

The “Wicked Wabbit”



1/48th scale The Tamiya P-47D Razorback

By Norris Graser

This kit has been reviewed several times on our web site so I won't dwell on the kit so much as the subject.

This is the easiest of all quarter scale P-47's to build and in my opinion looks more like a bolt when finished than any other kit. The bulkiness, stance and height, when sitting on its gear just makes it look right.

The only problems I have with the Tamiya kit are:

- 1 Cowling fit to fuselage could have been a little better. I've built 4 of these models & I always have a problem deciding how the cowl fits to the fuselage.
- 2 The main gear door part numbers are reversed
- 3 The locator pins and holes for the wing pylons don't match up
- 4 I don't much like the boss' of any of the props—but especially on the Hamilton Standard. To me, these parts look too large and out of scale. A better Hamilton can be found in the old Monogram P-47 kit.

There are thoughtful extras, though including an additional antenna DF loop antenna , 3 different mirrors; wedge type, Spitfire “horn” style mirror and even the fuselage side mirror- which was a very rare item. I've only seen images of 3 different P-47s with this option.



There are very few items they missed but off the top, it would've been great to include the various other types of fuel tanks that the T-bolt utilized. There were several paper types that are not in any kit and over time, when I do a SWP or CBI P-47, I have to raid a P-51 kit for the 75 gal "teardrop" tanks that were commonly used. Also, it would be nice to see someone include the blown canopy found on some razorbacks.



Rare color image showing left side artwork. Note that "Wicked Wabbit" name is not present at this point and that the paint scheme is the older brown drab,

The decal came about when aviation author Carl Molesworth, sent me notes and several images of both sides including a couple in color. They were taken at various times during its career and in various stages of wear and tear. I can tell you; this machine was really used and took quite a beating. She must have lasted a very long time.



Right front shot showing art, name and squadron insignia "Unca Bud".

Because of this, the modeler can do her several ways. You can beat the hell out of the paint or (with all markings used) build the plane fairly clean-with light weathering.

Though the instructions give you two options for "Wabbit", you can't do the metal wing version without going to some extra length. This version is heavily weathered featuring natural metal finish wings with OD flaps. Parts of the wing root are bare metal, too. The squadron badge (at least on the right side) is incomplete and looks like a bull's eye minus the bird that you would usually find draped over the emblem. Also, the name "Wicked Wabbit", has been removed and all that remains is the outline and discoloration where it at one time appeared.

The other option is to use all of the markings, both sides, and go with a standard paint scheme.

No doubt, a really interesting model could be built based on how badly you can beat up the scheme. I preferred to take the easier – less time consuming way out – especially after noting all the artwork and names on this plane. More than anything all the large yellow and white markings convinced me that I'd do "Wabbit" as seen soon after getting a fresh paint job.

So, with that in mind I painted the razorback with a base coat of Model Master ANA 613 olive drab and then over shaded with Model master RAF Green and Model Master 086 Drab. This perhaps gives the appearance of a freshly painted aircraft that has flown a few times – some panels starting to fade some a bit darker from the weather.



I painted the underside in a standard Neutral gray and I did paint the yellow wing and vertical tail stripes instead of using the decals supplied by SuperScale.

