

Ju 87G-1 "Tank Buster" Stuka 1/48 Monogram No PA207



By Paul Gasiorowski

The ear splitting screech is the hallmark of the Stuka on its dive bombing run. The Ju 87A was first used in the Spanish Civil War by the Condor legion. This was the first version used in 1938 and 1939. This model of the Ju 87G-1 represents the last version to see combat. The installation of the two 37mm BK (flak 36) cannon under the wings to try and stop the hordes of Russian tanks on the Eastern Front. The type also represents the one flown by Major Ulrich Rudel who had a record of destroying more than 500 tanks.

This Monogram kit was purchase for \$6.00 from Bill Koester, since Bill is cleaning house. Based on the information this kit was produced in 1968 and reintroduced in 1983. It consists of 2/3 sprues of dark green plastic and a clear sprue of 4 pieces to make the cockpit.

I started with greenhouse canopy by taping off the frames and painting the frames RLM02 gray. After finishing with the RLM 02 gray, I followed up with RLM71 dark green. Next was the cockpit tub painted RLM02 and the seats were painted dark tan. The seatbelts are molded on so I just painted them a dark brown. The sidewalls were painted RLM02 and then touched up the details with various colors.

I then cemented the cockpit tub to the right side of the fuselage. After this dried the left side of the fuselage was attached and put aside to dry. While this assembly was drying I

put together the wheels and painted them flat black and then attached the skirt assemblies. Next was the assembly of the gun pods. After these assemblies dried, I drilled out the front of the guns to try and replicate what the front of a 37mm cannon would look like.



After the fuselage dried, I sanded out the top and bottom seams. The bottom of the wing was then attached to the body and set aside to dry. The top of the wings were attached next. They lined up fairly well and needed no filling of seams or sanding required. The horizontal stabilizer was cemented in place along with the under supports for the stabilizer. Finally the rudder was attached.

The first thing I painted were the underside of the fuselage, wings, stabilizer, the cannon pods and the stabilizer supports with Model Master Acryl RLM 65 Hellblau (Light Blue). After letting it dry for a day I painted the up surfaces with Model Master Acryl RLM 71 Dunkelgrun (Dark Green). Letting it dry for another day I painted the underside of the wing at the tips with Model Master Insignia Yellow FS 33538.

After letting it dry for another day I sprayed the model with Future to give it a base for the decals. The decals went down without much trouble for being over 20 years old plus. The yellow band was made with a solid yellow decal sheet I had laying around.

This was probably a little less trouble than masking it off and airbrushing the yellow on. Swastikas were noted as being on the tail of the aircraft. There were Swastikas on one of the decal sheets, but they promptly fell apart when I took them out of the water. I ordered some from Squadron to finish the decaling.



At this point I added the landing gear and the 2 cannons and some of the other small details. For the aerial I used some transparent nylon thread and ran it across a black Sharpie marker. To give the ends of the aerial a little more heft I used some clear canopy cement and then touched up with a Black Sharpie. Overall the model was not a bad build for being OOB. You could order some details from Squadron or Hannants to improve the cockpit interior. Interior details would be available for the Ju-87D, but could probably be adapted to the "G" model. Also resin wheels are available. Most of the aftermarket details are for the Hasegawa kit. It took about 10 hours to assemble the model.



