

BREWSTER MODEL 239

Classic Airframes 1/48 #4101



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In the mid 1930's, the U.S. Navy needed to replace its biplane fighters with a more modern aircraft. After several manufactures competed for the aircraft, it was awarded to Brewster Aeronautical Corp. It was designed by Dayton Brown as the F2A-1, an all metal monoplane with retractable landing gear. The navy ordered 52 F2A-1's but only 11 were delivered. The remaining order was to be replaced with the more powerful F2A-2's. Then the Navy cancelled the order and told Brewster to denavalize (whatever the heck that means) the plane and sell them to Finland as the Type 239. Finland used the plane to defend themselves from the Soviet Union. The planes were marked with Finnish colors and insignias, but also with German markings for squadron LeLv 2-4, depending on the flight group they were assigned.

The kit comes with 3 sprues of very thick and hard plastic. A fret of photo etch parts, lots of them and very small. Some resin parts and clear parts. An 8 page instruction sheet is enclosed, with painting guides for each step.

All the parts were washed in a lukewarm soapy solution, rinsed and then air dry. The first couple of steps to build the internal engine mounts, MG mounts which consists of

20 plus parts, that when put together will be lost inside the aircraft. This assembly is then glued to the bottom wing. The engine assembly consisted of 4 parts, which also had the engine mounts attached to the previous assembly of internal parts. I detailed the engine by painting the engine block gray, the cylinder heads aluminum and then dry brushed the cylinders with some black paint. This was also an issue because the part had to be glued in place before the fuselage was attached to the lower wing. This is where some dry fitting was required to make sure that there wouldn't be problems later in the assembly process. The next step calls for the upper wings to be glued in place. I skipped this step as some dry fitting indicated there might be a gap between the wing and fuselage. The instructions call for adding the left side of the fuselage to the wing, skipped this step also and went to detailing the side walls.



I worked on the inside of the fuselage near the cockpit area. There are about 20 small parts consisting of plastic and photo-etch that are glued to the cockpit side walls. These represent controls, radio boxes, instrument panels, etc. The seat is just a tub, but adding photo-etch seatbelts and buckles adds some detail to this part. I painted the side walls both gray and a washed out black, added some silver paint to the added photo-etch parts. I let this sit for a day or two to make sure all the small parts stayed put.

I tape the fuselage halves together and did some dry fitting to the lower wing to insure I didn't have any issues with gaps, etc. The two halves were then joined together and set aside to dry. The tail assembly consisted of 2 parts which were glued together and attached to the main assembly. Any seam issues were cleaned up before mounting the fuselage to the lower wing assembly.



The lower wing had some resin parts, rib sections added to the wheel well area. These were painted aluminum. The fuselage was then added to the lower wing and set aside to dry. **Oops** here as I forgot to attach the instrument panel to the plane before attaching the wing. The upper wings were dry fitted and glued in place. There were small gaps and I used some Elmer's putty to fill in, which did a pretty good job. The next step was to add the horizontal stabilizers and line them up correctly. The front cowling was glued in place and seams cleaned up. I assembled the landing struts and painted the inside of the doors aluminum and the outside Light Blue.

I used Model Master Acrylics, RLM 65 4778 Hellblau (Light Blue) for the undersides, Dark Green 4726 and Flat Black 4768 for the upper fuselage. The canopy frames took a long time to mask and paint and these came out fairly well. After a couple of days I gave

it a couple of coats of Future. I then added the decals and used the Finnish codes for the airplane.

Now I added the remaining landing struts, wheels and rear wheel to the plane. I painted the position lights red and green and added them to the wing, along with the propeller, radio antenna, pitot tube and the rest of the small parts. This included the instrument panel that was left off way back when in the assembly.

I don't know if there any pluses to this kit other than the multiple color schemes you can have. Also all the photo-etch parts are nice but very small and most would be hidden. The negatives are no pins to line up the fuselage halves, too much detail internally that will be hidden, but needs to be added to mount the engine and cockpit tub. For example 13 parts for the machine gun mount, has to be put together perfectly in order for the fuselage halves to come together correctly. The model looks good and I built it because it's not a common model we see and I like building weird ones.

