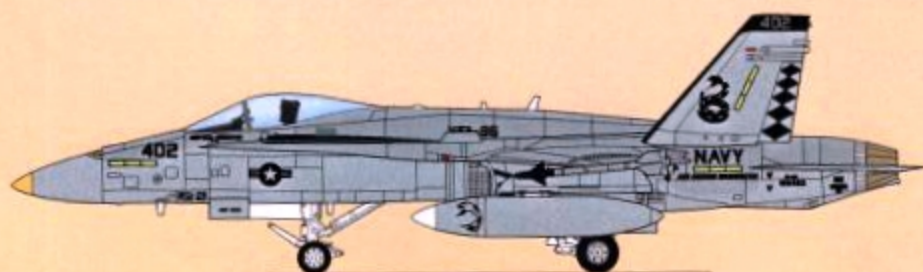


# AeroMaster

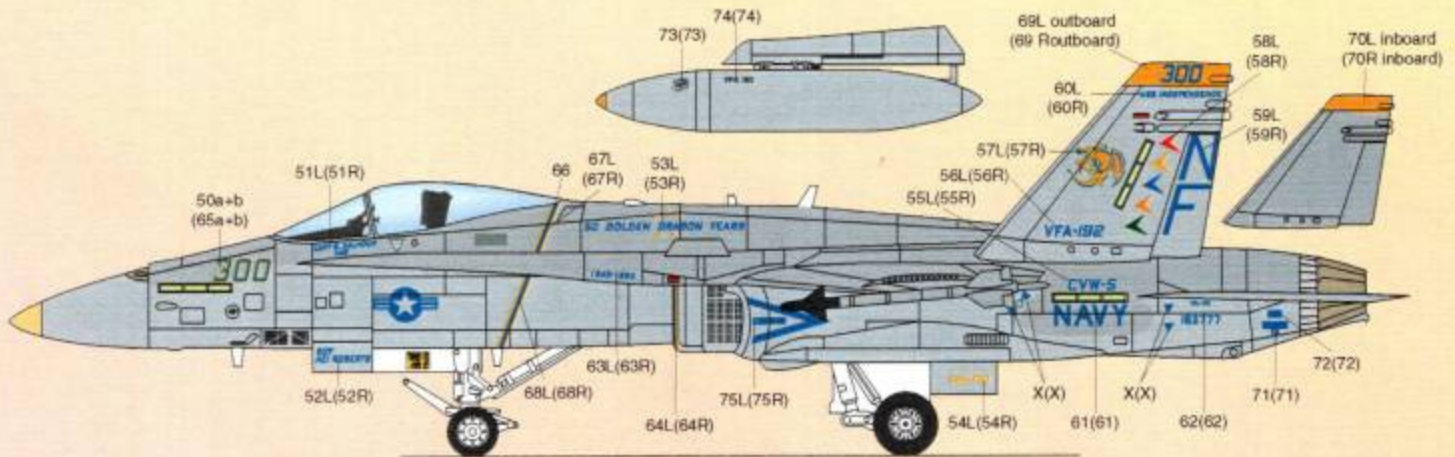
 PRODUCTS

## STINGING HORNETS

PT. 1



Suggested Kit: Hasegawa F-18



AIRCRAFT 1 • F-18A, BuNo. 163777, #300 of VFA-192 at Atsugi Naval Air Base, Japan 1995. CAG aircraft flown by Capt. B. Calhoun, CAG, and Capt. Dick Mauldin, Deputy CAG. Standard Ghost Gray scheme. The following year, this a/c wore one of the most garish schemes ever seen on an F-18 (found on AMD sheet # 72-172).

AIRCRAFT 2 • F-18C, BuNo. 163462, #402 of VFA-86 'Sidewinders', flown by Cdr. W.R. Sizemore, Executive Officer. Aircraft based on the USS George Washington, while visiting the port of Ft. Lauderdale, Fl; 1996/97.

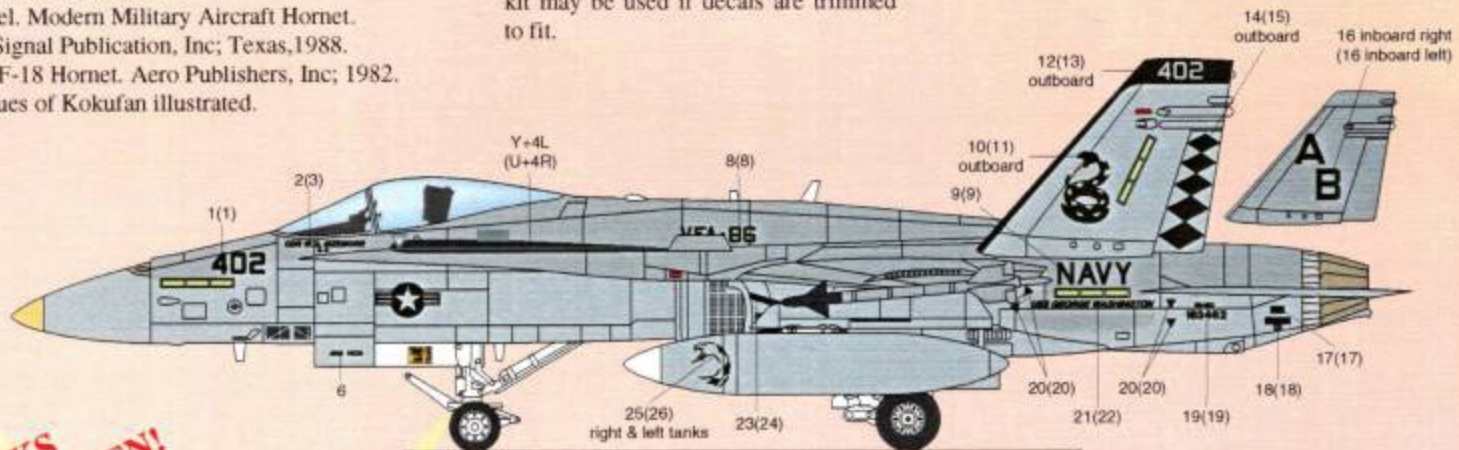
AIRCRAFT 3 • F/A 18A flown by the warlords of VMFA-451, Saudi Arabia, during "Desert storm", the Arabian Sun took a toll on US A/C during this operation, bleaching the colors a considerable amount, needing a lot of touch-ups along panel lines. Hardly any stencils are visible. Note this a/c wears a Lt. Gray insignia on its upper wing.

**References:**

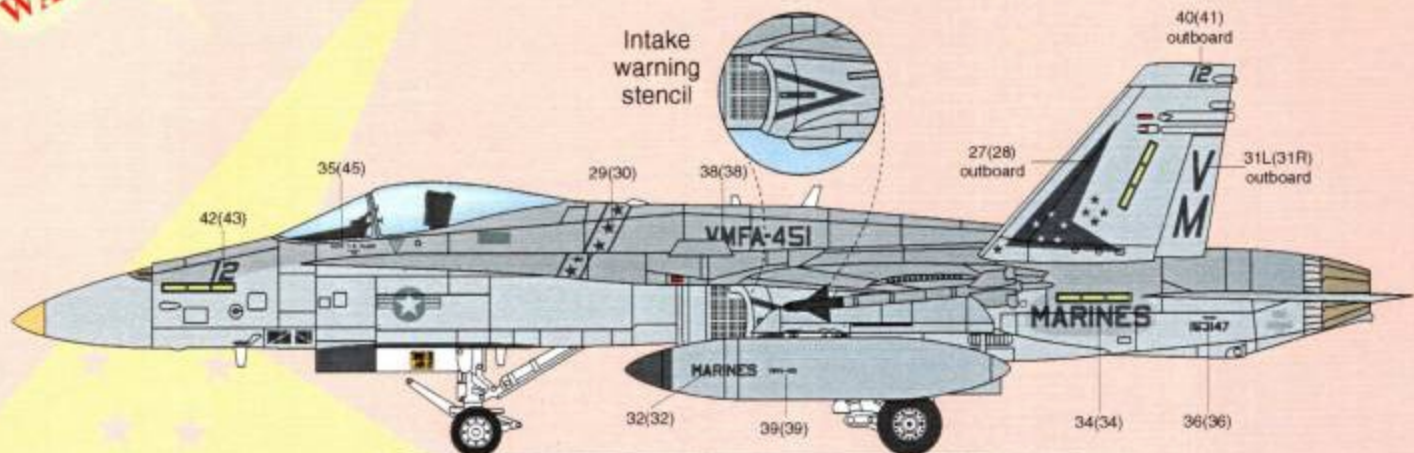
1. Photos by Warren Munkasy
2. Lou Drendel. F/A-18 Hornet in action. Squadron/Signal Publication, Inc. Texas, 1993.
3. Lou Drendel. Modern Military Aircraft Hornet. Squadron/Signal Publication, Inc; Texas, 1988.
4. Don Linn. F-18 Hornet. Aero Publishers, Inc; 1982.
5. Several issues of Kokufan illustrated.

**Suggested Kits:**

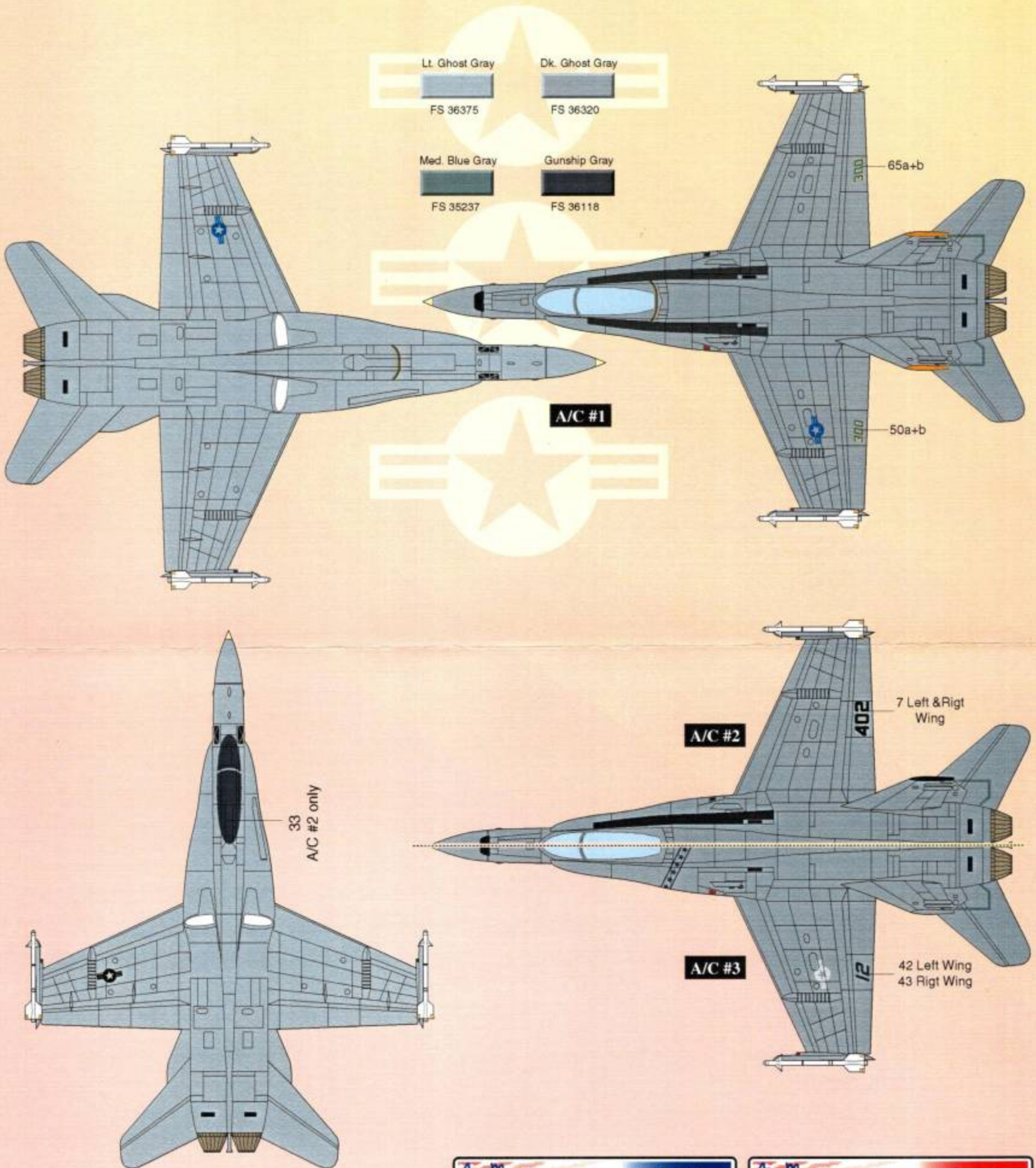
This set has been designed to fit the Hasegawa F18 kit family. Italeri's F18 kit may be used if decals are trimmed to fit.



**THANKS WARREN!**



# AeroMaster Decals™



If you have suggestions for future subject matter, AeroMaster would like to hear from you. Our goal is to provide high quality, well researched decals of unusual and interesting subjects. We value our customers' input, so if you have specific suggestions or photographs of unusual subject matter which you would be willing to share, please contact:

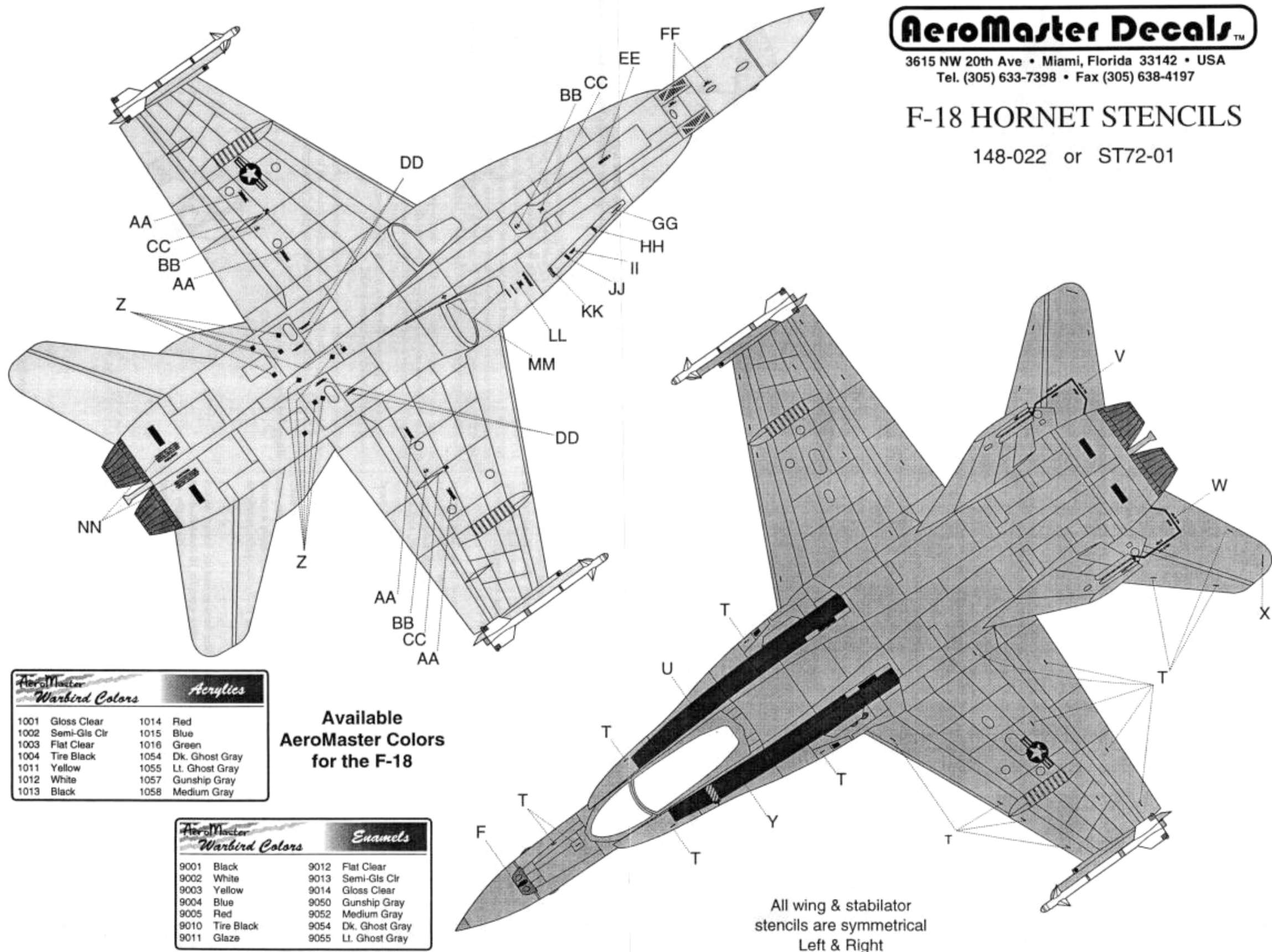
**AeroMaster Decals™**  
3615 NW 20th Ave • Miami, Florida 33142 • USA

AeroMaster Warbird Colors		Acrylics	
1001	Gloss Clear	1014	Red
1002	Semi-Gls Clr	1015	Blue
1003	Flat Clear	1016	Green
1004	Tire Black	1054	Dk. Ghost Gray
1011	Yellow	1055	Lt. Ghost Gray
1012	White	1057	Gunship Gray
1013	Black	1058	Medium Gray

AeroMaster Warbird Colors		Enamels	
9001	Black	9012	Flat Clear
9002	White	9013	Semi-Gls Clr
9003	Yellow	9014	Gloss Clear
9004	Blue	9050	Gunship Gray
9005	Red	9052	Medium Gray
9010	Tire Black	9054	Dk. Ghost Gray
9011	Glaze	9055	Lt. Ghost Gray

## F-18 HORNET STENCILS

148-022 or ST72-01

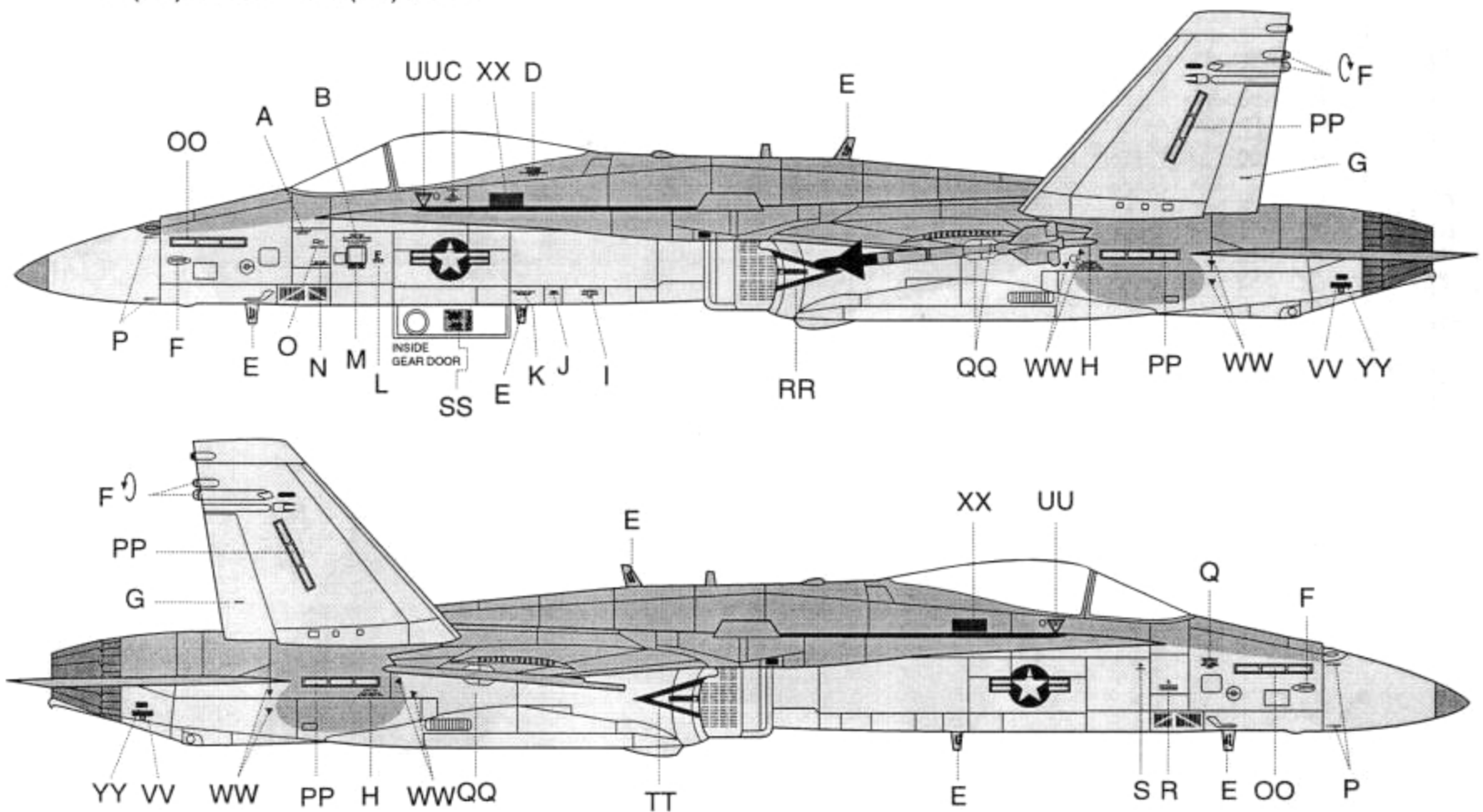


AeroMaster Warbird Colors		Acrylics	
1001	Gloss Clear	1014	Red
1002	Semi-Gls Clr	1015	Blue
1003	Flat Clear	1016	Green
1004	Tire Black	1054	Dk. Ghost Gray
1011	Yellow	1055	Lt. Ghost Gray
1012	White	1057	Gunship Gray
1013	Black	1058	Medium Gray

### Available AeroMaster Colors for the F-18

AeroMaster Warbird Colors		Enamels	
9001	Black	9012	Flat Clear
9002	White	9013	Semi-Gls Clr
9003	Yellow	9014	Gloss Clear
9004	Blue	9050	Gunship Gray
9005	Red	9052	Medium Gray
9010	Tire Black	9054	Dk. Ghost Gray
9011	Glaze	9055	Lt. Ghost Gray

All wing & stabilator  
stencils are symmetrical  
Left & Right



## A WORD ABOUT DECALING

Much has been written recently on how to apply decals, and although most of these articles explain correctly how to use water transfers, we feel a good explanation is in order.

When you use good quality decals (like Microscale's AMD, etc.) you should NOT trim the thin clear film around the item you are applying. This clear film is the buffer zone that allows the decal to disappear. Sometimes when you use other brands of decals, old or from kits, you may have to trim the clear part, since in most cases they are very irregular and ragged. We advise against trimming this very important part of your quality AMD decals.

There are two basic decaling solutions, and most go by a name ending in set or sol. That is where the similarities end. Aero Set, Micro Set, etc., are wetting solutions that allow you to move your decals over a surface without carrying air bubbles (which cause silvering) trapped between them. Always use a good soft brush to push your decals from one position to another, and avoid unnecessary repositioning. This will weaken the decal glue. Aero Sol, Micro Sol, etc., are the solvent solutions that soften your decals and allow them to conform to raised and recessed panel lines.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING DECALS

Most of the time AMD decals do not really need setting solutions. However, there are times when a little help is required. Decals will adhere better on a glossy surface than on a matte one. After you have painted your model with (what else!) AeroMaster Warbird Colors, apply a coat of Aero Gloss thinned down 20-25% with Airbrush Thinner and allow to dry for approximately an hour.

Cut each subject carefully. DO NOT trim the excess clear film from around the image, as this allows the decal film to disappear when dry. Dip the decal into clean water for 10 seconds. Allow water to soften decal adhesive for approximately one minute or until decal slides easily on backing paper. Do not force decal to slide before adhesive is completely dissolved, or the decal film may tear.

It is always a good practice to apply Aero Set to the surface where you are going to place your decal. Carefully slide the decal on the wet area and position it in the correct place and wait a few minutes before touching it again.

Some decals that are printed on a paper called Deca-Fix, leave a white milky residue. This is normal, but residue must not be allowed to dry on your model, or you will have a never drying spotty finish on your model, when you apply your final coat. Adhesion on these decals is excellent.

When the surface of the decal is almost dry carefully place a drop or two of Aero Sol on the decals, making sure the whole decal is wet. Now go help your wife with the dishes or watch Wings on TV.

Do Not Touch It! Resist the temptation. Wait until the next morning, or evening for that matter, to handle the decal. If you find any air bubbles or silvering, poke a small hole through the decal with a pin or the point of a sharp knife at the affected area. Put a drop of Aero Sol on the bubble or silvered area. Again resist the temptation to handle the decal. The next morning your model is ready for the next step, which I hope you know is washing off your model with warm water and mild detergent in order to remove the decal glue residue. If this residue is not washed off it can cause fish-eyes in the next clear coat. Do not scrub the model. Rinse it off well, making sure you don't have soap bubbles coming out of little holes. Let the model air dry.

A light coat of Aero Gloss will seal the decals, preventing them from lifting or yellowing. Weather the model as you normally do. Now decide whether you want a gloss, semi-gloss, or flat final finish and apply several light coats of the final clear coat.

It may seem complicated but really it isn't. Remember, patience makes the difference between a run of the mill model and a great model.

AMD Decals are made with the finest materials available. There are some setting solutions on the market that are too strong for today's high quality decals, so be careful what you use. Remember, if you have any questions or suggestions we are only a phone call away.

## Happy Decaling



PS Use this technique when cutting wet decals

## COLOR NOTES ON HORNETS (US)

During the early days of the Hornet, up to the early to mid 80's, F-18s were painted as follows:

Upper Surfaces were Lt. Ghost Gray FS 36375

Under Surfaces were Lt. Gray FS 36495

Antiglare Panels were Medium Gray FS 35237

Servicing Markings were Medium Gray FS 35237

Outer Surface of Vertical Fins FS 36495

Inner Surfaces of Vertical Fins FS 36375

Squadron applied markings were a combination of the three above mentioned colors plus FS 36118.

As with most naval A/C, constant touch ups of areas affected by corrosion gave these A/C a very stained or dirty look. These touch ups were mostly around panel joints and hatches or doors.

Around the mid 80's, new colors were introduced.

Upper surfaces were Dk Ghost Gray FS 36320

Lower surfaces were Lt Ghost Gray FS 36375

Outer surfaces of vertical fin FS 36375

Inner surfaces of vertical fin FS 36320

Most A/C dispensed with the anti-glare panel and the service markings remained FS 35237

Color demarcation also changed, and the Dk Ghost Gray did not cover the front lower fuselage section below the wing glove. Generally the radome cap was natural fiberglass color (tan) on both, early and late schemes.

Of course there were a lot of variations to these rules. Modelling a Modern US Naval A/C in mint condition (Tactical Scheme) will result in a very unrealistic and dull looking model. We recommend that you look at the published references, magazines, or any photo publications on F-18's and try your hat at some weathering, especially around the panel joints, wing walks, and landing gear area. Remember, a little is better than a lot, so exercise discretion and we wish you good luck. Our thanks to Bill Hardman, of the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola for his help confirming the color for the Hornets.

Our thanks to you Bill