SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.XVIe

The Mk.XVIe was a modification of the MkIX using the US Packard Motor Company built 266 Merlin engine under licence from Rolls-Royce. This was the last mark of Spitfire to use the Merlin engine & all aircraft were manufactured at the Castle Bromwich, Shadow Factory. The mark number was changed from the IX for maintenance purposes to distinguish the two types of aircraft. They were built in two versions, the standard high backed fuselage & one with a cut down rear fuselage & bubble canopy. This was to improve rear vision for the pilot in case of enemy fighters approaching from above & behind. Both versions were produced with the "E" wing armament, that of two 20mm cannon & two 0.5inch machine guns. They also incorporated the pointed rudder & had a slight bulge in the top engine cover which the aircraft with Rolls-Royce engines did not have. Both aircraft were completed in early 1945 (TE199 on the 23-4) & (TD248 on the 11-5) & passed to a Maintenance Unit before be allocated to a Squadron.

This kit has never been issued by Airfix & is a special for Club Members only. The two decal designs chosen are of unique aircraft with quite different colour schemes from the norm.

TE199 The all black aircraft is interesting in having none standard RAF colours for the roundels & fin flash as the pale blue & pink were uncommon on aircraft at that time. There is also a debate as to the colour of the outer ring of the fuselage roundel being Yellow or Gold. We have added both colours (3 or 3a) so the modeller can make their own choice.

TD248 The natural metal aircraft can be seen regularly at Air Shows in the UK & carries a modified colour scheme from a 41 squadron machine which had a F22 aircraft painted in this livery. This aircraft is unusual in having a full span as most MkXVIs were built with clipped wings for use in the low level role.

Dimensions

Length 31ft 2inches (9.5m)

Standard Span 36ft 10inches (11.22m)

Clipped Span 32ft 6inches (9.9m)

Study drawings and practice assembly before cementing parts together. Carefully scrape plating and paint from cementing surfaces. All parts are numbered. Paint small parts before assembly. To apply decals cut sheet as required, dip in warm water for a few seconds, slide off backing into position shown. Use in conjunction with box artwork. Not appropriate for children under 36 months of age, due to the presence of small detachable parts.

















