

McDonnell Douglas

# F/A-18 Hornet

No. 628

TESTORS



## HISTORY

The F-18 Hornet is manufactured by McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis, Missouri. The basic design is that of Northrop with many aerodynamic features developed in the prototype airplane, a craft called the YF-17.

The Hornet is designed as a follow-on to the tried but aging F-4 Phantom. Incorporating state-of-the-art electronics and structure, the Hornet is bringing high levels of reliability to U.S. Fleet and Marine Corp air operations while providing a broad range of performance increases over the F-4.

The F-18 possesses the useful capability of being able to fly both the fighter and attack roles. As a fighter it carries 2 types of missiles and a 20mm cannon. As an attack aircraft the craft can carry 19,000 lbs of stores on nine weapons stations. Its aerodynamics and 2 jet engines allow for maneuvering capability to 7½ G's and speeds near Mach 2. The General Electric F404 engines each produce 16,000 pounds of thrust - 8 times their weight. Each engine is 25% shorter, have half the weight and 7,700 fewer parts than the J-79 powerplant used in the F-4.

The F-18 is flown by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, Canada, Australia and Spain. Several design changes are in the works with the most visually different being a photo reconnaissance version with a camera nose.

The 2-seat version of the F-18 allows for training while also retaining the full combat ability of the single place version. Though the F-18 has had a somewhat checkered beginning, it is proving itself a worthy aerial combatant.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Power	2 General Electric F404-GE-400
Weight	51,900 lbs. max
Span	40.4'
Length	56'
Height	15.3'
Max. Speed	Mach 1.8+
Altitude	50,000' combat ceiling
Crew	1 / 2

## REFERENCES

F-18 Hornet, Don Linn, Detail & Scale, Aero Pub.

McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet, Jay Miller, AeroFax Publishers.

## BEFORE STARTING

1. Study the illustrations and sequence of assembly before beginning.
2. Decide how much detail you wish to add to your model and whether or not you intend to modify or "convert" the basic model in any way. Study carefully all available reference material before beginning to ensure an authentic model.
3. Due to the amount of parts in this kit, do not detach the parts from the runner of the parts tree until you need them. This helps avoid confusion and lost parts.
4. When cementing the parts together, check the way in which one part fits together with another. This ensures a neat job and no surprises.
5. Always remember when working with plastic model cement and paint to keep your work area well ventilated. The fumes from plastic modeling products can be harmful if inhaled.

## PREPARATION OF PARTS

1. Never tear parts off the runner (parts tree). Use a Testor Hobby Knife, fingernail clippers, or a small wire cutters to remove.
2. It is possible some parts may require a little attention with a file or sandpaper to ensure a proper fit and neat appearance. Hobby files and Testor Hobby Sandpaper appropriate for model building are available in most good hobby shops.
3. If you desire you may fill any seams (where parts go together) or imperfections with Testor Contour Putty for Plastic Models which is also available at good hobby shops.

## PAINTING

You can obtain an excellent finish on your model using Testor finishing products and enamels. Detailed descriptions of paint types and color are included throughout the pages that follow.

Good brushes are essential for proper detailing. **Testor Model Master** brushes are recommended and available at good hobby stores. Be sure you have the entire selection for all your modeling needs. Always keep your brushes clean and soft by cleaning them in Testor thinner, washing in soap and water, and storing flat with bristles up when not in use.

Wash plastic parts before detaching them from the parts tree. Warm water and liquid dishwashing detergent will remove the oils left from the manufacturing process. Let the parts dry and avoid excessive handling. Immediately before painting, wipe the parts with a "tac rag" (available at automotive parts stores) to remove dust and lint.

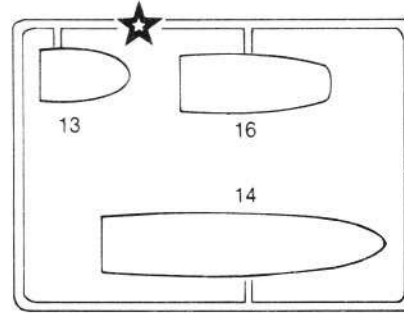
Most small parts are best painted while still attached to the parts tree. You can also detach them and hold with tweezers or "magic" tape while painting. Paint in one direction only. If your paint is the correct thickness brush strokes will disappear as the color dries. If the paint seems too thick, thin it with Testor Paint Thinner. Wheels may be detached from the parts tree and fit onto toothpicks or matchsticks for painting. Just hold the paintbrush against the edge of the wheel and rotate the wheel to obtain a neat finish.

Let the paint dry completely before handling. When the parts are dry, assemble the model, following the directions closely. Remember cement will not stick to painted surfaces. Use your Testor Hobby Knife to carefully remove paint from all surfaces to be cemented. After you have assembled the model you may touch up areas where cement has marred the finish.

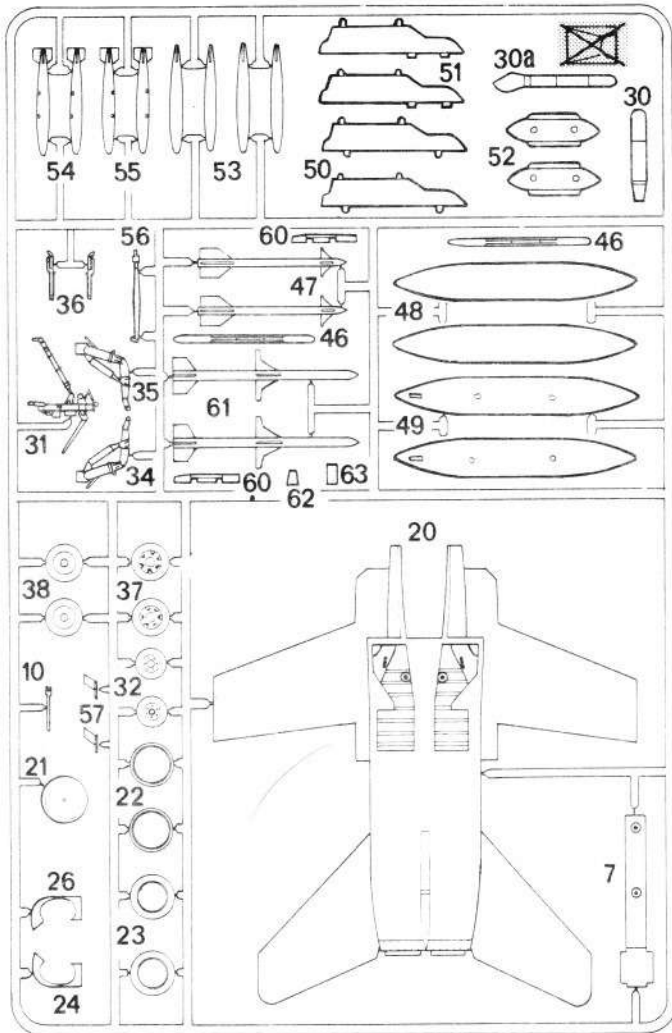
Remove this page from the instruction sheet by cutting along indicated line. Use the drawings of the complete sprue as a part-locating reference when building the model.

Liquid cement, Testor #3502, is recommended for construction since it can produce the neatest, quickest, and strongest glue joints. Apply small amounts of cement, using the tip of a 00 brush, to the surfaces to be joined while holding the parts in place. Do **not** use large amounts of cement.

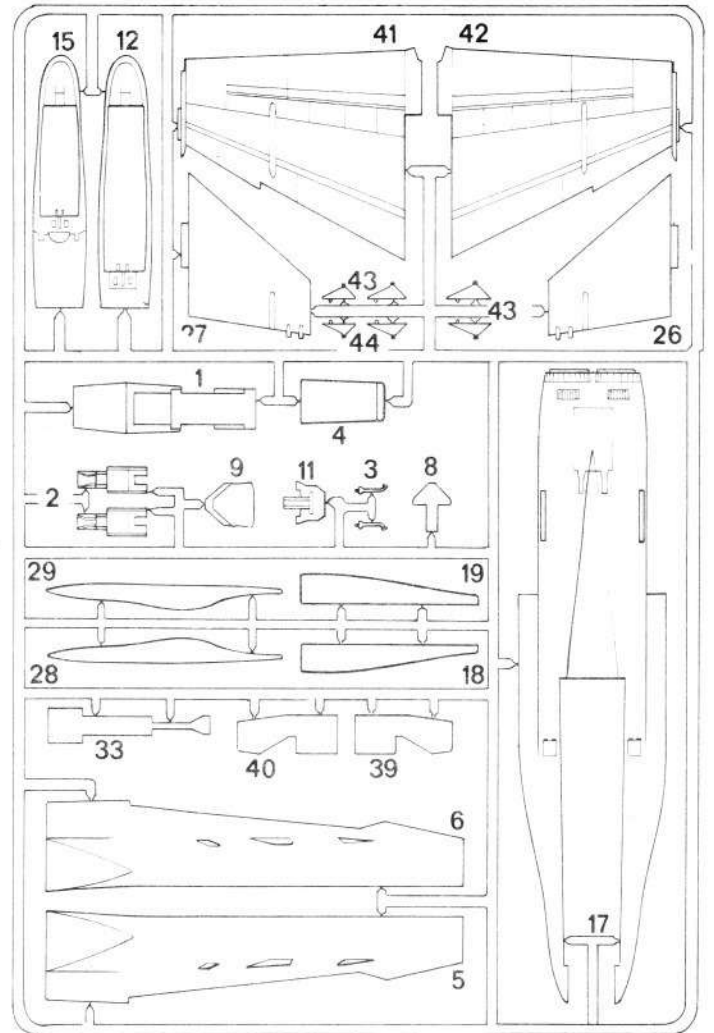
Tweezers will be useful in assembling the many small parts in this kit. The type used by postage stamp collectors is recommended.



Parts from this section are identified with this symbol: ☆



Parts from this section are identified with this symbol: □



Parts from this section are identified with this symbol: ○

The *F-18 Hornet* kit offers the modeler several options. The major option is building a single seat *F-18A* or a two seat *TF-18A*. There is also a choice between two sets of tail cones, one for open take-off position and one for closed cruise positions. Hang on armaments are optional and include bombs, missile and drop tanks. The cockpit canopy can be built in the open position if you wish, although this is recommended for experienced modelers only.

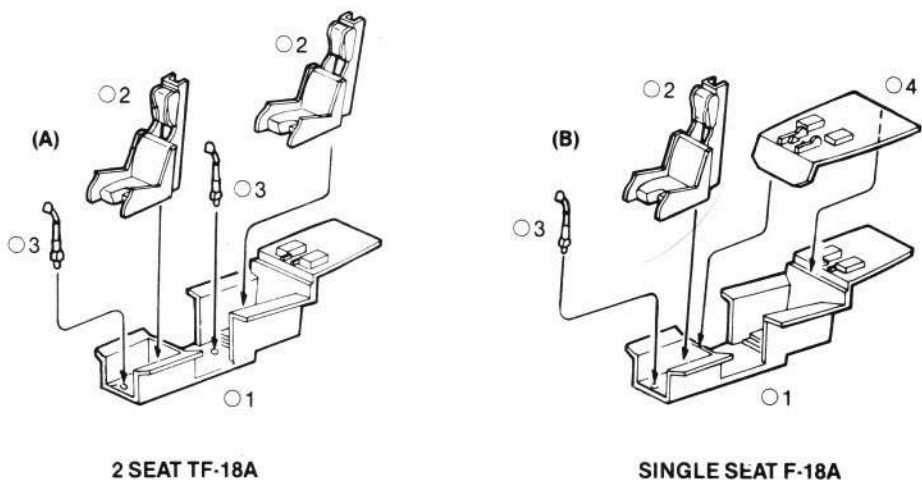
# 1 PARTS 1-9

## Preliminary Painting

- 2 sides and back only; ○1 top rear deck portion only; ○3, ○4, ○9:  
FS 37038 **Flat Black**
- 1 sides and top of side consoles only; ○8:  
FS 36440 **Flat Gull Gray**
- 1 Floor boards only:  
FS 36231 **Dark Gull Gray**
- 7:  
FS 37875 **Flat White**
- 2 seat and headrest cushions only:  
FS 34097 **Field Green**

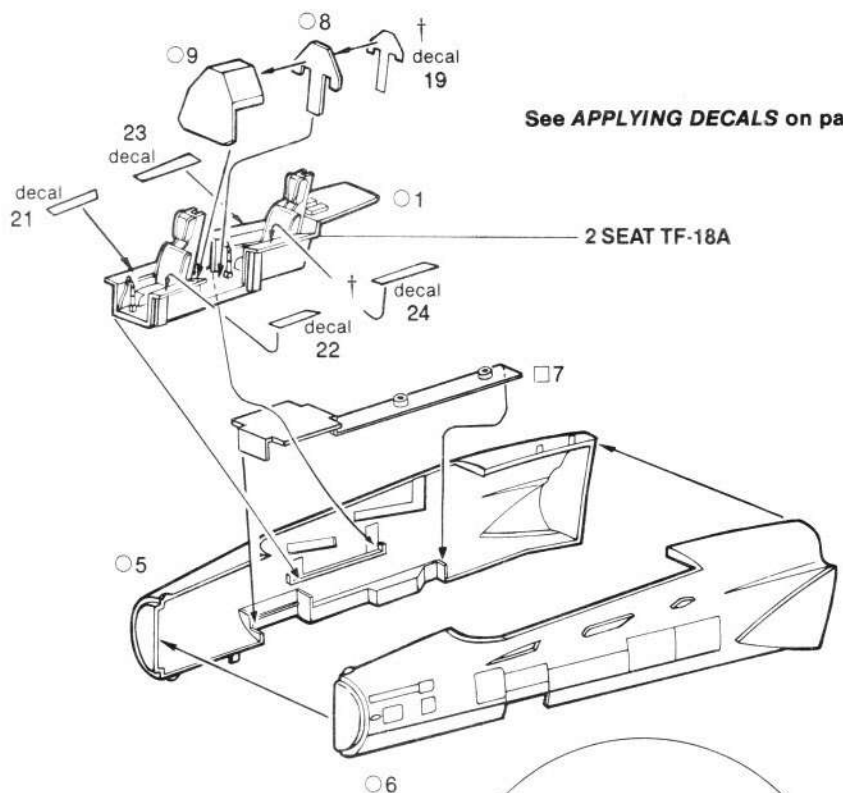
## Assembly

- 1. Select either the two-seater cockpit (A) or the single seat cockpit (B).
- 2. **Two Seat TF-18A:** Cement seats ○2 into cockpit module ○1 as shown. Cement control columns ○3 into holes in front and rear cockpit.
- 3. **Single Seat F-18A:** Cement one seat ○2 into front of cockpit module ○1. Cement rear deck ○4 onto rear of ○1 as shown.
- 4. Apply side console decals to ○1 and instrument panel decal to ○8. Cement instrument panel ○8 into scuttle fairing ○9 (two seater only).
- 5. Cement nose wheel panel □7 into nose half ○5 as shown. Glue cockpit assembly into nose half ○5, then glue nose half ○6 to ○5, making sure that cockpit assembly and nose wheel panel line up properly between nose halves. Cement instrument panel/scuttle fairing ○8/○9 into place on rear cockpit (2 seater only).



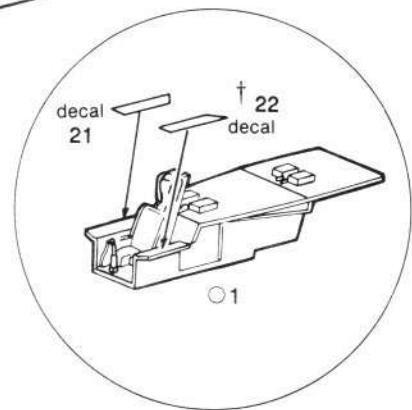
2 SEAT TF-18A

SINGLE SEAT F-18A



See **APPLYING DECALS** on page 9

2 SEAT TF-18A



SINGLE SEAT F-18A

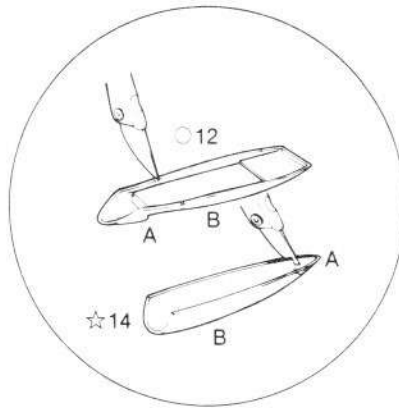
## 2 PARTS 10-14 TWO SEATER ONLY

### Preliminary Painting

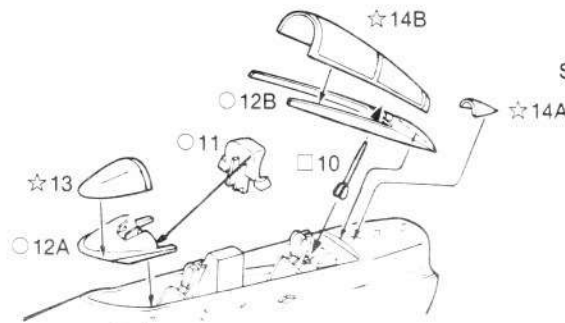
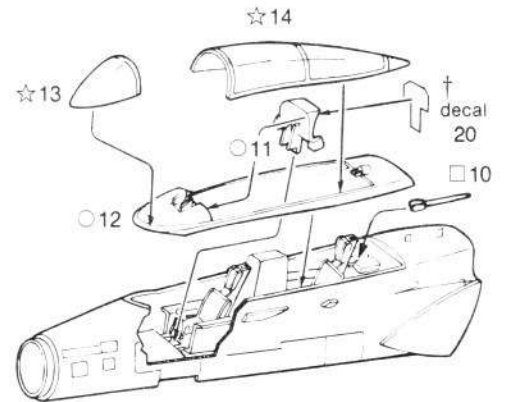
- 10, ○ 12 fairing above instrument panel only; ○ 11 outside and back of instrument panel and hood only; FS 37038 **Flat Black**
- 11 inside of panel only; FS 36440 **Flat Gull Gray**
- ☆ 13, ☆ 14 canopy frame; FS 31136 **Insignia Red**

### Assembly

- 1. **Closed Canopy:** Cement canopy actuator rod □ 10 onto rear deck. Apply instrument panel decal to instrument panel ○ 11, then cement ○ 11 to canopy frame ○ 12 as shown.
- 2. Cement canopy frame ○ 12 to cockpit. Cement windscreen ☆ 13 in place as shown. Cement canopy ☆ 14 over cockpit.
- 3. **Open Canopy** (not recommended for beginners): Cut canopy frame ○ 12 and canopy ☆ 14 into two pieces as shown in circle diagram. After applying decal, cement instrument panel ○ 11 to fairing ○ 12A and cement onto front of cockpit. After careful fitting, cement rear fairing ☆ 14A to the top of fuselage as shown. Cement windscreen ☆ 13 in place. Cement canopy ☆ 14B to canopy frame ○ 12B and set this along with actuator □ 10 aside until later.



For open cockpit only



For open cockpit only

See **Applying Decals** instructions on page 9.

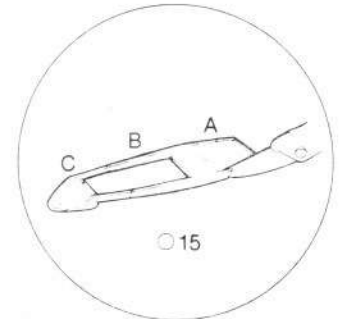
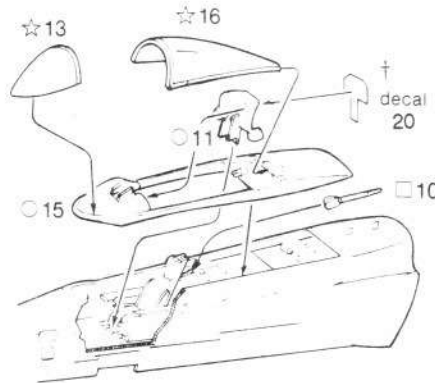
## 3 PARTS 10, 11, 13, 15, 16 SINGLE SEATER ONLY

### Preliminary Painting

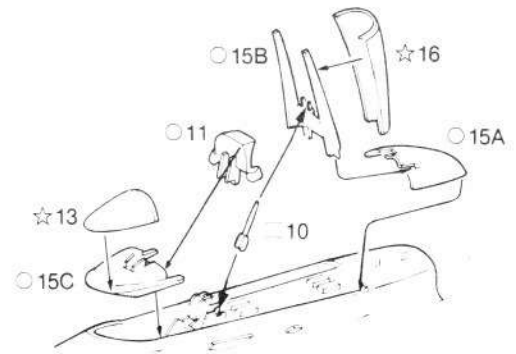
- 10, ○ 15 fairing above instrument panel only; ○ 11 outside and back of instrument panel and hood only; FS 37038 **Flat Black**
- 11 inside of panel only; FS 36440 **Flat Gull Gray**
- ☆ 13, ☆ 16 canopy frame; FS 31136 **Insignia Red**

### Assembly

- 1. **Closed Canopy:** Cement canopy actuator rod □ 10 to rear deck. Apply instrument panel decal to instrument panel ○ 11, then cement ○ 11 to canopy frame ○ 15 as shown.
- 2. Cement canopy frame ○ 15 to cockpit. Cement windscreen ☆ 13 in place as shown. Cement canopy ☆ 16 over cockpit.
- 3. **Open Canopy** (not recommended for beginners): Cut canopy frame ○ 15 into three pieces as shown in circle diagram. After applying decal, cement instrument panel ○ 11 to fairing ○ 15C and cement into front of cockpit. Cement rear fairing ○ 15A to fuselage as shown. Cement canopy ☆ 16 to canopy frame ○ 15B and set this along with actuator rod □ 10 aside until later.



For open cockpit only



For open cockpit only

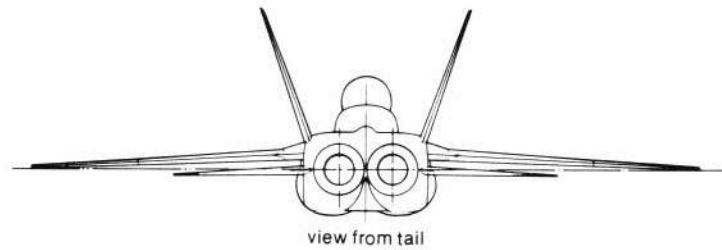
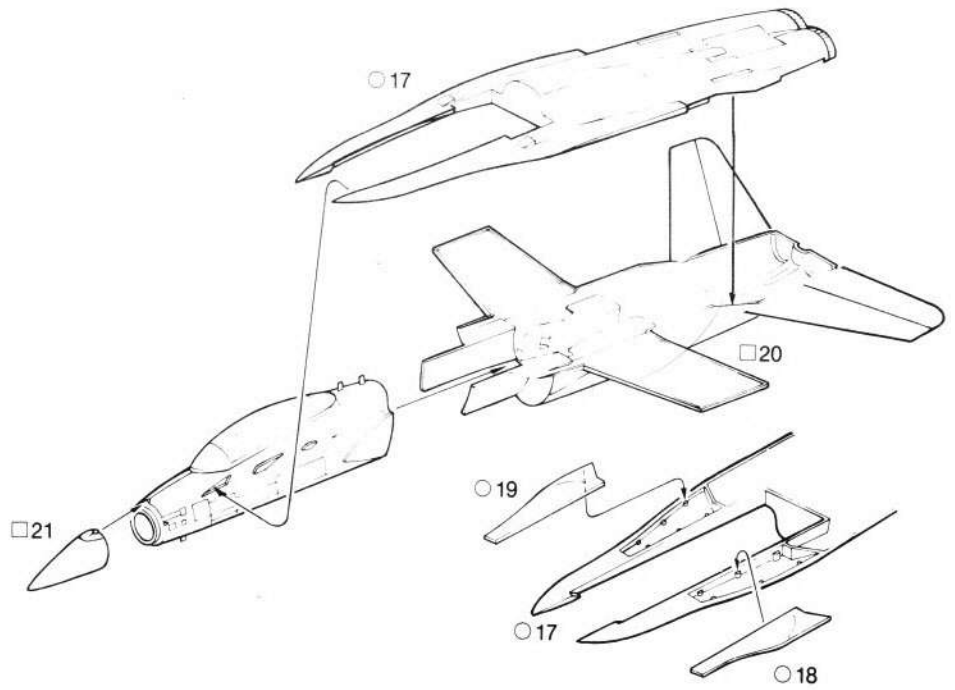
# 4 PARTS 17-21

## Preliminary Painting

- 17, □20 rear parts only:  
No. 1781 Aluminum

## Assembly

- 1. Glue underside fairings ○18 and ○19 into underside of fuselage top half ○17.
- 2. Test fit fuselage halves ○17 and □20 together along with forward fuselage. When fit is correct, cement upper and lower fuselage halves ○17 and □20 together and glue to forward fuselage assembly.
- 3. Cement nose cone □21 to front of fuselage and set aside to dry.



# 5 PARTS 22-27

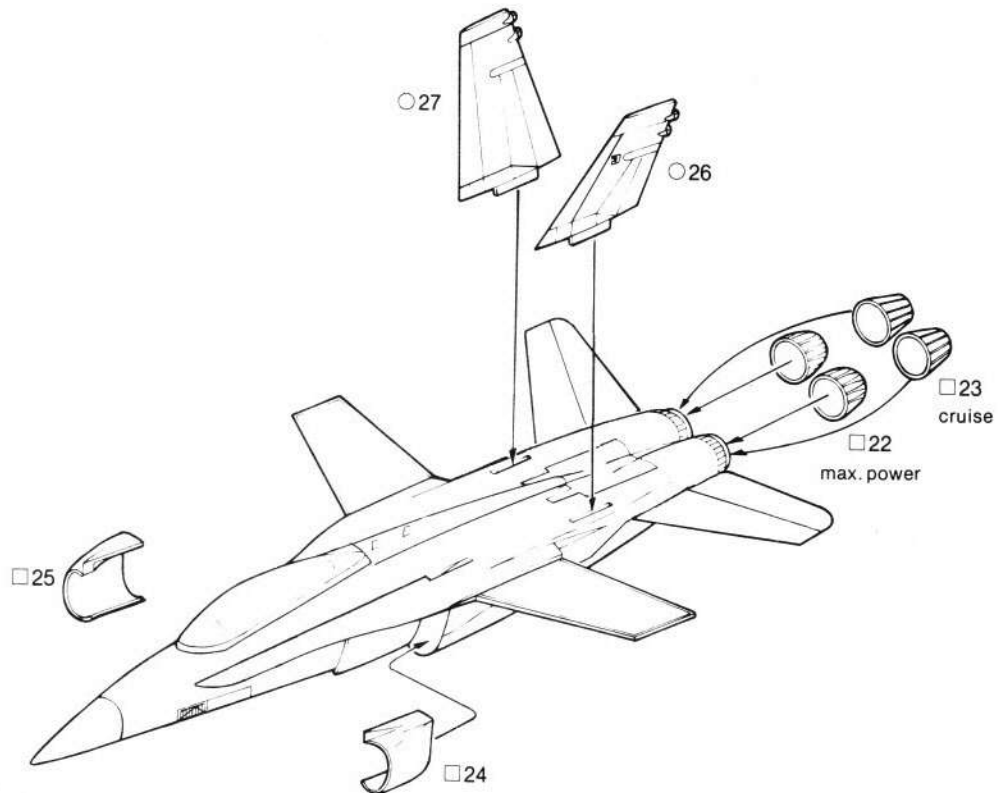
## Preliminary Painting

- 22 or □23:  
No. 1780 Steel
- 27, ○26 lights on tips of fins:  
FS 37875 White

**NOTE:** It may be easier to apply bar light and other decals onto fins at this time. Apply decals before installation, refer to **PAINTING** instructions on pages 10-12.

## Assembly

- 1. Select either open tail cones □22 or closed tail cones □23 and glue in place as shown.
- 2. Cement left intake duct □24 to left side of fuselage, and right intake duct □25 to right side of fuselage.
- 3. Cement left vertical fin ○26 and right vertical fin ○27 to fuselage as shown, using diagram for correct alignment.



# 6

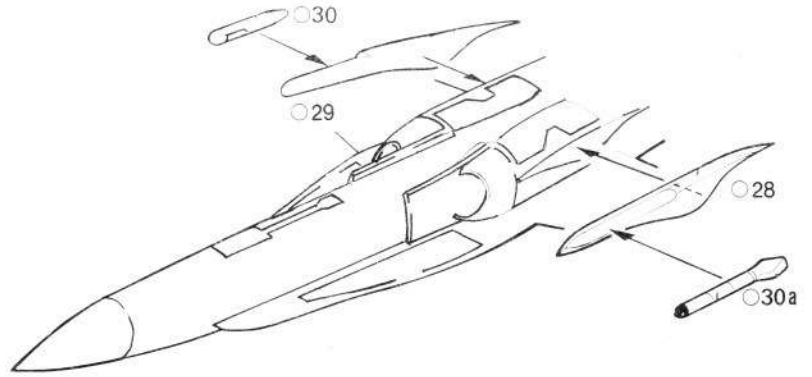
## PARTS 28-30a

### Preliminary Painting

○ 30a tip, FS 31136 Insignia Red

### Assembly

- 1. After checking fit, glue the right missile mount ○ 28 and left missile mount ○ 29 to sides of lower fuselage edges as shown.
- 2. Cement the Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) pod ○ 30 to the missile mount as shown. Now cement the Laser Detector Tracker (LOT) pod ○ 30a to the missile mount as shown.



# 7

## PARTS 31-33

### Preliminary Painting

□ 32 wheel hubs only; □ 31; □ 33 inside of doors:

FS 37875 White

□ 31 light at top of strut:

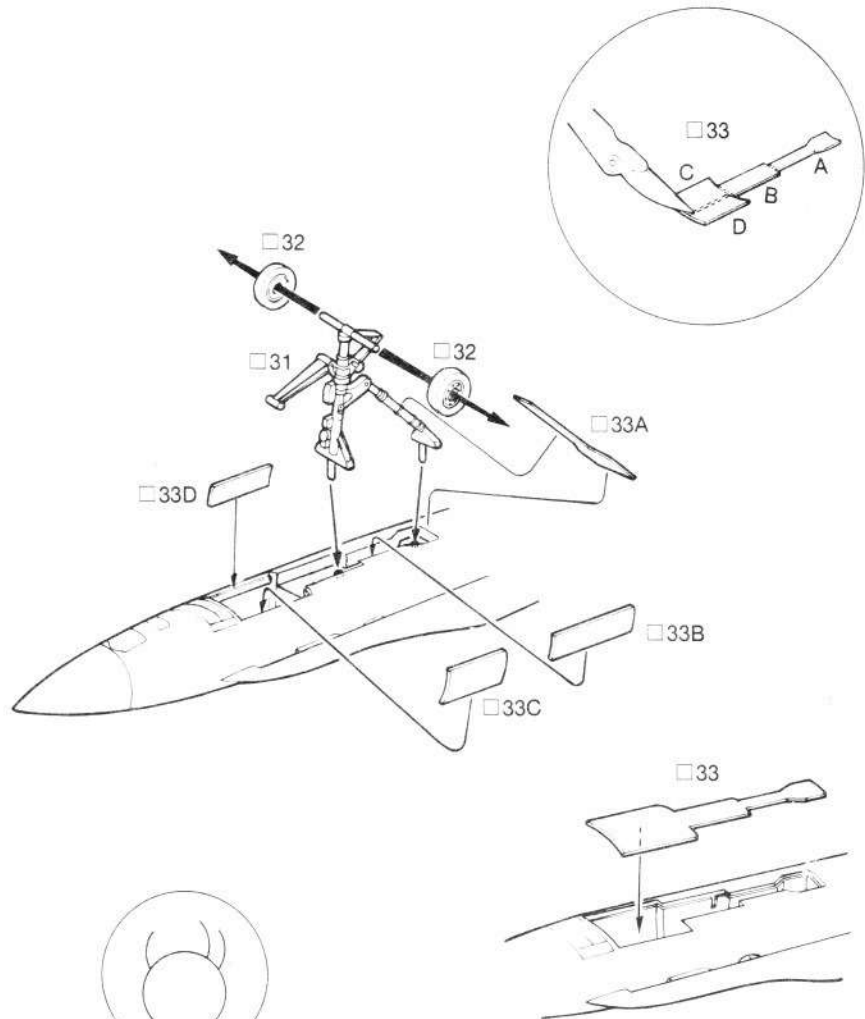
FS 17178 Chrome Silver

□ 32 tires only:

FS 37038 Flat Black

### Assembly

- 1. **Gear Up Model:** Cement landing gear door □ 33 into front wheel well.
- 2. **Gear Down Model:** Cut nose gear door □ 33 into four pieces as shown in diagram. Cement nose gear strut □ 31 into holes in nose gear panel as shown. Glue one nose wheel □ 32 to axles on either side of nose gear strut □ 31.
- 3. Cement nose gear doors □ 33A, □ 33B, □ 33C and □ 33D in place along opening and rear support arm as shown in drawing.



door position from nose

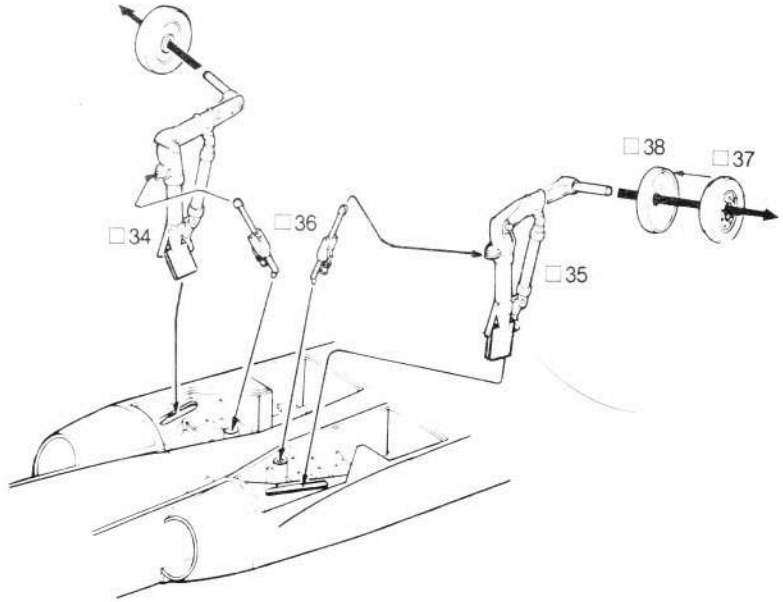
# 8 PARTS 34-38 GEAR DOWN MODEL ONLY

## Preliminary Painting

- 34, □ 35, □ 36; □ 37, □ 38 wheel hubs only:  
FS 17875 **Insignia White**
- 37, □ 38 tires only:  
FS 37038 **Flat Black**

## Assembly

1. Cement main gear struts □ 34 and □ 35 to slots in wheel wells as shown.
2. Cement main wheel halves □ 37 and □ 38 together, making two wheels. Glue one wheel to axles on each main gear strut □ 34 and □ 35.
3. Glue in two support struts □ 36 as shown.



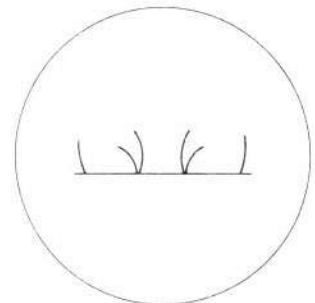
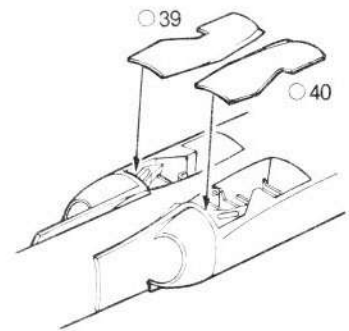
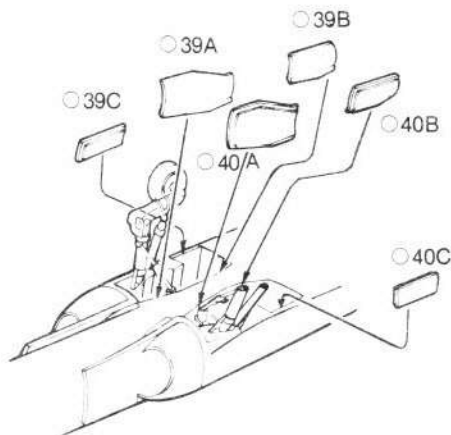
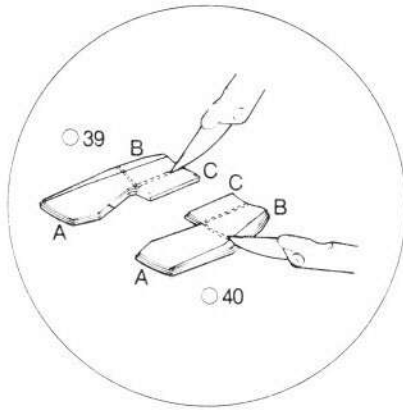
# 9 PARTS 39-40

## Preliminary Painting

- 39, ○ 40 inside of landing gear doors:  
FS 17875 **Insignia White**

## Assembly

1. **Gear Up Model:** Cement main gear doors □ 39 and □ 40 into wheel well as shown.
2. **Gear Down Model:** Cut main gear doors □ 39 and □ 40 into three pieces as shown in diagram. Glue each door into its respective position as shown.



door position from tail

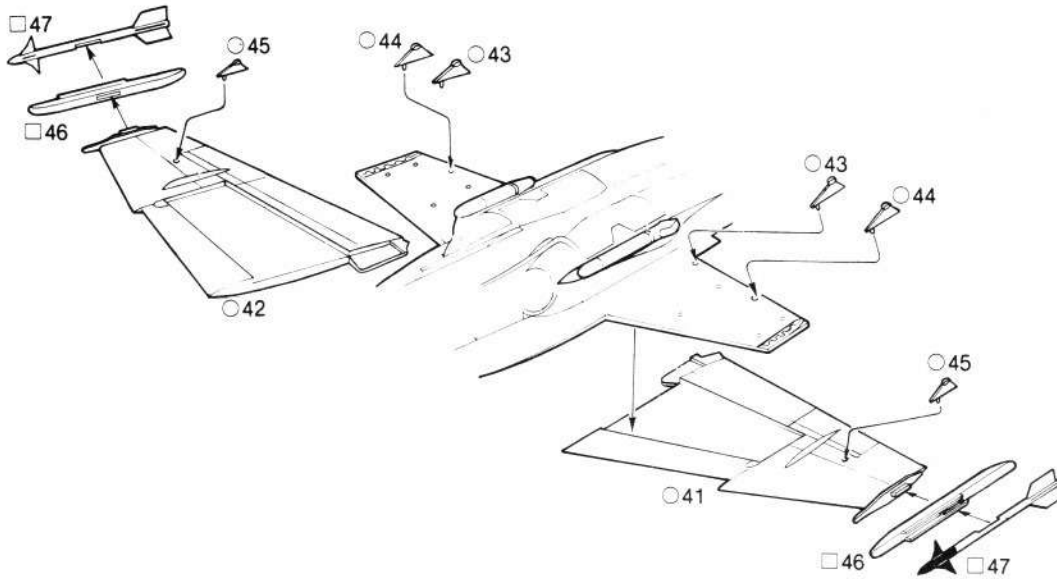
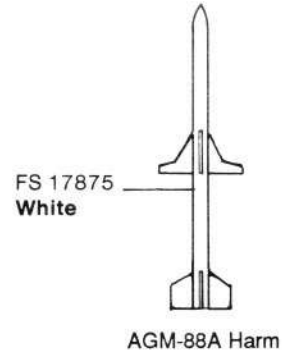
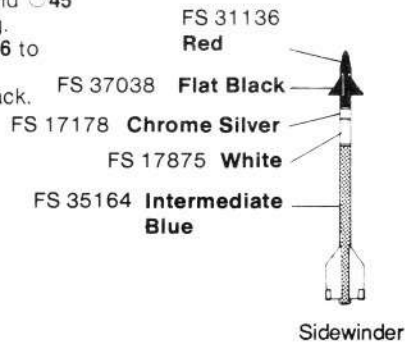
# 10 PARTS 41-47

## Preliminary Painting

- 47 Sidewinder missiles:  
see diagram at right

## Assembly

- 1. Glue wing halves ○ 41 and ○ 42 to wing stubs protruding from each side of fuselage.
- 2. Cement hinge covers ○ 43, ○ 44 and ○ 45 into locations indicated in drawing.
- 3. Glue one wing tip missile rack □ 46 to the tip of each wing. Cement one Sidewinder missile □ 47 to each rack.





## Preliminary Painting

- 56 arm portion of arrestor hook:  
FS 17875 **White** with  
FS 37038 **Black** stripes.
- 53, □ 54:  
FS 34087 **Olive Drab**
- 57 projecting portion of pitot tubes only:  
FS 17178 **Chrome Silver**

## Assembly

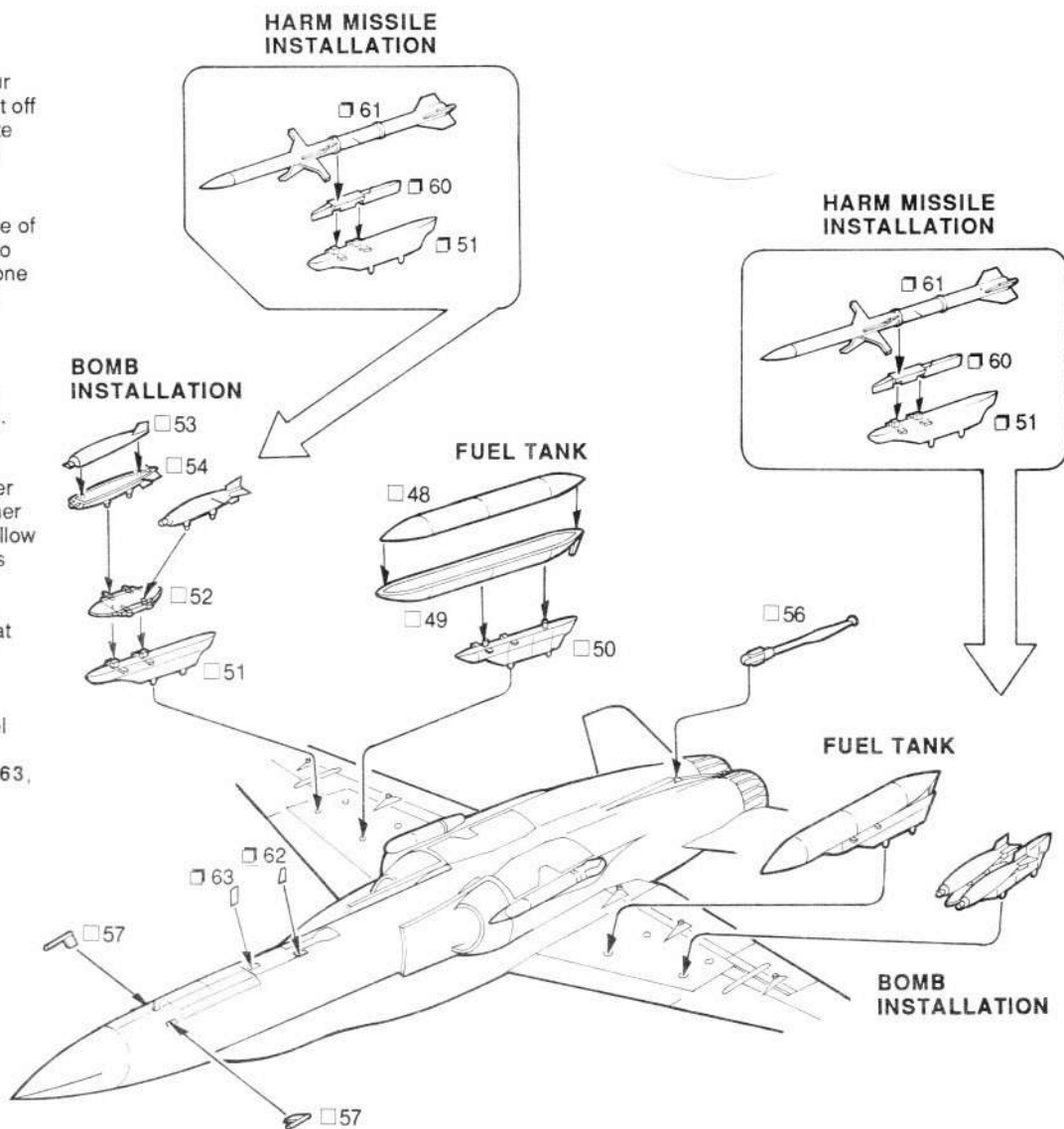
**NOTE:** It may be easier to paint and decal your model if bombs, missiles and drop tanks are left off until the model is completely finished. Complete the steps below when the model is painted and decals are applied.

- 1. Cement arrestor hook, 56, to the underside of the tail. Glue one inboard wing rack, 50, to inboard holes under each wing. Cement one outboard wing rack, 51, to outboard holes under each wing.

### OPTION:

You now have a choice. You can place bombs or AGM-88A Harm missiles on the outboard wing racks. The choice is your's. The parts required are different for both. Study the sketches.

- 2. Now cement the armament adaptors, either part 52 or part 60, depending upon whether you were going with bombs or Harms. Follow the inset drawings for the Harms. Build as shown.
- 3. If you selected the open canopy option at Step 2, you can now install canopy parts at this time. Refer to drawings on page 4 for placement.
- 4. Cement fuel tank halves, 48 and 49, together. Make two tanks. Cement one fuel tank to each of the inboard wing racks.
- 5. Now add the very delicate antennae, 62, 63, and pitot tubes, 57.








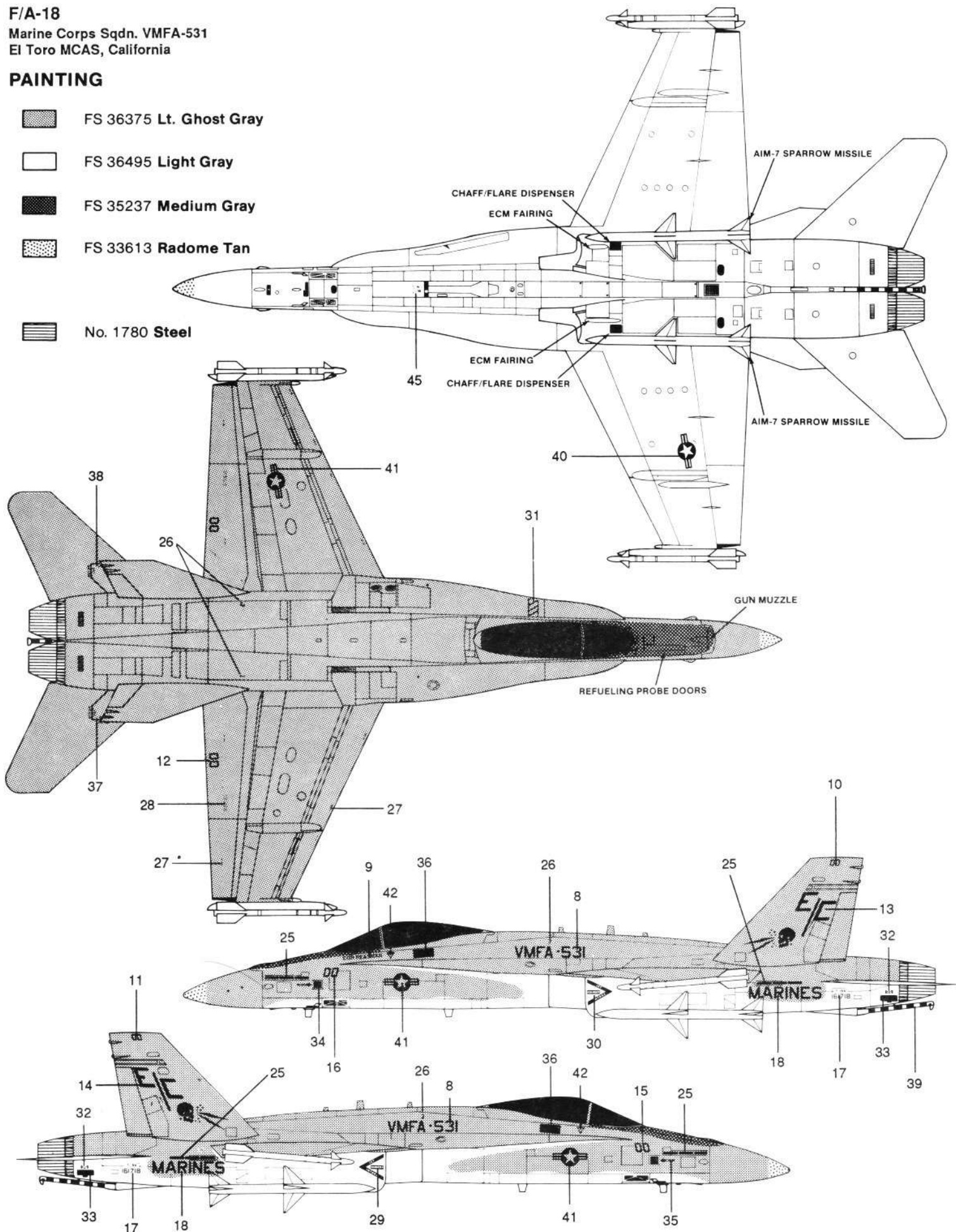
## APPLYING DECALS

1. After carefully masking canopy and other clear areas, spray entire model with Testor Glosscote #1261. Decals adhere best to a smooth surface and the shinier the finish, the smoother it is. Allow the Glosscote to dry thoroughly before going further.
2. Select the decals you plan to use, and cut each of them out from the decal sheet with small scissors or Testor Hobby Knife.
3. Working with only one decal at a time, dip the decal in clear water for no more than five seconds, then remove it from the water and place on a dry paper towel for about one minute.
4. When the decal slides easily on the backing paper, slide it to the edge of the paper and onto the surface of the model with a soft paintbrush or tweezers. Remember: the decals are very thin and can be easily ripped if care is not taken. Work slowly and patiently.
5. Once the decal is in the desired position, apply a small amount of Testor Decal Set #8804. This will help the decal to conform to any irregularities in the surface of the model (rivets, curves, etc.). Allow the decal to dry undisturbed. Should you find the decal has moved or should you desire to purposely move it, apply a little Decal Set to a soft brush and push the decal slowly into the desired position.
6. When the decals are completely dry (usually overnight), apply a coat of Testor Dullcote #1260 to the entire model. This will give it an authentic, dull finish and protect the surface of the model. Then carefully remove masking from canopy and other clear areas.

**F/A-18**  
 Marine Corps Sqdn. VMFA-531  
 El Toro MCAS, California

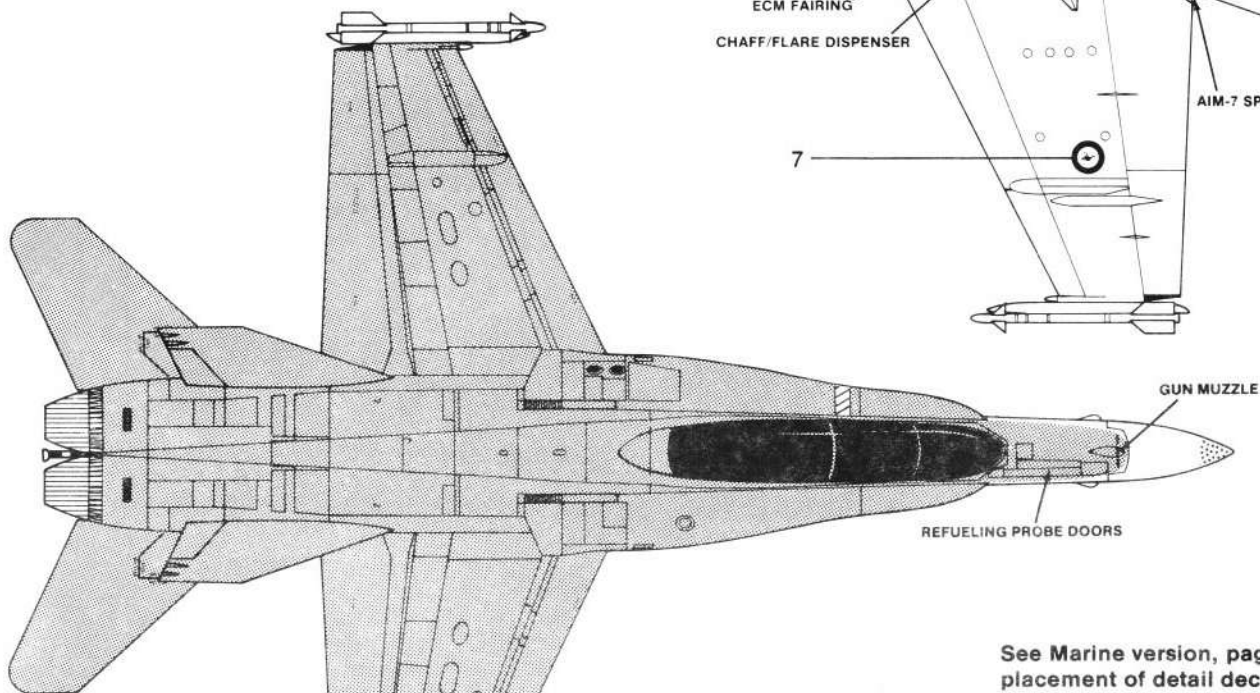
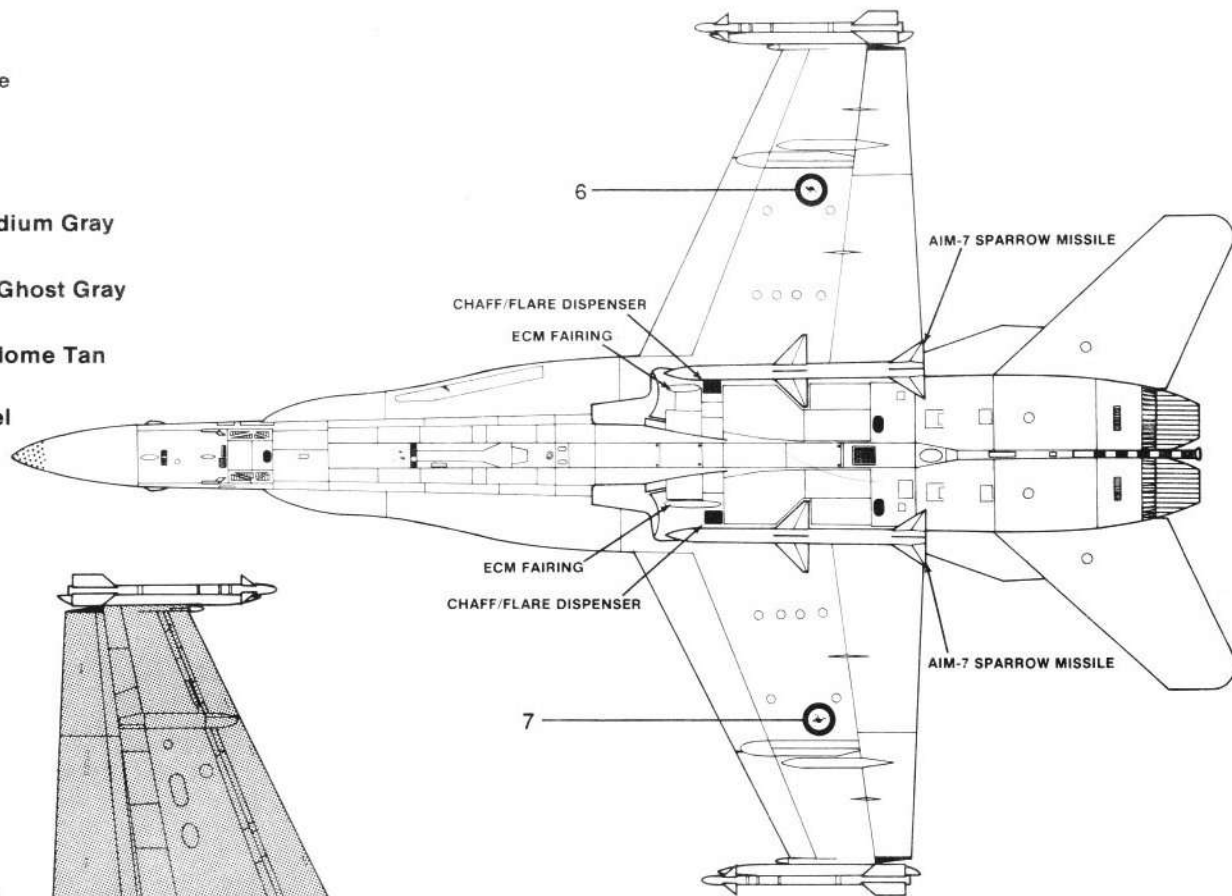
**PAINTING**

-  FS 36375 Lt. Ghost Gray
-  FS 36495 Light Gray
-  FS 35237 Medium Gray
-  FS 33613 Radome Tan
-  No. 1780 Steel

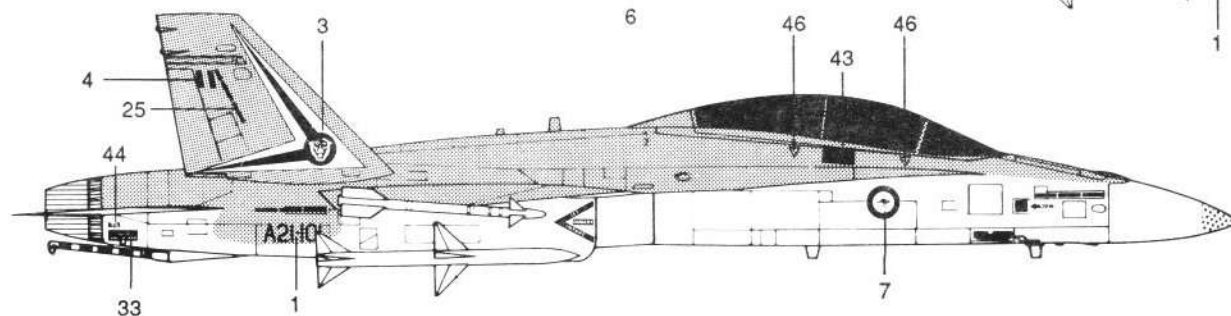
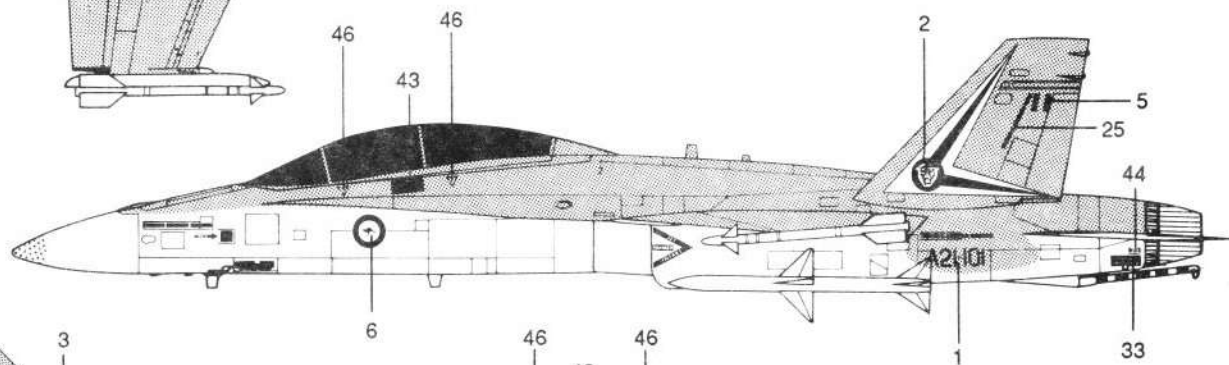


**PAINTING**

-  FS 35237 **Medium Gray**
-  FS 36375 **Lt. Ghost Gray**
-  FS 33613 **Radome Tan**
-  No. 1780 **Steel**



See Marine version, page 10, for placement of detail decals.

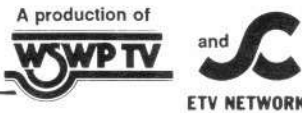


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