

U.S. Spitfires Part 1 (Africa and Italy)

48227



Suggested Kits: Tamiya/Hasegawa Spitfire families

U.S. Spitfires Part 1 (Africa and Italy)

Spitfire Mk. Vc

S/N ER 570. Flown by Major Robert Levine, C.O. 4 F.S., Circa June 1943. Midstone, Dk. Earth and Azure Blue camouflage colors. Red spinner. Right side reads WD  Q.




Spitfire Mk. Vc

S/N JK 180. Flown by Lt. Richard Lampe, F.S., 52 F.G. Note US stars and bars on the upper wings, a very unusual occurrence as well as the single Midstone upper surface color. Azure lower surfaces. Right side believed to read QP  X.



Spitfire Mk. Vc

This a/c belongs to the 5 F.S. with pilot and serial number unknown. Camouflage consists of three shades of Sand, Brown and some unknown shade of Green, assumed to be British Dk. Green over Azure Blue lower surfaces. Notice upper right wing is painted solid Dk. Green, perhaps a replacement. Extremely unusual scheme. Right side reads VF  K.



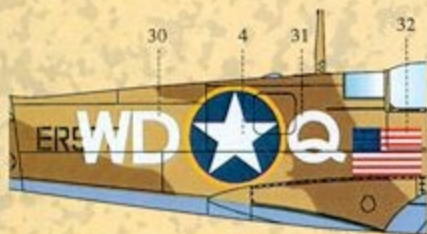
Spitfire Mk. IX

S/N EN 447. Notice US stars in 4 positions, while the British lower wing roundels and fin flashes were kept from its early RAF days. Right side believed to read WD  L.



Top and Bottom Views



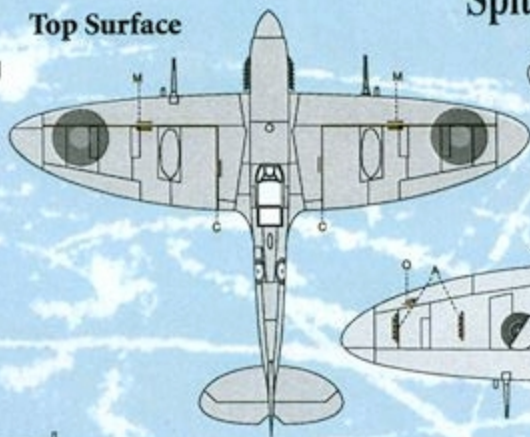


Our thanks to our friends
Malcolm Laird and Tom Ivie
for their research and counseling

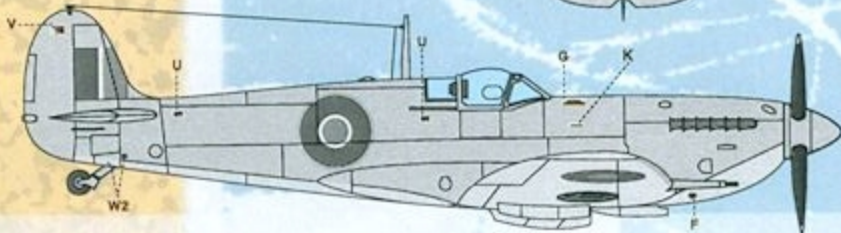
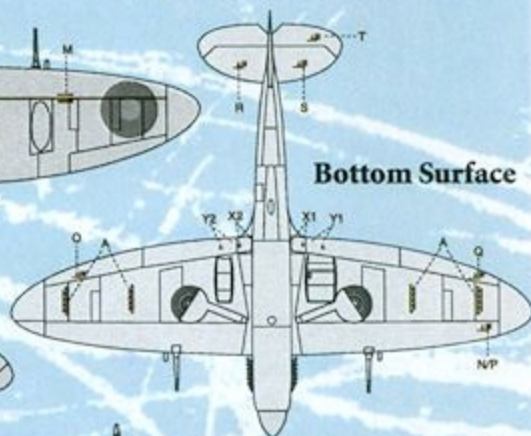
Thanks Friends!!

Spitfire Basic Stencils

Top Surface



Bottom Surface



Recommended Kits:

- Tamiya/Hasegawa Spitfire families
- Airwaves and Aeroclub produce various sets to convert the Mk.Ia to a Mk.II variant.

Note about color schemes:

The Supermarine Spitfires that were operated by USAAF units, came from the same stocks that were supplying RAF squadrons .

In the spring of 1941, RAF Spitfire squadrons began confronting the Luftwaffe over the western seaboard of Europe, but the Dark Green and Dark Earth upper surfaces with Sky lower surfaces camouflage of the early-war period proved ineffectual over the English Channel. A new camouflage scheme was developed for the ETO; a disruptive pattern of Dark Green and Ocean Grey upper surfaces with Medium Sea Grey lower surfaces. This was known as the Temperate Land Scheme.

The new colors officially came into effect on 11 August 1941 and were always to be applied to new-build aircraft in the same pattern. Supermarine factories used a system of flexible mats draped over the airframe as a form of masking to achieve the consistent camouflage pattern required (see a/cs 1 and 4). As far as the authors have ascertained, all Spitfire Mk Vs supplied to the 31st FG in England from June 1942 onwards were Dark Green/ Ocean Grey/ Medium Sea Grey aircraft.

When the 31st FG was posted to North Africa, it collected Spitfire Mk V (trop) aircraft in Gibraltar before moving on to participate in Operation Torch. Most of these Spitfires were in the standard RAF Desert Scheme of Dark Earth and Mid-Stone upper surfaces and Azure Blue lower surfaces. On the British production lines (for desert airplanes), the Dark Earth replaced Ocean Grey and the Mid Stone replaced the Dark Green (a/c 1). From Black and White photographs, the two different color schemes are easily discerned because the Ocean Grey is the lighter of the two upper surface colors in the Temperate Land Scheme and the Dark Earth, which replaced it in the Desert Scheme, is the darker of the two upper surface colors in that scheme. Azure Blue replaced the medium Sea Grey color.

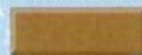
Back in England, as the Allies advanced into Sicily and Italy, new-build Spitfire Mk IXs for the MTO were now being finished in the Green/Grey Temperate Land Scheme. Some of these aircraft were issued to the 31st FG. By the time the Group relinquished its Spitfires Mk Vs in March 1944, a large proportion of 307th FS and 309th FS Spitfire Mk IXs were in the Temperate Land Scheme. The 308th FS standardized on Mk VIIIIs, which continued to be supplied in the Desert Scheme.

Color References

Azure



Dk. Earth



FS 30118

Dk. Green



FS 34079

Mid Stone

