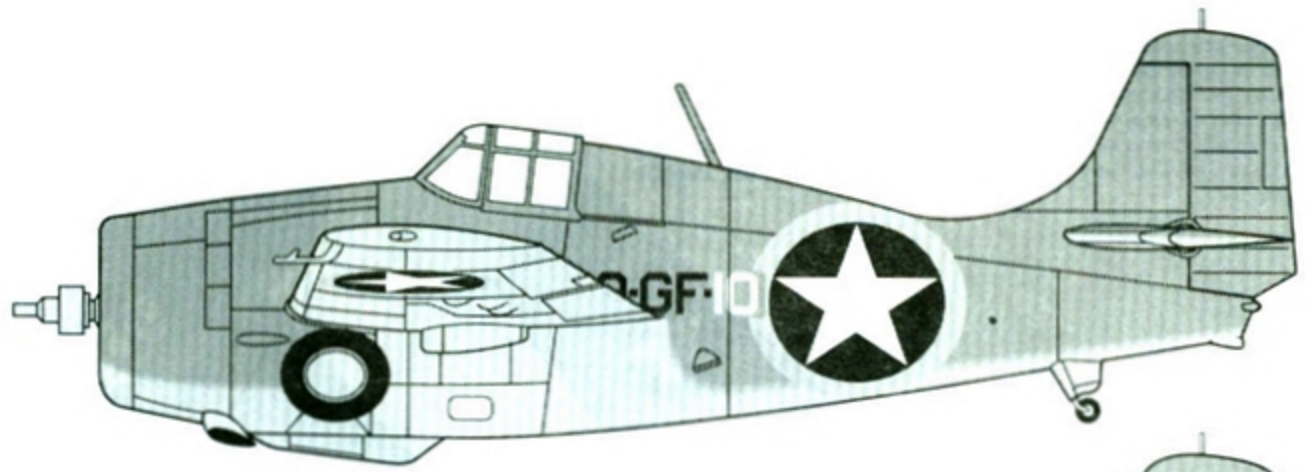


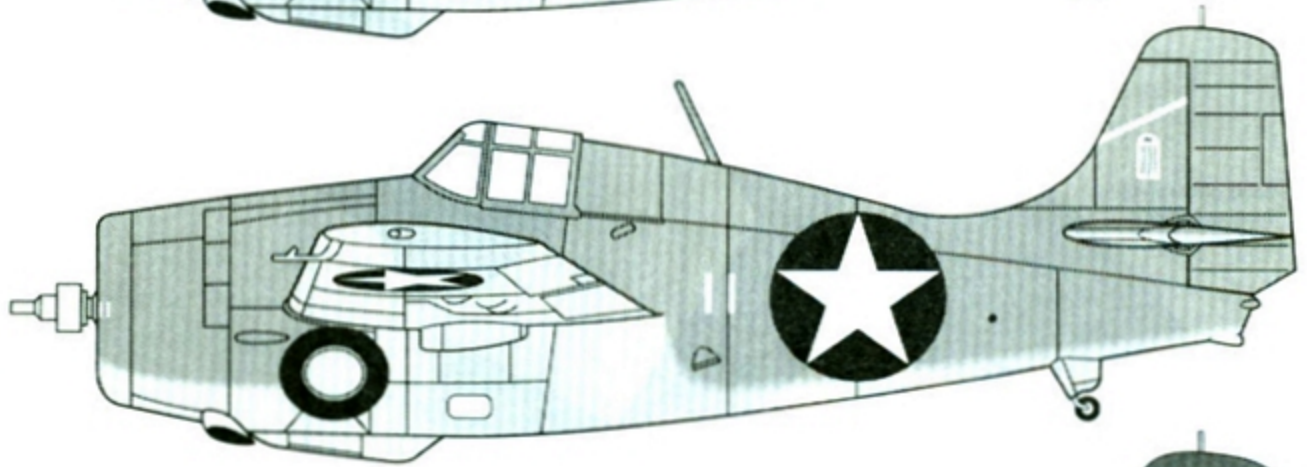
# Grumman F4F-4 Wildcat

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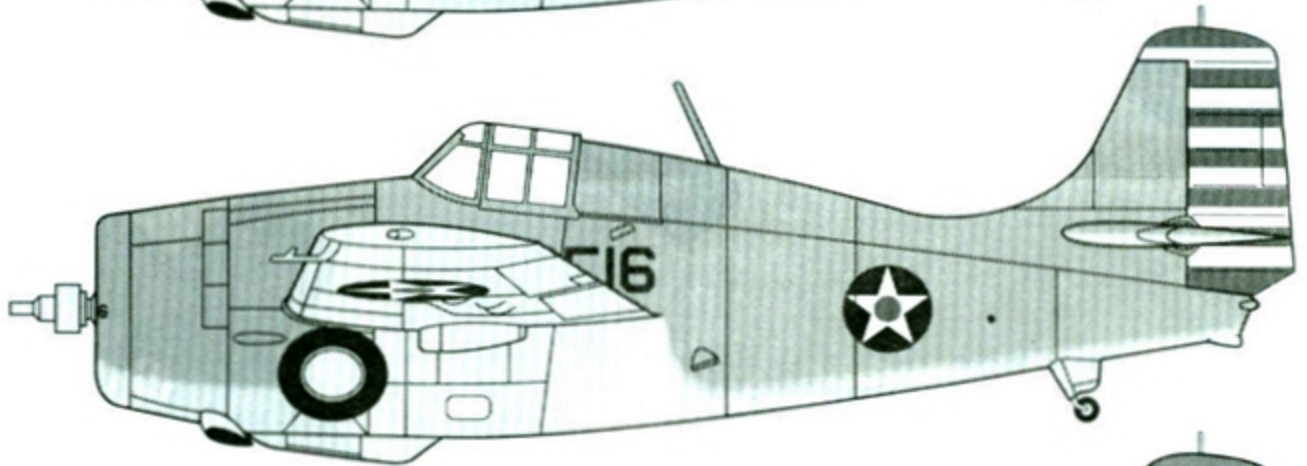
F4F-4 of VGF-29, USS Santee, Operation Torch (North African landings) November 1942. Aircraft finish is non-specular (matte) Blue Grey on uppersurfaces, and non-specular Light Grey on undersurfaces. For Torch, aircraft carried yellow outlines to fuselage and underwing insignia. (ref. 2, 4)



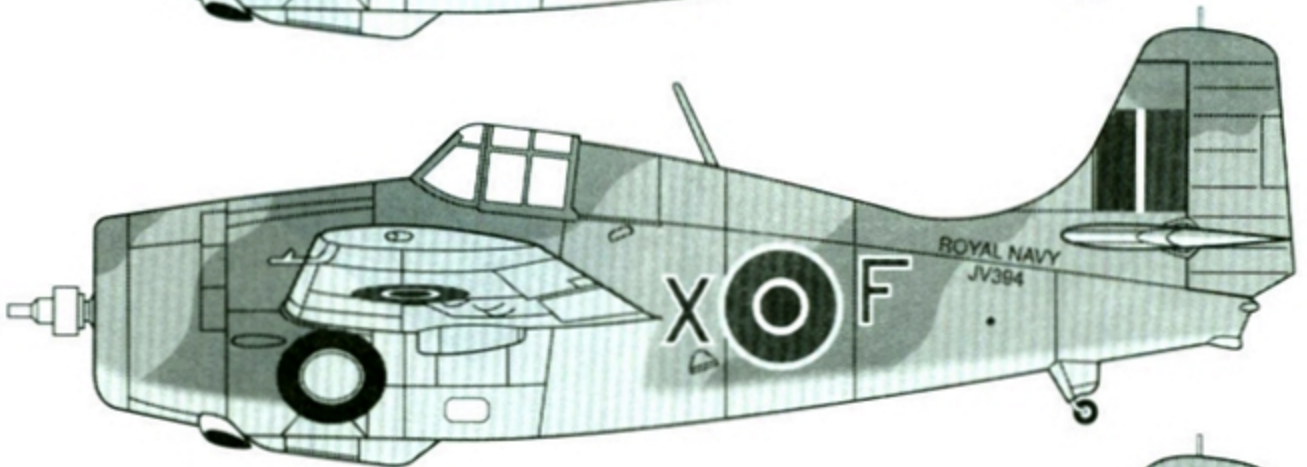
F4F-4 of VF-6, USS Enterprise, August 1942. Aircraft finish is non-specular Blue Grey on uppersurfaces, and non-specular Light Grey on undersurfaces. Note the small "11" on both sides of the cowling front. The kill register on the fin is the squadron total, and not that of this particular machine. (ref. 4)



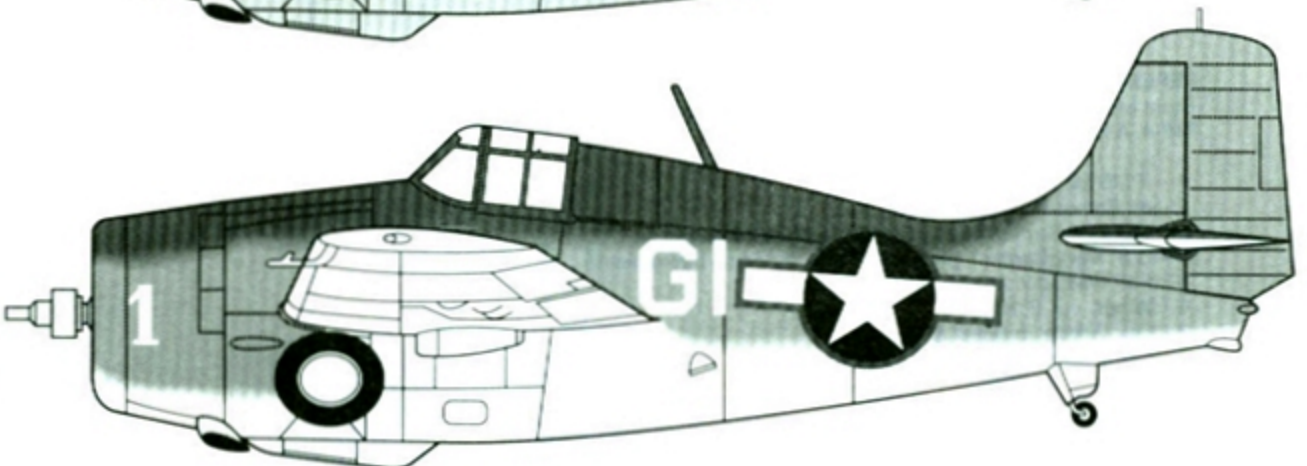
F4F-4 of VF-6, USS Enterprise, 18 April, 1942. Aircraft finish is non-specular Blue Grey on uppersurfaces, and non-specular Light Grey on undersurfaces. Note the small "16" on both sides of the cowling front. (ref. 4)



An FM-1 (Martlet V) of No. 842 Sqn, HMS Fencer, summer 1944. The aircraft is finished in a scheme of Dark Slate Grey and Extra Dark Sea Grey, with Sky undersurfaces. (ref. 1, 5)



An FM-1 in mid-1943 markings (as evidenced by the red outlined insignia). Overall finish is three-tone semi-gloss Sea Blue, non-specular Intermediate Blue, and non-specular White. Note that the GI codes should actually be horizontal on the fuselage, while the insignia are at an angle. (ref. 6, 8)

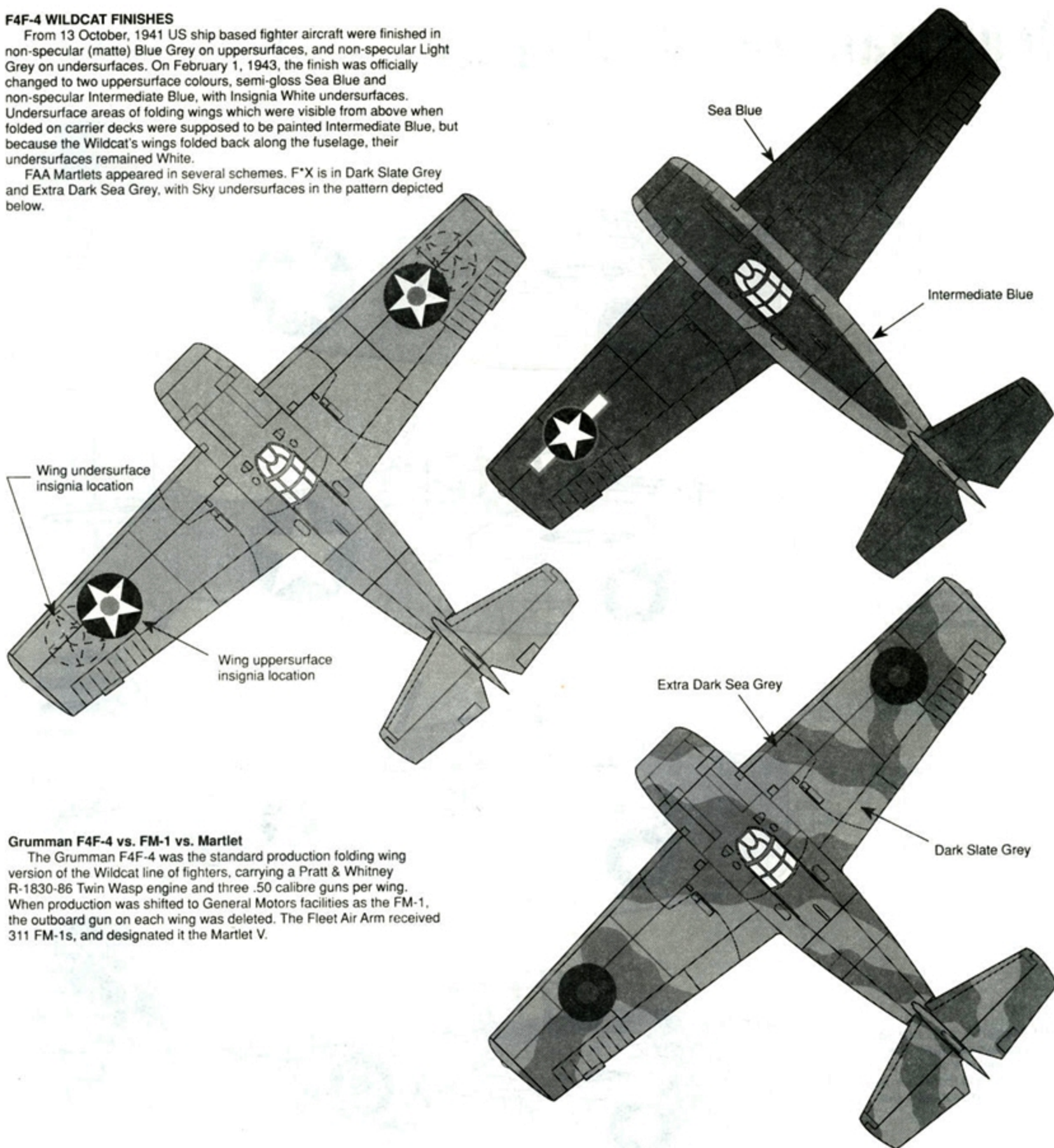




#### F4F-4 WILDCAT FINISHES

From 13 October, 1941 US ship based fighter aircraft were finished in non-specular (matte) Blue Grey on upper surfaces, and non-specular Light Grey on undersurfaces. On February 1, 1943, the finish was officially changed to two upper surface colours, semi-gloss Sea Blue and non-specular Intermediate Blue, with Insignia White undersurfaces. Undersurface areas of folding wings which were visible from above when folded on carrier decks were supposed to be painted Intermediate Blue, but because the Wildcat's wings folded back along the fuselage, their undersurfaces remained White.

FAA Martlets appeared in several schemes. F\*X is in Dark Slate Grey and Extra Dark Sea Grey, with Sky undersurfaces in the pattern depicted below.



#### Grumman F4F-4 vs. FM-1 vs. Martlet

The Grumman F4F-4 was the standard production folding wing version of the Wildcat line of fighters, carrying a Pratt & Whitney R-1830-86 Twin Wasp engine and three .50 calibre guns per wing. When production was shifted to General Motors facilities as the FM-1, the outboard gun on each wing was deleted. The Fleet Air Arm received 311 FM-1s, and designated it the Martlet V.

#### REFERENCES

There are some excellent references for detailing and finishing the F4F-4. Among those most useful are the following:

- 1 – IPMS Magazine, issue 2/1990
- 2 – Air Enthusiast Quarterly, No. 3
- 3 – US Navy Carrier Aircraft Colours, by Geoff Thomas
- 4 – U.S. Navy Carrier Fighters of WW II, Aerodata International
- 5 – F4F Wildcat in Action, Aircraft No. 84
- 6 – Wings, vol. 2, No.1
- 7 – F4F Wildcat in Detail & Scale
- 8 – F4F Wildcat, Koku-Fan monograph

#### KITS

The kit to use when building a 1/48 scale F4F-4 is the excellent version produced by Tamiya.

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