



F-86 Dog Sabre. 1/48th scale Kit 5960 Revell
by Norris Graser

This version of the Dog is an early one so there is no parachute housing. Typical of the early version, the fuselage features flush mount NACA scoops, one on either side of the aft fuselage. These pieces are separate and are a snap fit insertion. Not to start rumors about follow on versions of the Dog, but why would they do that? Never mind that there are two later type external scoops left over on the parts tree when you are finished with the model! You'll find nice scribing on this kit and they didn't forget representations of vortex generators on the stabilizers and aft fuselage.



MODEL OPTIONS

The kit features many options including extended slats, separate flaps, speed brakes and optional rocket tray. The boarding ladder can be used or a small piece inserted so as to be depicted in the stowed position. The canopy can be opened or closed, as well. The radarscope hood on the main panel is also separate. Nice touch as it was

a removable item not necessarily in place and often-left sitting on the seat! Cockpit is well detailed & complete with pilot figure Under wing stores consist of two fuel bags on pylons, complete with a sway brace for each. (Don't forget to drill the locator holes for the pylon pins if you use the tanks!)

I should mention that there is a tractor and bomb cart included in this release. These items are from a prior release of the Pro Modeler Ground Equipment kit released a few years ago.

I built two models, one in a clean configuration and the other with everything hanging out. Both are on the gear, on the ground, so I can't comment on closing the slats (which would require removal of actuators.) or how well the gear doors will fit if closed.

Here is what I found using the optional items in open/closed positions:

In both versions I left the canopy open, but it can be closed if you cut the mounting actuators from the aft end. I also used a pilot figure, included in the kit, in one model. Speed brakes can be positioned opened or closed. Closed, they are a perfect fit. The slats are in the lowered position as they should be if the aircraft is on terra firma. Although the flaps are separate pieces, they have tabs that force them into a lowered position; it was not common for them to drop. Fortunately, you can cut off the tabs and reposition them to fit even with the rest of the wing. The left flap fits fine but the right one requires a little sanding before it will butt into position. The six-piece Mighty Mouse rocket tray can easily be shown extended or closed. In the lowered position, you just attach it to the bottom of the fuselage. On the actual aircraft a piece of metal came down to fill the void in the fuselage, when the rocket tray was extended. So there is no internal well area to be depicted, just the belly of the airplane. If you don't use the tray, there is nothing to replace or cover up.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

Putting this model together is simple, but before you assemble the fuselage, you need to complete the sub-assemblies that will be sandwiched in between. This includes a well thought out cockpit, which necessarily features a six part main instrument panel. Who says '50s jets had simple cockpits! On the floor is the stick. Rounding out the instrumentation, the side consoles come complete with a throttle and antenna hand control grip for the left side. The seat consists of five pieces. I put it together and set it aside for later placement. The tub itself sits on top of the intake/nose well section. (this comprised of four pieces.) Just behind the cockpit is a separate piece of decking.

The tail pipe consists of three pieces including a flame holder and outer ring.

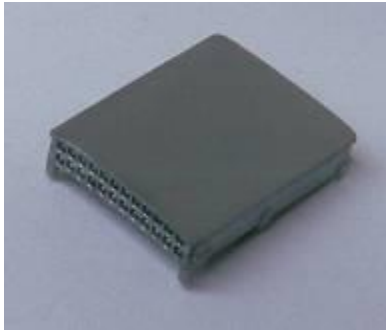
After test fitting the cockpit-intake assembly and tail pipe, it was time to put the fuselage together! If there is one piece I don't care for in this kit, it is the nav light located under the nose. This piece has to be inserted when you close up the fuselage. I would have preferred adding it after the model was just about complete. Test fitting finished, I used

a little 5-minute epoxy on the nav light and affixed it to the left side of the fuselage. In fact, I assembled all of the components to the left side fuselage. With the exception of the nav light, I used slow set liquid glue so I could position the sub-assemblies for best fit.



After gluing the fuselage together, I found a little filling and sanding necessary on both the upper and lower seams. Not much attention needed, just a few minutes filling with cyanoacrylate and then sanding to blend the halves. A not

quite nasty but bigger seam was found on the underside of the tail, though. This required a couple of applications of Super Glue for filler and a little more time for sanding. It's the only trouble spot I found on the model. To complete the fuselage, I added two 3/8th ounce lead fishing sinkers to the inside of the radar nose (to keep



the jet on it's landing gear) and attached it. Perfect fit was achieved and only a light sanding to blend it to the fuselage.

Fuselage finished I turned my attention to the wings. These consist of two top pieces that butt against the wing roots and a full lower wing that assembles across the lower fuselage. Test fitting I found that the lower wing was a snug fit so again using a slow setting glue, I placed it and after cutting the locator pins off the top wings, glued them to the lower. I put a little glue on the wing/wing root areas and pulled the wings up slightly applying pressure where they meet. I kept up this pressure for about 20-30 seconds, long enough for the glue to take hold, and then released them. The result being; a perfect join for both wing roots.



PAINT

I painted my Dogs using a combination of Floquil metal paints, including Silver, Old Silver and Platinum Mist. Although I did not single out every panel and shade it a different metal, I did polish a few more than others and I did over spray a few with

Gunze Mr. Metal Stainless for a slightly different light reflectance. Of note is that the center sections of each wing, top and underside, is a duller metal than the surrounding area. Almost a flat aluminum look is apparent. Wheel wells and speed brake bays are interior green. I used ANA 613 (Model master) O.D., for the anti glare though later aircraft did use the equivalent of 36092. The interior was painted with Model Master Interior Black, Interior Green and although it specs out as dark Gull gray 36231, I used Model Master Medium Sea Gray instead. I just think it looks more to scale. Insignia Red was used on the headrest but I used 1103 Testors red (a little more red-orange color) for the aft fuselage fuel dump. The radome color is Gunze Gloss Black (Note that many Sabres had flat black or brown radomes.)

After doing most of the painting, I added gear and gear doors, wheels, fuel dump and whatever small bits left over. I added the very tiny wing tip lights and aft of canopy nav. light just about last.

DECALS

I can't really comment on the kit decals as mine were built before they were available. However, there are markings for the two aircraft featured in this review, and complete stenciling; CartoGraf did the printing for those in the release. Aircraft featured are Dennis The Menace from the 97th FIS and a shark mouth commanders aircraft from the 498th FIS.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I originally had this at the beginning but decided that probably no one would have read the rest of my review if I left it at the top of this piece!

If you want a nice kit of the Dog to build, this is it. Yes, there is an assembly procedure that would go easier if you had an extra hand, and there is even a spot where you will have to add a little filler, but overall, you will be spending more time painting and decaling than assembling this model. I often end up building multiples and have my fill of a particular model kit, hardly ever wanting to do another. However, I am happy to say that's not so with this one. I know I'll be building more.



Dennis The Menace art on a 97FIS F-86D-40-NA based at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio. Kit decals are printed by Cartograf. In addition, AeroMaster and SuperScale have several F-86D decals in the works!



The other markings included in the kit depict a commander's F-86D-40-NA From the 498FIS/84FG Geiger AFB, Washington circa 1956.