

Hawker Sea Fury F.B. Mk II, 1/48, Hobby Craft by Paul Gasiorowski



The Sea Fury was the fastest piston engine to serve with the Commonwealth armed services. Deliveries began in 1947 by the outbreak of the Korean War, Sea furies were being used for ground support and engaging enemy aircraft. A Sea Fury from the No. 802 Squadron Fleet Arm was the aircraft that shot down the first MiG-15 jet fighter on 8 August 1952. The reason the for the invasion stripes is that a Sea Fury was shot down by a USAF B-29 on July 28, 1950 at the beginning of the outbreak of the Korean War. The Sea Furies were dispatched on British Fleet Carriers HMS Glory, HMS Theseus, HMS Ocean and the Australian Carrier HMAS Sydney.

The kit came with 3 sprues of light grey plastic, some vacuum form canopies and a resin seat and side panels. Basic construction started with washing the sprues soapy water, rinsing and letting them air dry. First thing was to dry fit the seat and side panels to make sure they would fit correctly. After this was completed I started with the resin cockpit by painting the seat and side panels light grey, I then started detailing the seat with various colors and seat belts. The side panels of the cockpit walls were painted dark grey, and then several different colors were used to highlight the knobs and switches.



The propeller assembly was done next which contained 9 pieces including the 5 blades for the prop. This assembly was handled gently as I was afraid somewhere during the process one of the blades would break off.

The next assembly was the wings and wing box, before cementing them together I painted all visible pieces the Sky color. From the references I found some of the wheel bays were the same color as the bottom of the aircraft. The instruction didn't have any paint guides at all except for the paint to be used for the upper and lower parts of the aircraft.

Before attaching the cockpit assembly more dry fitting was needed to make sure the fuselage would come together correctly. After several tries I was able to assemble the fuselage. Several other pieces had to be cemented in place, the support for the rear tail wheel, the exhaust tubes for the engine and the propeller shaft. The instructions call for the propeller assembly to be attached at this point, this was not done as the propeller would be easily removable at the final assembly.



Before attaching the wings to the fuselage I painted the invasion stripes of the wings and fuselage. I found something in one of the club notes on how to paint invasion stripes. It was very easy process and will use it again. The process insured there would be no bleed through during the process.

The wings were attached to the fuselage. The fit was excellent as no filler was needed. I taped off the stripes and then hit the edges with a quick coat of gloss white, sealing the edges and insuring no bleed through when I applied a coat of RAF Sky Type S (Model Master Acrylic) on the bottom of the wings and fuselage. The upper side of the wings and upper fuselage was painted Lt. Sea Gray 4759 (Model Master Acrylic). Two coats of each color were applied to insure complete coverage.



Then two coats of Future were used to give it a gloss finish before applying the decals. The decals were from the kit, the manufacturer is unknown. They had to soak a long time, about 2 minutes before releasing from the paper. There was very little silvering except for the zero on the tail.

The wheel assemblies and wheel well covers were added last, along with the tail hook. The wings were level with .5 mm on each side, so the excellent fit of the wings were a big reason for great leveling. The pitot tube, canopy and propeller assembly were attached. Once the canopy was installed all that detail for the instrument panel were hidden. The wing tip position light were painted the appropriate red and green, using the small bottles of enamel.

The Sea Fury did carry rockets and droppable extra fuel tanks. I did not have any fuel tanks of the right size in the spares box. I did order the 3 inch/60 pound rockets (Aires), which were resin and a lot of photo etch for each rocket. The rockets could be built in about 6 different versions, armed, dummy and practice. The rockets did not come with the correct under wing mounts as shown in the Hawker Sea Fury in Action book from Squadron and internet pictures. The rockets were built, but even in 1/48 scale the small photo-etch parts were a bear to install.

It was a nice build and I enjoyed putting it together