

## Hobbycraft Airacomet 1/48 HC1438



By Paul Gasiorowski

I decided to dig this out of my stash and build something that would be quick and easy. The kit consisted of 5 light gray sprues and 1 clear sprue plus a sprue with rubber tires on it. I started with the cockpit sidewalls painting them bronze green. The instrument panel was painted black plus the seat. I added some photo etch seat belts which makes the plain seat look a lot better. I added some decals (instrument dials) which made the panel look a lot better. Painted the sides of the cockpit green zinc chromate, it adds a different color to the inside of the cockpit. Behind the seat was what looks like armored glass with the headrest attached. Behind this panel was mounted the radio battery.

I then glued the seat assembly to the side of the fuselage and the front wheel well to one side of the fuselage. Joined the fuselage halves together working my way down the seam gluing and trying to eliminate as much of the ridge as I went along. The rear section of the fuselage came in 2 pieces which was then glued together. Before gluing it to the main section, I smoothed out the seam.

The wing assemblies were assembled next. On this model it was easier to preassemble them, rather than attach the lower section to the fuselage first. A problem here was that the upper wing did not fit well. The tops of the wheel wells had to be sanded down in order for the upper wing to fit comfortably and correctly. This process took a lot of sanding and fitting since I didn't want to sand through the top of the wheel wells. The instructions show to glue the exhaust stacks to the lower wing first. I made sure that the exhausts fit

snuggly and decided to leave them off till the end of the assembly. Taking some liberty I add a small section of tubing inside the exhausts to give them a little better definition and look. While waiting for all this to dry, I was looking at a sprue and saw 2 parts I didn't recognize. These happen to be the splitter plates just inside the intakes. Missing this step took a lot of extra work, because the plates were flat and the insides of the intakes are curved. I had to sand these down to thin them so I could form them to fit the intakes. A review on the Internet gave me the solution for this problem. The reason someone would miss them as they don't show up in the instructions.



I spent a couple of hours cleaning up the seams on the fuselage. I then painted the wheel wells and associated gears doors zinc chromate. I then masked the canopy sections (3) which took a while. The canopy sections have a little ridge which makes it easier to cut the masking tape. I made a mistake and used regular scotch tape on the rear section which will leave residue after you peel it off. I used Tamiya tape for the other 2 sections.

The flaps were glued to the wings (4) and horizontal elevators (2). These pieces had the look of being fabric covered. But on the early jet they were probably aluminum.

The instructions did not give a painting guide.(Turn the BOX over Dummy)



But the first page gave a list of 9 colors to be used. So based on the decals supplied indicated a possible three paint schemes, USN colors overall, olive drab and British colors of RAF dark green and Ocean grey. Based on what I saw on the internet and reviews I went with the Olive Drab. I used Model Master Acryl, Olive Drab. Before painting the wings I drilled out some small hole to be used for position lights after it was completed.

