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YF*U

This Thunderbolt appeared in three distinct sets of markings, the first was its USAAF O.D. & Neutral Gray, then
an intermediate Luftwaffe scheme which retained the USAAF codes, and finally an overall RLM 74/04 VVB scheme
(see Luftwaffe Special Missions Part 1).

Applying the Decals

You probably already know all this stuff, so feel free to use your regular process; however, if you're new to 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

Olive Drab FS 4087 Xtracolor X111, Floquil 303108/303170/303263, Gunze Sangyo H304,

Modelmaster 1711, Mr Color 304, Pro Modeler 88-0028

Neutral Gray FS 6173 Xtracolor X158, Gunze Sangyo H053, Pro Modeler 88-0035, Floquil 303176

Bibliography

On Special Missions-The Luftwaffe's Research and Experimental Squadrons 1923-1945 by R. Smith, E. Creek & P. Petrick. Classic Publications 2003.

Strangers in a Strange Land Vol.1 by Hans Heiri Stapfer. Squadron Signal Publications, 1988.

Strangers in a Strange Land Vol. 2 by Hans Heiri Stapfer. Squadron Signal Publications, 1992.

Various Air Classics articles.