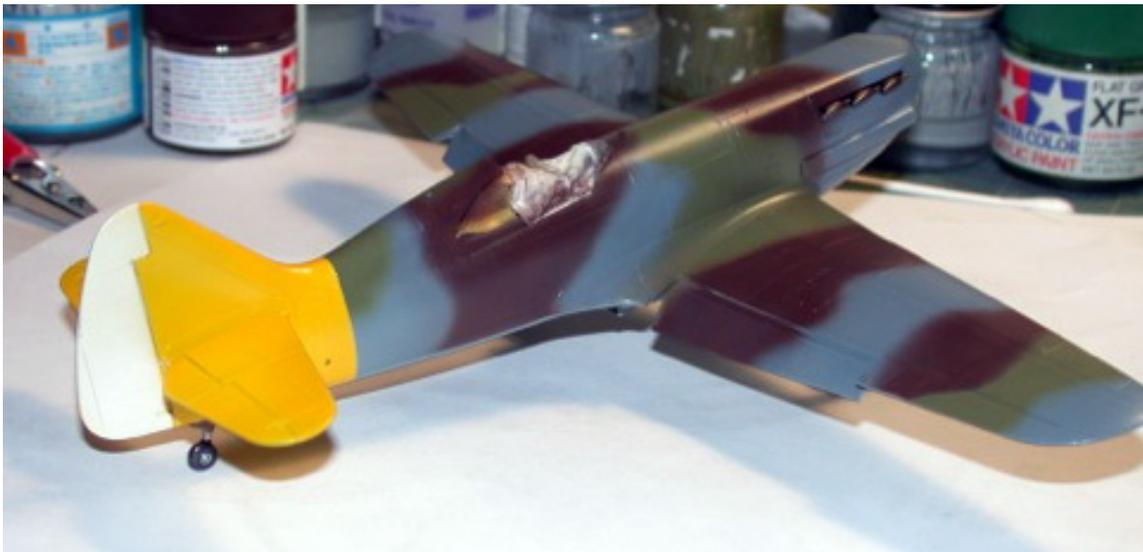


## Tamiya 1/48 Dewoitine d.520



By Mike Hanlon

First released in the mid 90's, Tamiya's Dewoitine d.520 was a sharp departure from their previous releases, the Spitfire Mk. I and the F4F-4 Wildcat. Although used by the French in the Battle of France and subsequently by the French Vichy Air Force in North Africa and Syria the aircraft is not nearly as well known. Frog produced a 1/72 scale kit in the 1950's and Heller in the early 70's. A very rough 1/48 scale limited production kit from Squadron's LTD line was produced in the early 90's.



The kit is up to Tamiya's high standards and provides a well detailed but very simple build. The one problem with the original release is the Scale Master produced decal sheet. The red used in the French roundels and tail stripes is a

very dark shade of Insignia Red. The actual color should be a lighter shade of red.



Building the kit begins with the cockpit. The correct interior color is a dark blue-grey; I used an Aeromaster's acrylic French interior blue-grey. The seat in the

Dewoitine resembles a lawn chair; it consisted of a canvas cover stretched over an aluminum frame. I painted the canvas with Tamiya Khaki. The instrument panel was painted Dark Grey. I used the instrument panel decal from the kit and it turned out very well. Unfortunately, once installed in the fuselage, the panel is set so far back as to be nearly invisible. I used Eduard photo-etched French seat harnesses and the remainder of the interior was detailed with colored pencils and silver paint markers.

Unusually for a Tamiya kit, there was a pronounced gap when the wings were attached to the fuselage. I used a spreader bar forward of the cockpit interior to close this gap. The remainder of the build was quick and uncomplicated. There are no drop tank or under wing stores to worry about.

My model was painted with Tamiya acrylics mixed according to the kit instructions. I copied the camouflage scheme provided in the kit and using it as a paper mask for the three camouflage colors. I used Gunze Sangyo RLM 04 for the yellow tail; this was sprayed over a base coat of white. I used an Iliad Design decal sheet for a Vichy Dewoitine based in Syria. This squadron saw limited combat against RAF Hurricanes.

The decals worked well with the exception of the rudder stripes that curled badly at the edges. My attempts to correct this problem with increasingly strong setting solutions did not succeed. I removed the stripes and used a set from an Aeromaster sheet. These curled as well but not as badly. After working with them as best I could, I sprayed blue and red paint over the decal edges. This worked, but not as well as I would have liked. If I did it again, I would simply paint the stripes.



All in all, the kit was a simple, enjoyable build of a very unique aircraft and of course there are a number of markings available that do not have tail stripes☺.