

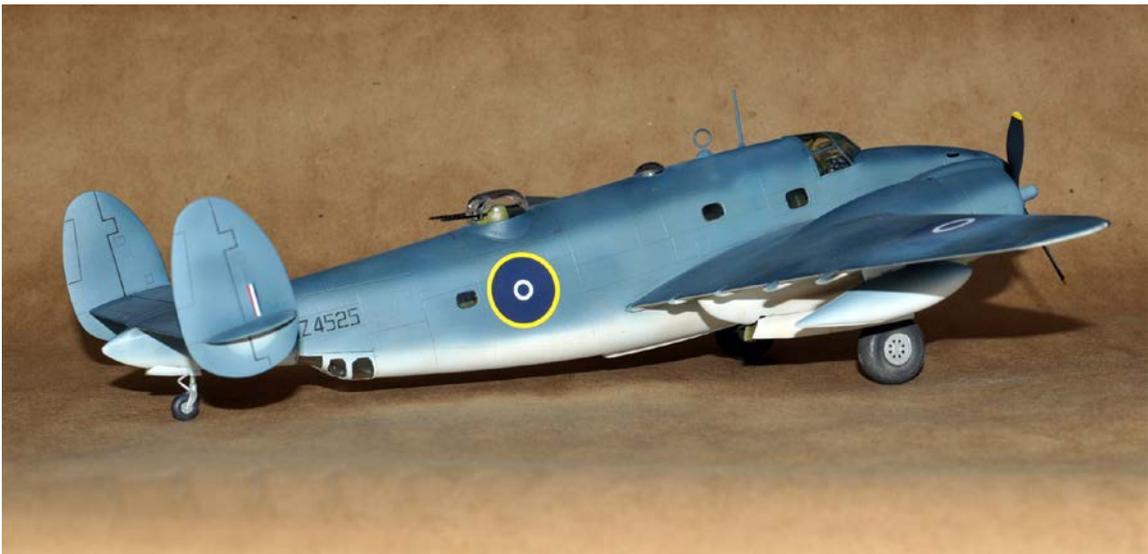
## Revell 1/48 PV-1 Ventura



By Mike Hanlon

Representing their first newly tooled kit released in the last 10 years, the Revell Ventura continues the Monogram/Revell philosophy of producing reasonably priced 1/48 scale multi-engine subjects.

The Lockheed Ventura was the successor of the Hudson patrol bomber. Produced for the US Navy and the Royal Air Force, it was first used with mixed results by the RAF as a low level bomber in Europe in 1942. Ill suited for the skies over France, the Ventura came into its own as a maritime patrol aircraft in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.



The Revell kit is crisply molded, with recessed panel lines. Markings include a very colorful US Navy aircraft in tri-colored camouflage from VP-133 with a large green octopus painted over the upper turret, a conventionally marked USN tri-colored aircraft from VP-135 based in Alaska and a Royal Canadian Air Force Ventura stationed in British Columbia painted in the earlier Blue-Gray over Light Gray scheme.



The design of the kit indicates that the earlier glass nose version of the PV-1 may be coming as well as a Boulton-Paul turreted RAF version.

Construction of the PV-1 is generally uncomplicated, but no kit is perfect. One area of concern is that the astrodome, the interior windows and the bomb aimer's window that need to be installed from the inside and then masked. The propellers are copied from those used on a current war bird and are incorrect for a WW II combat aircraft. In addition, the R-2800 Pratt and Whitney engines are

molded in one piece and the cowl flaps, typically open on parked PV-1's are molded closed.

The kit interior is adequately detailed with seat belts molded on the seats, the instrument panel is represented by a decal. Not much would be visible through the canopy in any case, but no doubt the aftermarket will come through with upgrades. The bomb bay doors can be installed open or closed. I closed mine and a significant amount of filling and sanding was necessary. An aftermarket replacement part for the closed doors is now available. If you want your doors closed, buy the part.

Fit of the remaining parts is very good, requiring only the usual seam clean up. I used a combination of Tamiya tape and Scotch Green Plaid tape to mask the clear parts. A set of canopy masks would be very welcome, but I didn't screw up the clear parts too badly.

Since I was painting my aircraft in the tri-color scheme, I was able to do the majority of the painting in sub-assemblies. I mixed the Dark Sea Blue and\



Intermediate Blue from Tamiya acrylic paint following the mixes Tamiya recommends in their 1/48 scale Grumman Wildcat kit.



After initial painting was done, I sprayed a lightened version of the Tamiya mixes to simulate paint fading and wear. I used a darker version of the Intermediate Blue to simulate repainted areas on the tail surfaces and fuselage sides.

I used markings for a Royal New Zealand Air Force Ventura from Ohakea Air Base in 1943 from a Zotz Decal sheet.



There are areas of the Ventura kit that could be more detailed or refined. The R-2800 engines paint up very well but could be better detailed if they were made from three or four parts. The error with the propellers is easily fixed by replacing them with aftermarket props. There are at least three sets currently available. Resin aftermarket manufacturer Vector has released replacement engines and cowl flaps. Ultracast has released diamond tread tires. All of these parts will certainly enhance a very good kit, but at a retail price of \$33, the Revell Ventura is a bargain and a very nice model is available right from the box.