as the Lockheed A-11, the new plane resembled nothing that had ever flown before. It was larger than most bombers and faster than any airplane yet built, with the exception of the famous X-15 research rocket. Early in the development of the huge plane, clandestine flights were made over Communist countries to determine its suitability for its intended role.

The first A-11's were classed as fighters, and designated YF-12A, but their role was mainly research, while the true reconnaissance version, the SR-71, was put into production, making its initial flight on December 22, 1964. The existence

of the new spy plane was a well-kept secret during its development, but such a radical machine could not be kept under wraps for long, and in September of 1964, the YF-12A was unveiled to the press. Ten years later, in September of 1974, an SR-71A set a Transatlantic speed record, flying from New York to London in less than two hours.

With its advanced surveillance gear, the SR-71 can scan thousands of miles of the earth's surface every hour. It normally flies at altitudes above 80,000 feet at three-times the speed of sound, far beyond the reach of contemporary interceptors or SAM missiles.

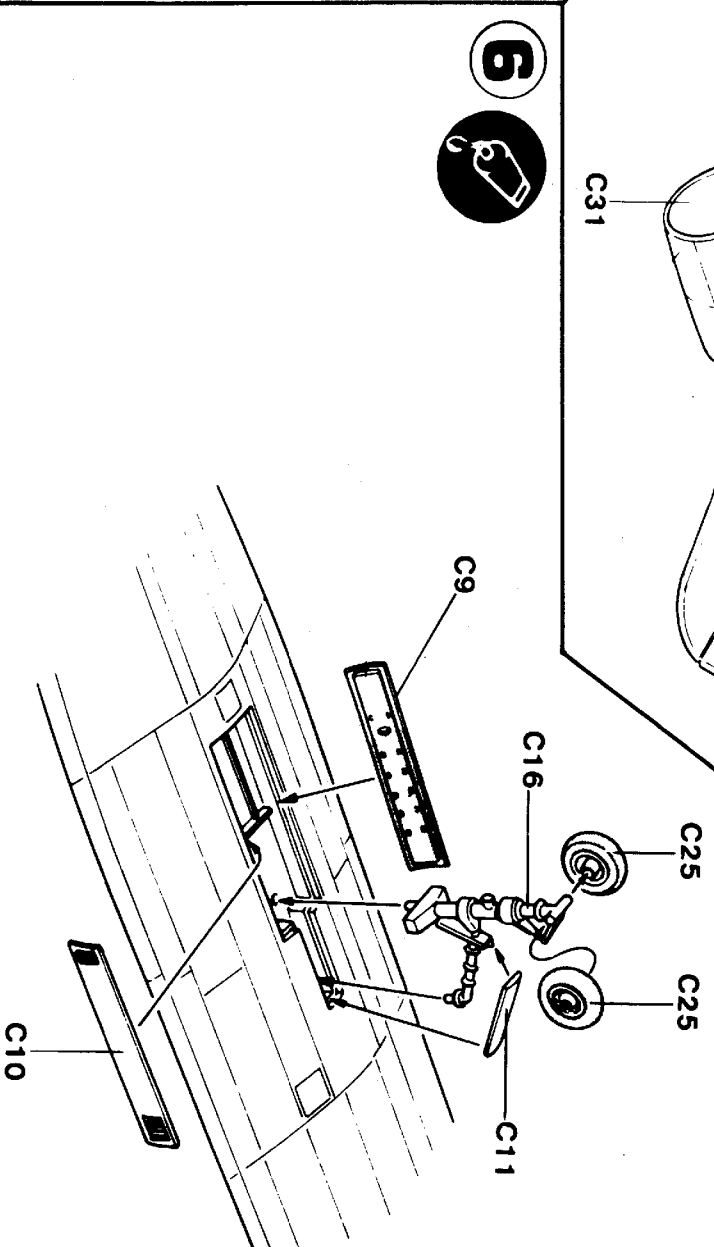
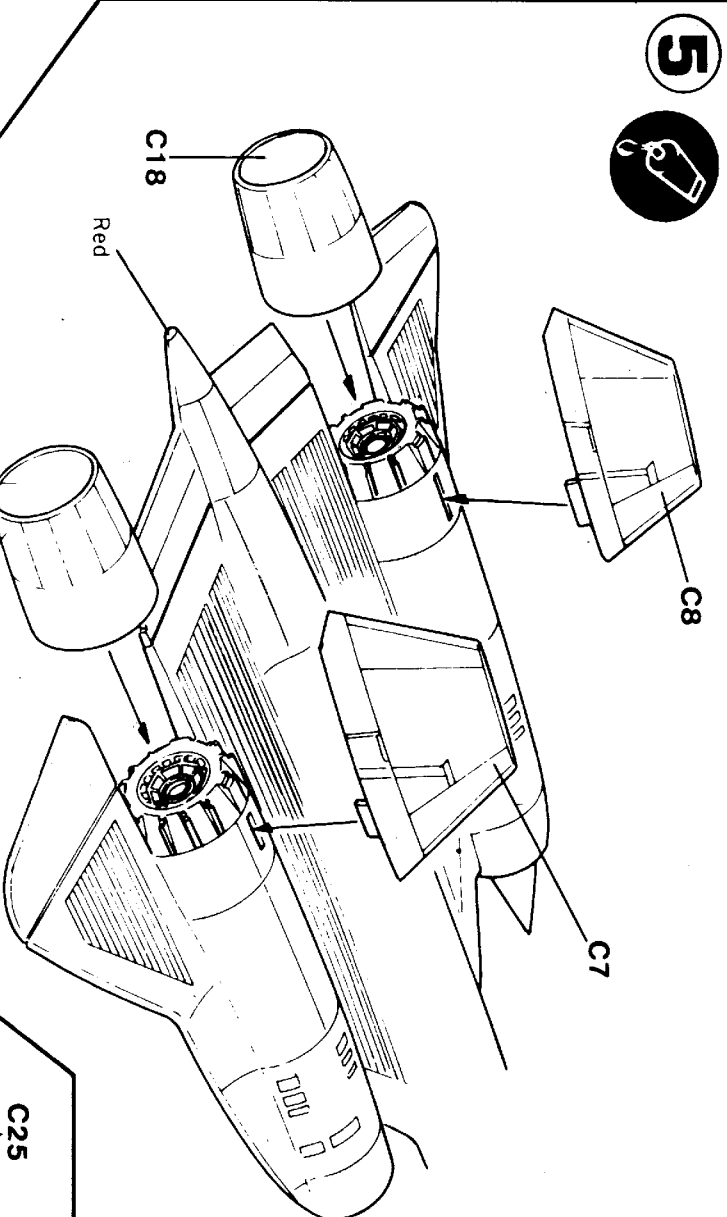
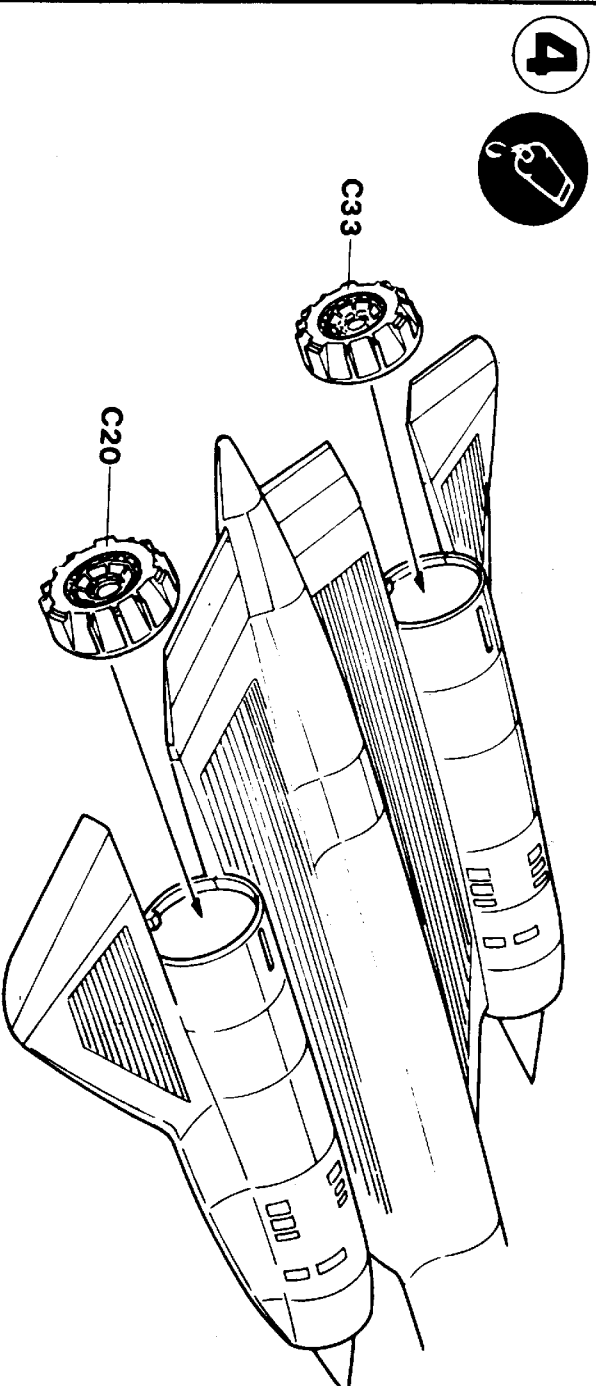
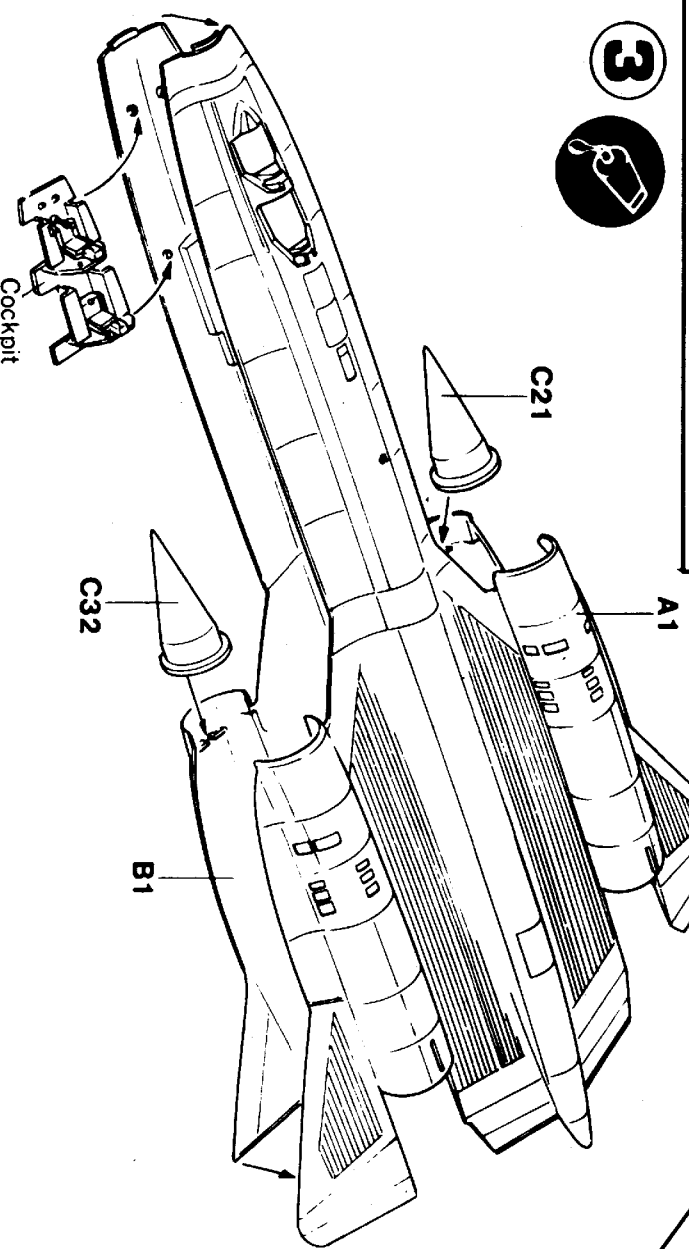
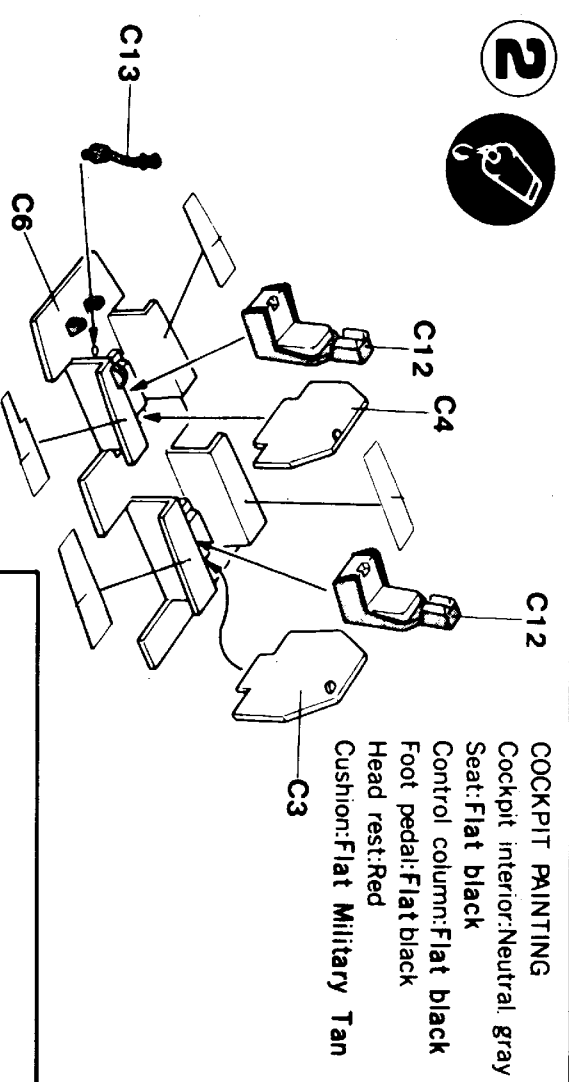
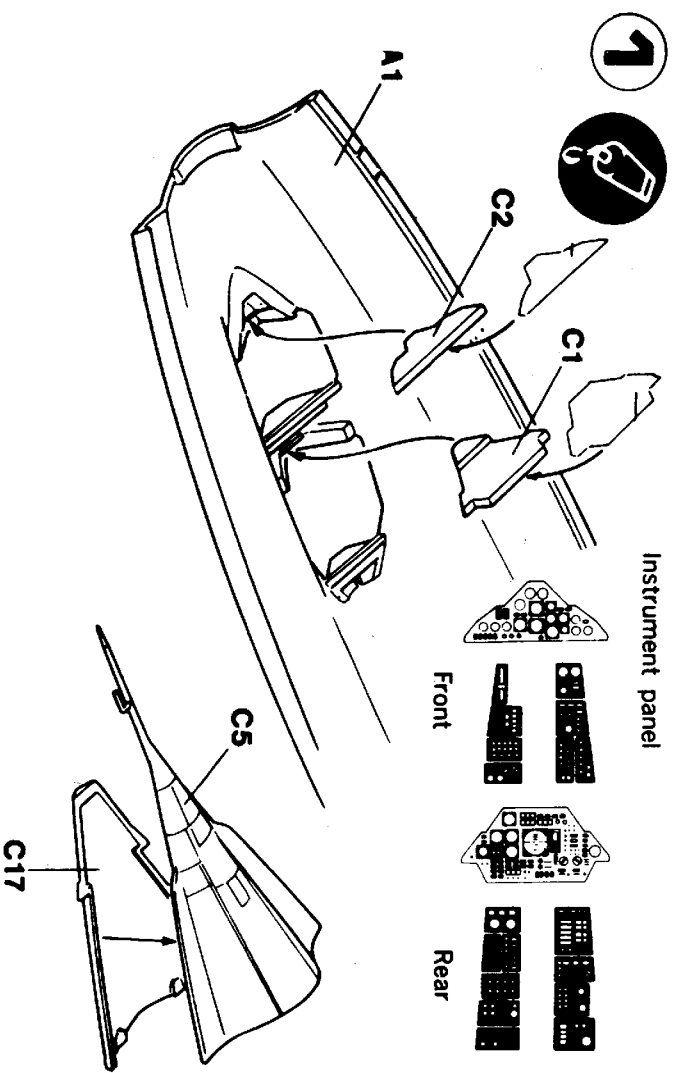
## SR-71A CHARACTERISTICS

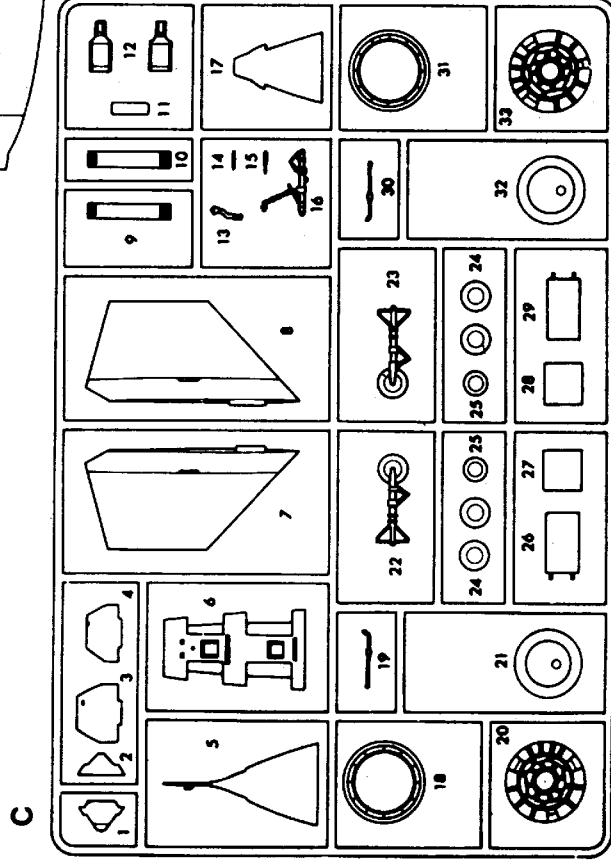
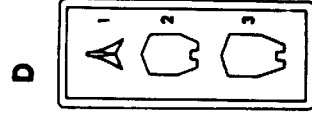
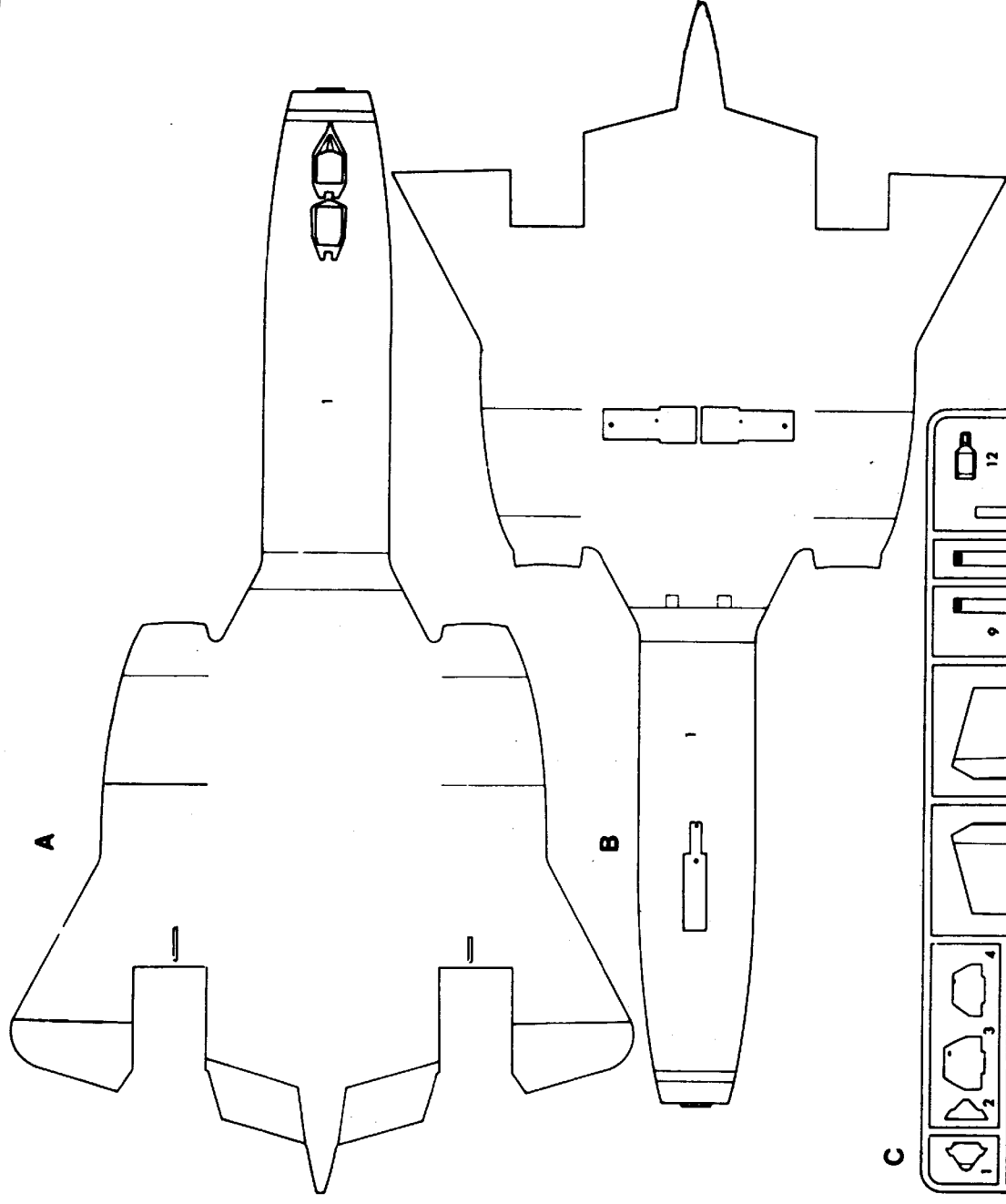
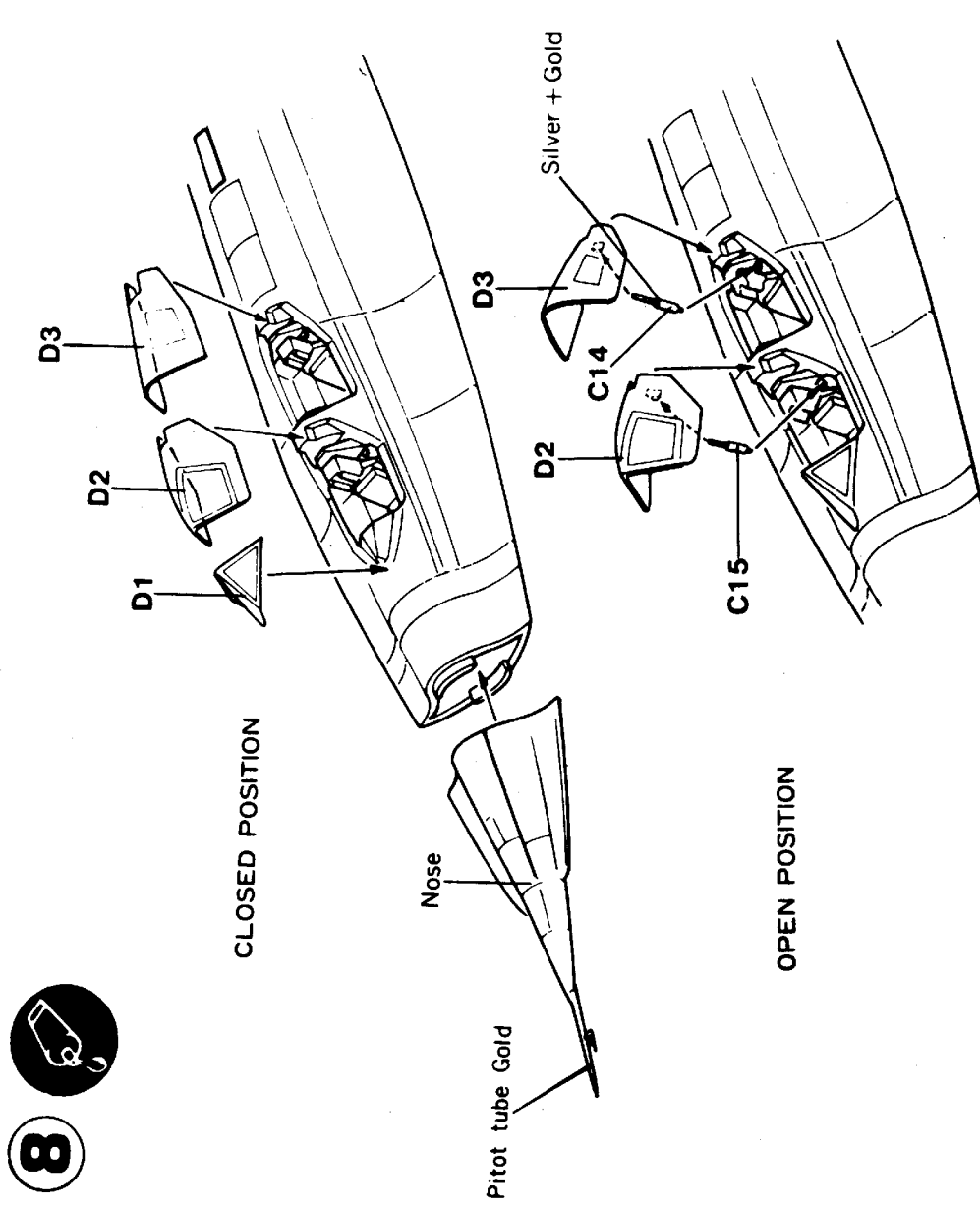
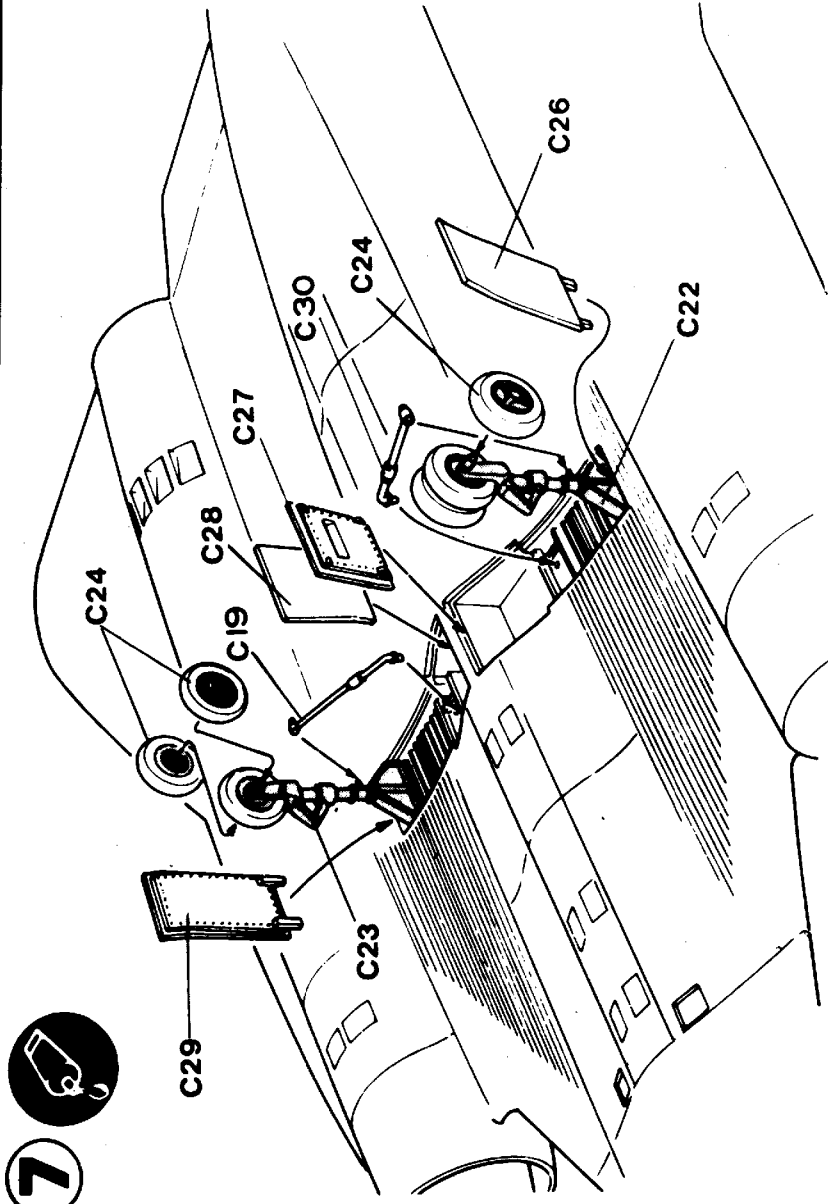
Wingspan:	55 feet 7 inches
Length:	107 feet 5 inches
Height:	18 feet 6 inches
Powerplant:	Two Pratt & Whitney J-58 engines with 32,000 lbs of thrust each.
Performance:	Maximum speed-2,200 mph @ 86,000 feet.
Range:	(At Mach 3) 2,982 miles. The SR-71A is equipped with aerial refueling gear.



**MINICRAFT MODELS, INC.**  
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- A-PART**  
1. Fuselage top
- B-PART**  
1. Fuselage bottom
- C-PARTS**  
1. Instrument panel (R)  
2. Instrument panel (F)  
3. Rear bulkhead  
4. Front bulkhead  
5. Radome top  
6. Cockpit floor
- D-PARTS**  
1. Windshield  
2. Canopy (F)  
3. Canopy (R)
- PARTS IDENTIFICATION**
7. Vertical Stabilizer (R)  
8. Vertical Stabilizer (L)  
9. Nose door (L)  
10. Nose door (R)  
11. Nose door cover  
12. Crew seats (2)  
13. Control column  
14. Canopy actuator (R)  
15. Canopy actuator (F)  
16. Nose gear strut
17. Exhaust nozzle (L)  
18. Exhaust nozzle (L)  
19. Main gear strut ((R))  
20. Flame holder (R)  
21. Intake cone (R)  
22. Main gear (R)  
23. Main gear (L)  
24. Main wheels (4)  
25. Nose wheels (2)  
26. Main gear door (R)  
27. Main gear door (R)
28. Main wheel door (L)  
29. Main gear door (L)  
30. Main gear strut (L)  
31. Exhaust nozzle (R)  
32. Intake cone (L)  
32. Flame holder (L)

