

F100D Super Sabre



Monogram No. 5471 1/48 w/Photo Etch Details

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I decided to do this as one of the Fighter Squadrons that were stationed in Viet Nam. The unit I chose was the 510th Tactical Fighter Squadron (Nickel Dime or Buzzards), with the particular serial number of x. Some units that first arrived in the Viet Nam Theater came from the States finished in natural metal. Later units that arrived were painted with the SEA color scheme. The patterns varied from squadron to squadron, plane to plane. I took the pattern based on the information I found in International Air Power Review Vol. 11. Using the fold out layout in the book, I was able to reduce it to 1/48th scale and cut some patterns for the painting.

The first things that were assembled was anything that came in 2 pieces, bombs, fuel tanks, wing assy., etc. The cockpit needed some color and the instructions were very poor as what to paint anything. Some number guides were given for the exterior, but cockpit was very basic. The cockpit tub was painted a medium gray; all panel gauges were painted flat black. A little drop of Testors Clear Cement was added to the gauge faces to give them a glassy look. Photo etched details were added, buckles, foot pedals, cockpit framing. Additionally some yellow and red was added to various knobs and switches to add a little more color to the interior.

All the pieces were painted a neutral gray to start with. The fuselage halves were then assembled and spent about 1 hour doing some filling and sanding. I then used the patterns I copied and started painting with the tan (4709 FS30219), then medium green (4734 FS34102) and then dark green (4726 (FS34079). Both Post It Notes and Parafilm M was used to mask the areas already painted. Testors Model Master Acryl paints were used. No thinning was required and a Testors Aztec airbrush was used.

The canopy frames was masked using bare metal foil, as this brings up the canopy frame edges very clearly and I was able to make the necessary trimming very easily. The canopy frame was then painted the medium green. The bare metal foil was removed and the canopy polished using xxx and then dipped in Future to give it a clear look.

The wing stores were assembled and painted with medium green and given a little detail. The pylons were left neutral gray as were seen in all the references. Bullpup missiles were in the kit, but these were not used in Viet Nam, but were see on F100D's when stationed in Europe.



I detailed the wheel wells, where hydraulic lines could be seen and just gave them a touch of silver. The tires were painted a dull gray/black, as tires don't hold they shiny look once they were in the field.

The exhaust area of the F100D tended to get very hot, so the original paint schemes did not last very long. I used a combination of these metallizers and then used some weathering dust (black, brown rust etc, to show discolorations in this area. The kit did have photo etched engine screens included in the kit and these were inserted into the exhaust nozzle. I opted to use the F102 exhaust nozzle, since these were retrofitted to most F100's because of mechanical issues with the original design.

The kit came with 2 refueling probes, the 1st one straight ahead and the 2nd curved to meet the pilot at eye level. The 2nd probe was to make the task of refueling a little less demanding on the pilot. The plastic probe was too thick to be realistic so it was replaced with brass rod of a smaller diameter. The front and back of the probe was removed and re-drilled to accept the smaller diameter brass rod.

The navigation lights were cut out and also replaced with red and green lenses from CMK and the lens of the probe housing was cut out and replaced with a clear lens. I used the original pitot probe but reduced its thickness to make it more realistic. The pitot tube was painted light gray.



I used Future to give it the gloss surface I needed to lay down the decals and then used a flat clear coat to take some of the shine away. Decal sheets for the F100D with squadron markings while stationed in Viet Nam are non-existent. I used very little from the kit decal sheet, other than NO STEP HERE and the walkway marks. So by doing a little research and looking at decal sheets for other types and units stationed in Vietnam I ordered 2 decal sets from Squadron. The following decal sets, Eagle Strike 48-151 Viet Nam Warriors (F4, F105, and A1H), AeroMaster 48-472 Phantoms Over Viet Nam were able to give me the letter codes and serial numbers for the unit I was trying to show, which was the 510th Tactical Fighter Squadron. The tail code was CE and the

serial number I picked was from a picture in Wings of Fame reference. This particular Serial number was from the F-100D-80-NH production block.

I would say about 20 hours of time was consumed putting the model together. This is the first article I've written about a kit I assembled and painted. It was very interesting trying to keep notes as I went along and not trying to remember what I did 3 weeks previously,



References:

F-100 Super Sabre in Action (Squadron Publication No. 190)
F-100 Super Sabre in Detail and Scale Vol.83
International Air Power Review No. 11 (Airtime Publishing)
Wings of Fame Vol.3 (Airtime Publishing).

