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Stormbirds Part 3

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All aircraft

Use the swastikas from the kit decals.

R4M rockets

Resin R4M rockets/rails are available from Cutting Edge in kit CEC32173.

S7

- This test aircraft crash landed on 1 June 1944 after experiencing an engine fire. It never flew again, but was subsequently used for landing gear testing. This was the seventh series-production aircraft
- The large red "6" on the fuselage was the Messerschmitt test article number.
- Note the very early-style tail light, which was inside the rudder and covered with a clear cover that formed the bottom rear "corner" of the rudder itself.

Black 711

- This was the first Me 262 captured by the Allies. It was delivered when Messerschmitt test pilot Hans Fay defected and flew the plane to Rhein-Main airfield near Frankfurt. After the war it was thoroughly evaluated at Wright Field, including dissimilar air combat testing with current American fighters. On its twelfth flight an engine caught fire and the pilot successfully bailed out near Xenia, Ohio, thus beginning Xenia's reputation as the "Storm Capital of the World" (J!) (With apologies to my friend Mark Young...)
- Photos taken immediately after its capture clearly show the bomb racks were fitted when it was delivered to the Americans. These racks do not appear in the photos taken during testing at Wright Field.
- This jet was in overall natural metal finish typical of Me 262s manufactured late in the war. The panel joints were filled with a grayish colored filler paste.
- The base of the vertical fin and other areas on the airframe were painted in a gray (probably RLM 02) primer, so check the photos!
- There were many small "711" (from the W.Nr) and "58" (from the construction sequence serial) in many places on the airframe. We've identified on the instructions the locations that can be verified from photos, and have provided extras of both numbers as there were undoubtedly more locations that can't be seen in the photos.

White 17

- The meaning of the white "S" is a matter of considerable debate. Some have opined it stood for "Schule," and therefore denoted a training aircraft. Others believe it meant "Staff." It has also been postulated that the "S" in the middle of the fuselage cross signified the airframe was unsuited for combat. Whatever the truth, our decals accurately portray the size, location, and color of the markings.
- The nose cap can been seen to be a darker color in the photo of this jet. It is unclear whether it was a dark gray primer, or darker for some other reason. We recommend you paint the normal camouflage, then mask off the nose and paint the top 2/3 a dark gray color.
- The left engine nacelle clearly had a natural metal nose intake. The exhaust nozzle is one of those wonderful dichotomies that keep modelers pulling their hair out. In one photo, the exhaust nozzle nacelle is clearly unpainted natural metal and matches the unpainted intake. In another photo of the same jet, the exhaust nozzle nacelle IS painted and camouflaged! So, you have the choice of how you paint your model—you'll be right either way!
- This jet has been identified as a Me 262 A-2a in one popular publication. However, there is no photographic evidence showing either the bomb racks or the rack mounts under the fuselage. Therefore, it is HIGHLY unlikely this was an A-2a.

B3+BC

• The diagonal yellow stripe is on both sides of the fuselage under the canopy, running from high/forward to low/aft. The purpose of this stripe is a matter of considerable discussion. Some believe it could have been a Staffel or Gruppe marking and other state that bomber units used it for identification and formation assembly purposes. Again, this controversy is outside the scope of this decal set!

Applying the Decals

aftermarket decals, here goes:

- Generally, use the Microscale Finishing System. We don't recommend extremely strong decal solvents such as Solvaset.
- Your model must have a smooth, glossy surface, as decals won't adhere well to matte surfaces. Use gloss paints or your favorite clear gloss overspray over matte or semigloss paint.
- Cut each subject out without trimming off the slight excess film (this helps the decal film disappear when dry).
- Put the decal in warm water that has a drop or two of liquid dishwashing soap or photo-flo for 10 seconds.
- When the decal will slide off the backing paper without forcing it, apply it to the proper position on your model. Slide the backing paper out from underneath.
- Gently blot off excess water and smooth out bubbles under the decal surface. If you wish, carefully brush on a mild decal softener such as Micro-Sol.
- When all decals are completely dry, gently wash off all excess decal adhesive.
- Finally, overcoat your model with a good quality gloss coat, followed by your choice of matte or eggshell clear topcoat.

FS 595 Color Cross Reference

RLM 74 Xtracolor X206/144, Polly Scale 505059, Floquil 303247, Gunze Sangyo H068/H319, Tamiya XF62

RLM 75 Xtracolor X207, Polly Scale 505060, Floquil 303249, Gunze Sangyo H069/H057

RLM 76 Xtracolor X208/138, Polly Scale 505061, Floquil 303251, Pro Modeler 88-0042, Gunze Sangyo

H062, Modelmaster 1731, Tamiya XF66

Bibliography

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War Prizes, by Phil Butler. Midland Counties Publications, 1994.

Me 262, Vol 4, by J. Richard Smith and Eddie Creek. Classic Publications, 2000.

Stormbird Colors, by Brett Green and Benjamin Evans. Eagle, 2002.

N 44 - The Galland Circus, by Robert Forsyth. Classic Publications, 1996.

Aviation Magazine, November 1945.

Wings of the Luftwaffe - Me 262. Television/Video documentary, Network Projects, 1991.

Battle Stations - Me 262. Television Video documentary