

F102A Delta Dagger



By Paul Gasiorowski

This is the 3rd aircraft in a series of 5 Century fighters that flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. This is Revell kit 1990, 1/48th, no. 5518

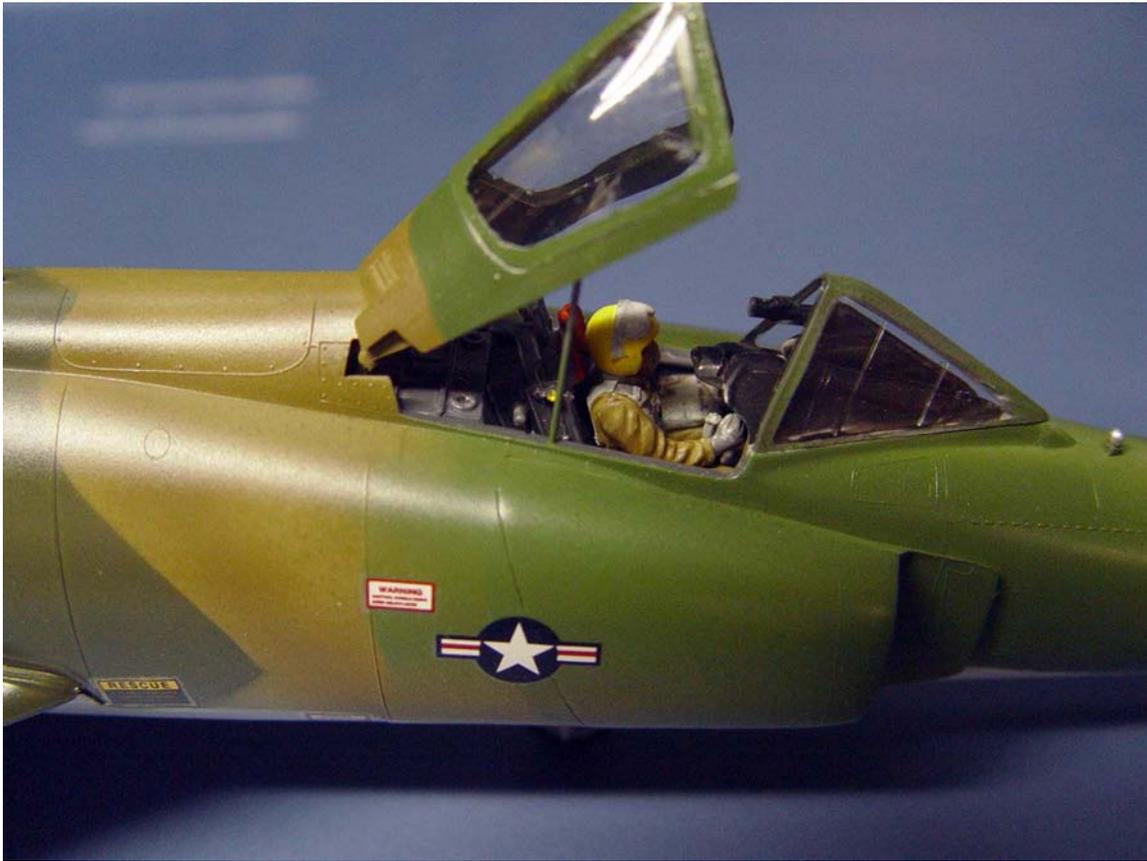
The kit contains 4 sprue plus the sprue for the wings and fuselage. I started by doing the interior in the cockpit area a Dark Gull Gray. The afterburner was attached to a fuselage half and glued together. Next was the cockpit tub, which had some detail so I highlighted the dials and switches with some silver and red. The cockpit panel is back about a 1/8th of an inch so most of the detail is hidden. I did up dress of the ejection seat from some pictures I found on the Internet. The seat belts were molded on so I just painted them, light tan and buckle silver. The instructions show to install the seat at this point. I opted to wait till after the fuselage was painted.

Before assembling the wings I painted the wheel wells green chromate. The wings went together well and only a little filling was required. Assembling the wing to the fuselage went together well and only some minor filling was done. After attaching the intakes to the body, some gaps needed to be filled and sanded.

Next I assembled some of the smaller assemblies, such as the speed brake on the tail, the landing gears struts. I then painted the wheel well covers on the inside green chromate, before painting the exteriors of the door covers. I then masked the canopies, first painting them the interior color of dark gray.

At this point I decided not to show the missile bays open, 1) most photos I saw that if the F102 was parked on the ramp the bay covers were closed and 2) that most of the detail would be hidden from view anyway. The enclosed bay doors

were a good place to hide the extra weight that I forgot to put in the forward part of the fuselage.



The model was now ready for painting, the paint I would be using would be Model Master Acryl, 4709 Dark Tan (FS30219), 4726 Dark Green (FS34079), 4734 Medium Green (FS34162) and 4766 Gray (FS36622) for the Southeast Asia Camouflage scheme.

I would start with the underside first, and then continue with the 3 different colors on the upper fuselage using Tamiya masking tape. This tape has worked very well for me on the couple of models I painted.

At this time I added the struts and wheels to the aircraft. The only problem was that the nose strut canted to the rear, which gave the model a nose down attitude. A little heat and a tweak with a pair of needle nose pliers brought the nose up a little.

The model was built out of the box, except for the for a replacement part for the infrared detector. The detector in the kit was too large for the scale represented; it was replaced with a small round top of a straight pin. The pilot figure was added to the cockpit; since he had a clipboard in his hand I added a small map to it.

The 509th FIS (tail code PK) was deployed to Thailand in 1961 with rotations to both Tan Son Nhut and Da Nang. Initially the aircraft came in standard Air Force gray. As they were rotated for major maintenance the SEA or ASIA MINOR paint scheme was applied. The 509th was deployed to Southeast Asia till the end of November 1969.



Coming next is the F104 Star Fighter, which is now under construction.

