

HASEGAWA: P-40E/K~1/48th scale
SuperScale Decals: Curtiss P-40K 64th, 16th & 25th FS



Norris Graser

I built this model for the IPMS McKinstry September 2012 theme night for P-40's. It's an easy enough build except for a few areas. More partial to the short tailed P-40's, the type selection was easy enough for me. There are plenty of good looking schemes and interesting artwork.

The cockpit goes together just fine but be aware that the seat framing breaks easily. Yes, I broke it and then while gluing it together, well; I broke it again in a different place. And then I broke it again in still another place. Then, it started looking all warped up like and was like sticking to my fingers, like you know? I finally figured out that it just wasn't going to work that day and found something similar in the "bone yard" above my work bench. An easier fix is to just pick up a resin seat.

The intake trunk requires some sanding, minor surgery and pressure applied with a small screwdriver (or in my case, a dental tool) to align the intake with the external intake ring while waiting for fast dry epoxy to take hold.

The most problematic area is in the aft fuselage just behind the cockpit. For all but the N, this consists of 2 pieces that form the structure just behind the headrest. There is no problem with the 2 piece construction which is just slightly smaller in width than the

fuselage. (Simply center it and lightly sand- it all blends in.)The real problem is the two transparencies that fit into the sides of this structure. Meant to be flush, they simply aren't. I thought I had the problem solved by sanding the inside edges but when all is done, they are still a bit proud at the aft ends of the clear. I trimmed the right side piece so much that I broke it. Then I did the same for a second one. The third was the "charm", and at that cost, fit is slightly better than that on the left side. It appears the only way to really do this correctly is to sand the inside edges, glue the transparencies to place, and then sand external edges 'till flush with the fuselage. Then, polish until clear. So, does anyone have a few spare parts for my other two P-40 E/K's?? Just asking...



Of the several insert pieces, use a bit of care on the two placed in front of the exhausts as they tend to sink into the surrounding fuselage. I used liquid glue and "floated" them until the glue set up - which is a few seconds. A Light pass with sand paper to blend is all that's needed.

DON'T use the rubber grommet for the prop! Just don't... I did and though the prop unit slides right on and off and the prop does spin, you get a lousy seal where the back of the spinner butts up to the fuselage. It leaves an uneven gap. I cut off the pin and glued it to place.

Hasegawa made this kit with 4 fuselage pieces- two forward, two aft to accommodate several variants. There are no problems affixing the tail empennage to the rest of the

fuselage but be aware that the line it creates is not on the actual aircraft and needs to be filled and sanded.

Paint and weathering

I used Model Master Medium Sea Gray and counter shaded with Neutral gray for the undersides. Model master 086 and 087 drab were used topside. After initial use of 086, I lightened it up a bit with a light gray for a little more difference in the colors and also shaded a few panels with Gunze Clear Smoke for highlighting.



I used Floquil Crystal Cote for a gloss to apply decals over and finished with two clear flats: Polly Scale Clear Flat (which is a very dead flat, a favorite of mine, discontinued and getting harder to find!) and Floquil clear flat. Again, these helped give subtle varying degrees in shading for a somewhat blended, weathered appearance. I used Academy Burnt Umber and Lampblack sparingly to accent some panel lines.

Instead of cutting off the raised solid plastic wing lights and using the kit supplied really, really small clear items, I used a silver India ink pen for lights & then coated them with clear red and blue. Recessed lights received 2 part clear epoxy instead of fiddling around with the ultra small clear parts.

Last item was to add antenna wire from the vertical leading edge to the wing tips. I no longer recall where I had the reference as to exact location on the wings, other than it

was near the wing lights. So instead of actual reference, I used Brett Greens book, Modeling the P-40 and matched location with one of the featured models and backed it up with a topside plan view found in Curtiss P-40 1939-1945 by Anis Elbied & Daniel Laurelut. I don't get the chance to wire many of my models and it's actually been several years so was prepared to just take my time. I drilled a pair of holes in the wing tip area and a small notch on the leading edge of the vertical. Next I stretched sprue from one of the left over trees in the kit. I attached the new pieces with 2 part epoxy backing it up with a touch of superglue. Patience and about 30 minutes of my attention produced acceptable wiring. Realizing the sprue was a bit too light in color for my taste I carefully brushed dark gray acrylic paint to the wires.



Decals came from the most recent SuperScale release (MS481261) intended to take advantage of the most recent release of the Hasegawa P-40E/K kit. The decal is excellent – excellent, sharp printing by Cartograf and no artwork errors to be found save one; the nose of the aircraft I modeled is incorrectly noted on the instructions as solid O.D. but actually should have the forward part of the spinner painted white. Although a comprehensive data suite is included, I applied just a few of these items as many in service PTO P-40's seem to be void of most stenciling. I chose an OD over grey "K" from the 25thFS/51st FG named "DUKE" flown by Maj. Robert Liles, an ace with 5 kills. His markings included a nice shark mouth plus tail art featuring an eagle on either side of the vertical tail.

Overall, the Hasegawa P-40E/K kit does what it is supposed to; it looks like a P-40K!

With the exception of the aft cockpit transparencies, it goes together easily enough and I enjoyed most of the build.

Likewise, I recommend the SuperScale decals - Cartograf printed, well drawn with good color selection. It's accurate, save for the aforementioned instruction sheet error on nose color. It features three interesting subjects and three totally different paint schemes.



1:48 Scale
MS481261

Curtiss P-40K

**64th FS, 57th FG, 16th and 25th FS,
51st FG**



