

fündekals :)

GRUMMAN F4F

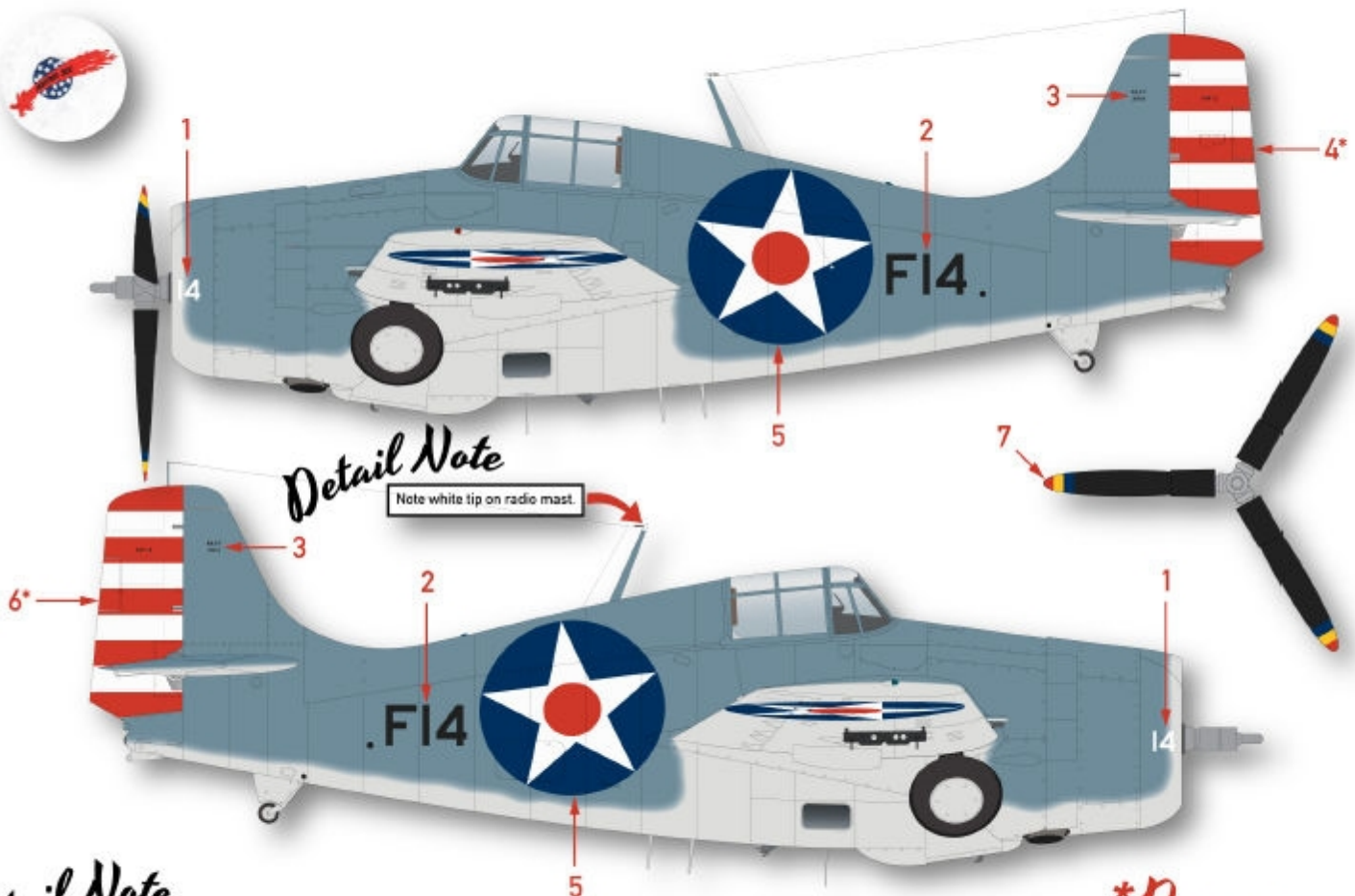


WILDCATS

FD32012/FD48034

COPYRIGHT © 2021

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.

**Decal Note*

Decals 5 & 6: Separate "F4F-3" titles are provided if you wish to paint the rudder stripes.

Detail Note

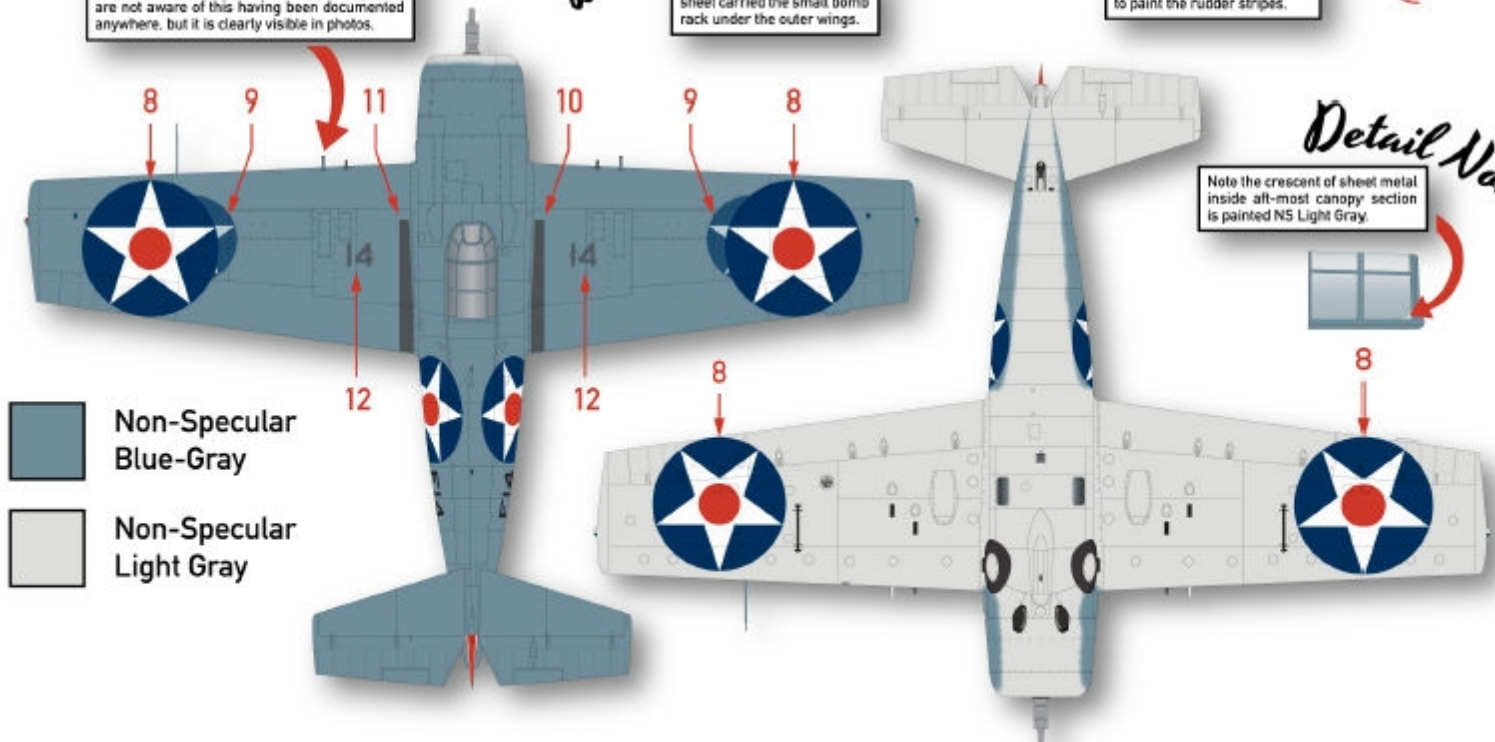
The F4F-3As had blast tubes on the outer wing guns. The opening was beveled back at approximately a 45 degree angle, with the lower edge further forward than the upper edge. We are not aware of this having been documented anywhere, but it is clearly visible in photos.

Detail Note

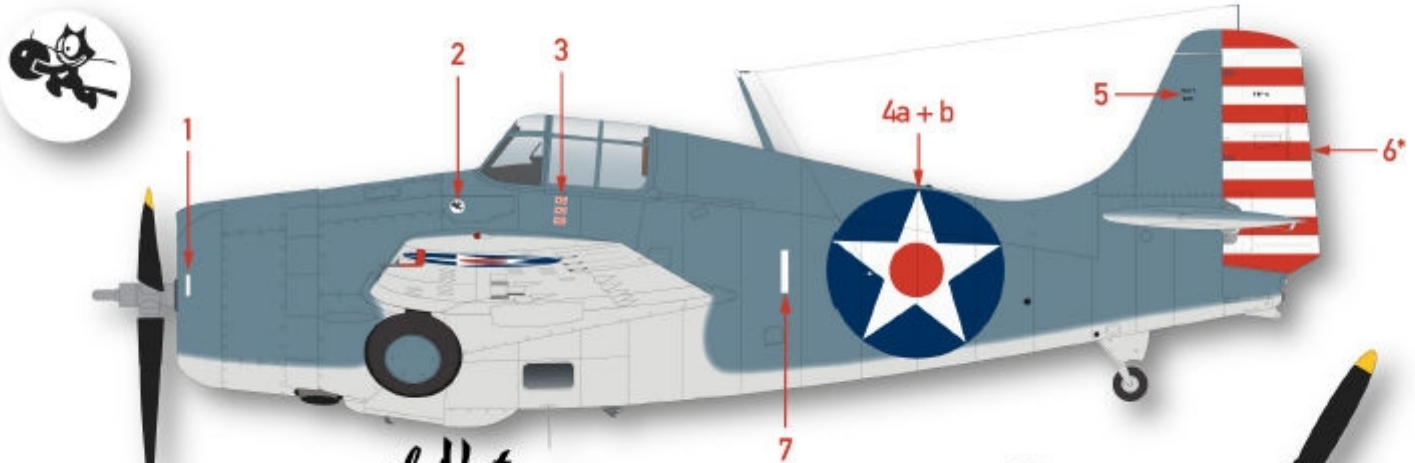
Both of the F4F-3s on this sheet carried the small bomb rack under the outer wings.

Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Light Gray.

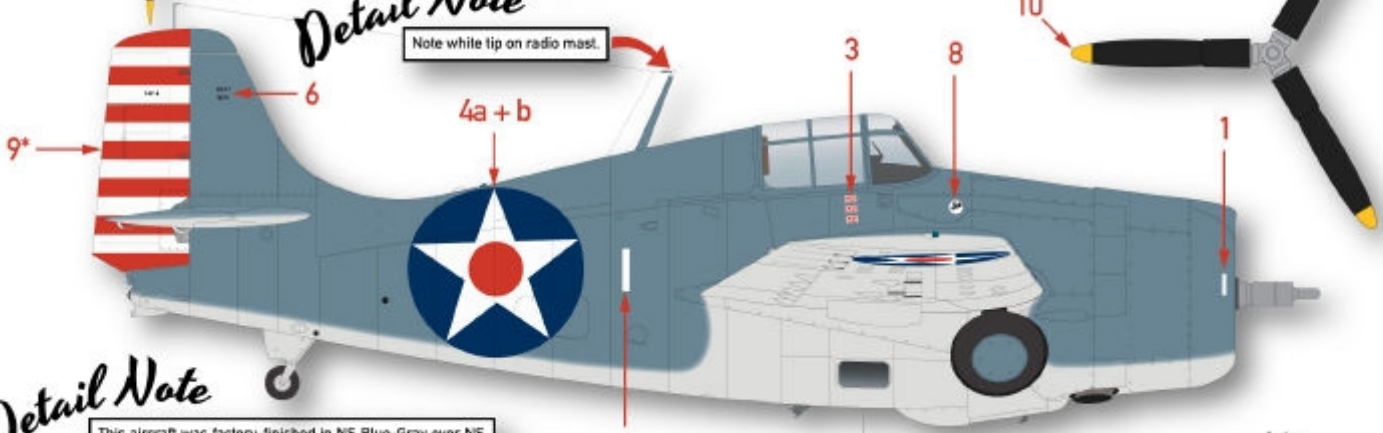


- Non-Specular Blue-Gray
- Non-Specular Light Gray



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Detail Note

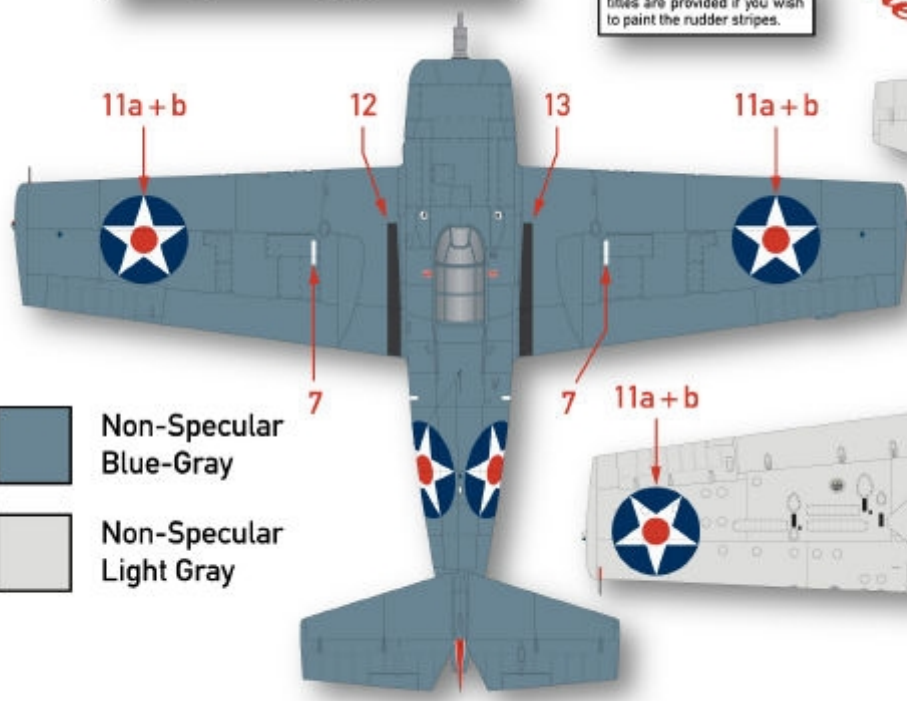
This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. Note the differences in the pattern from previous aircraft that were field camouflaged. The wheel cover is now Blue-Gray, and the fuselage demarcation line is lower. Also note the red pitot mast - common to all F4F-4s. Cockpit was Bronze Green, and the cowling interior and wheel bay were Grumman light gray (almost off-white).

**Decal Note*

Decals 6 & 7: Separate "F4F-3" titles are provided if you wish to paint the rudder stripes.

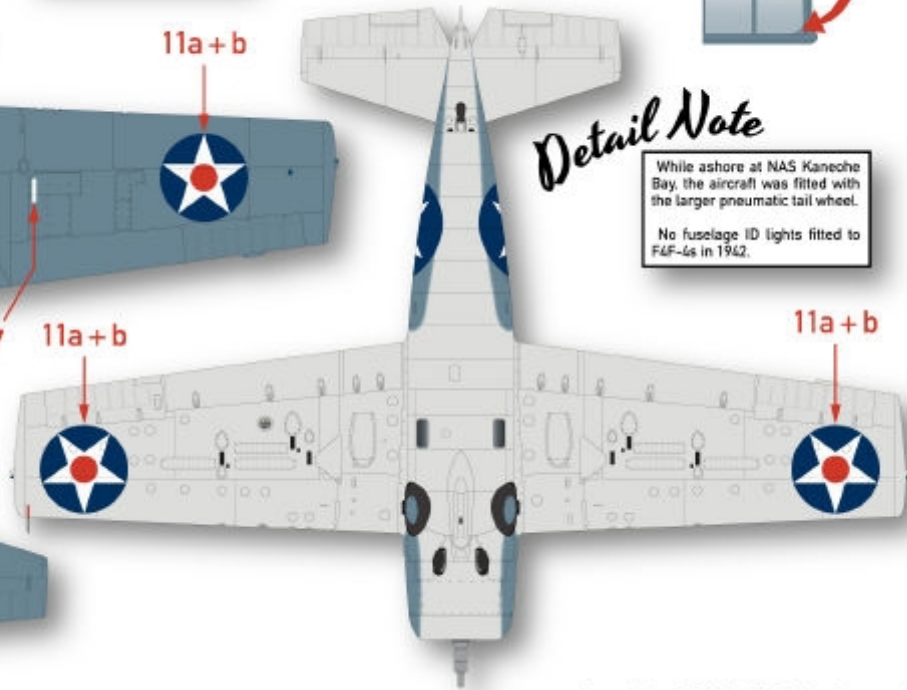
Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.

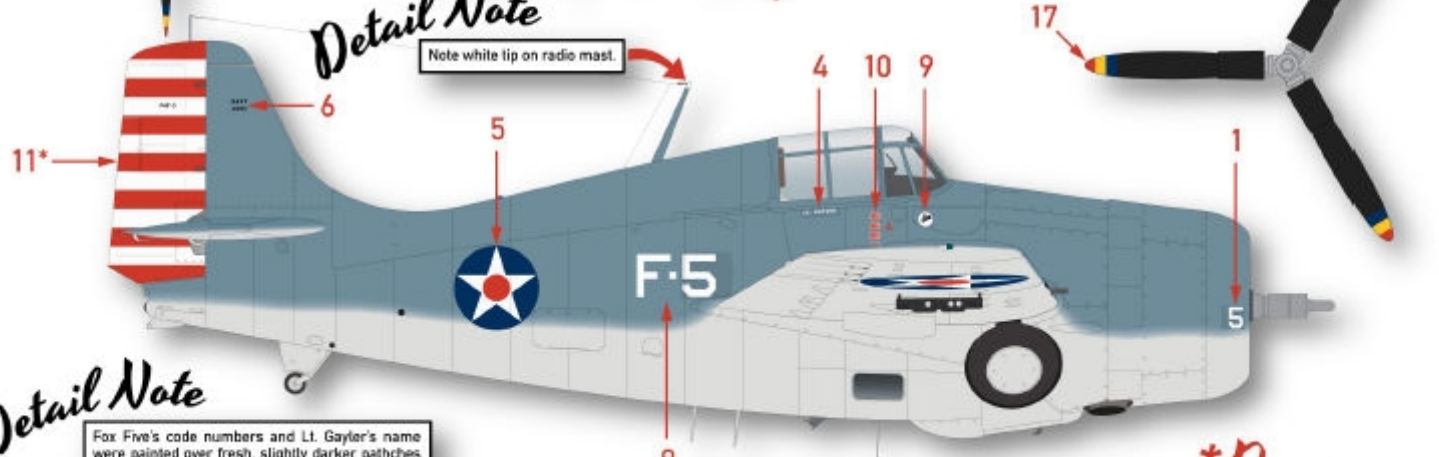
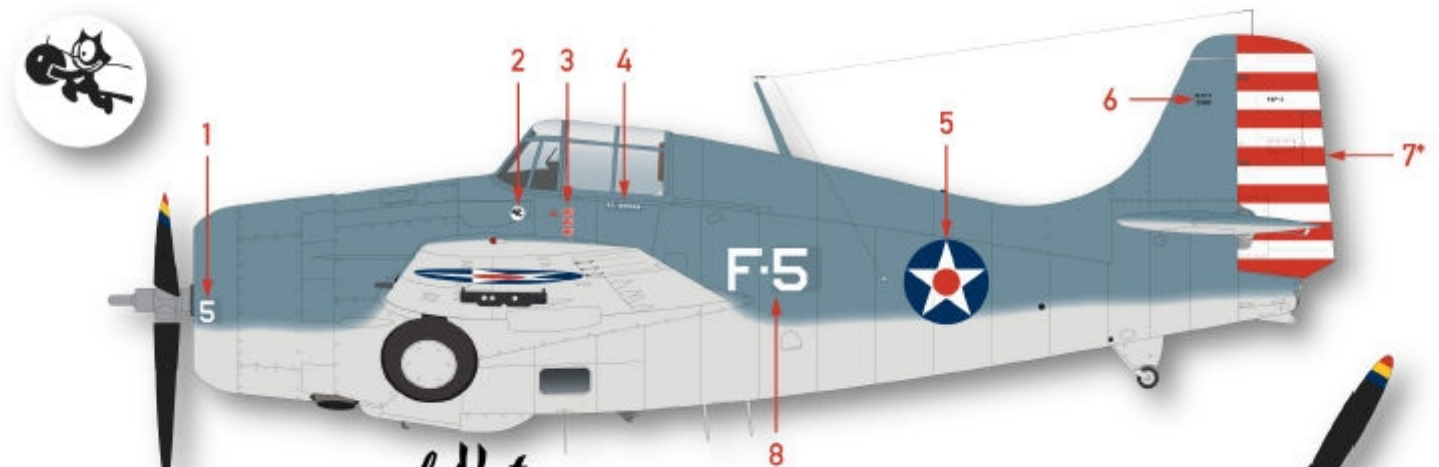


Detail Note

While ashore at NAS Kaneohe Bay, the aircraft was fitted with the larger pneumatic tail wheel.
 No fuselage ID lights fitted to F4F-4s in 1942.



- Non-Specular Blue-Gray
- Non-Specular Light Gray



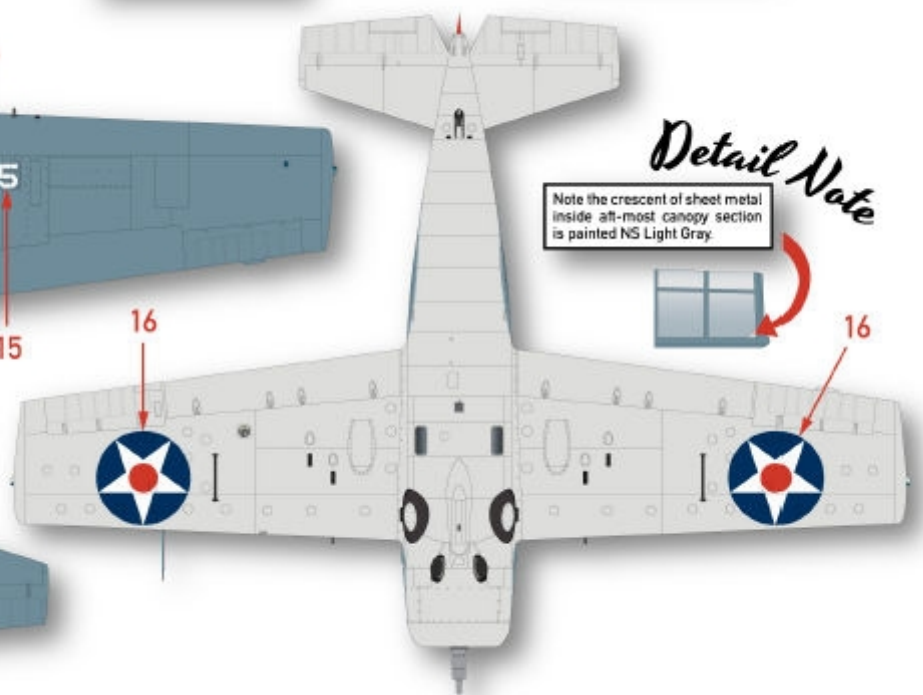
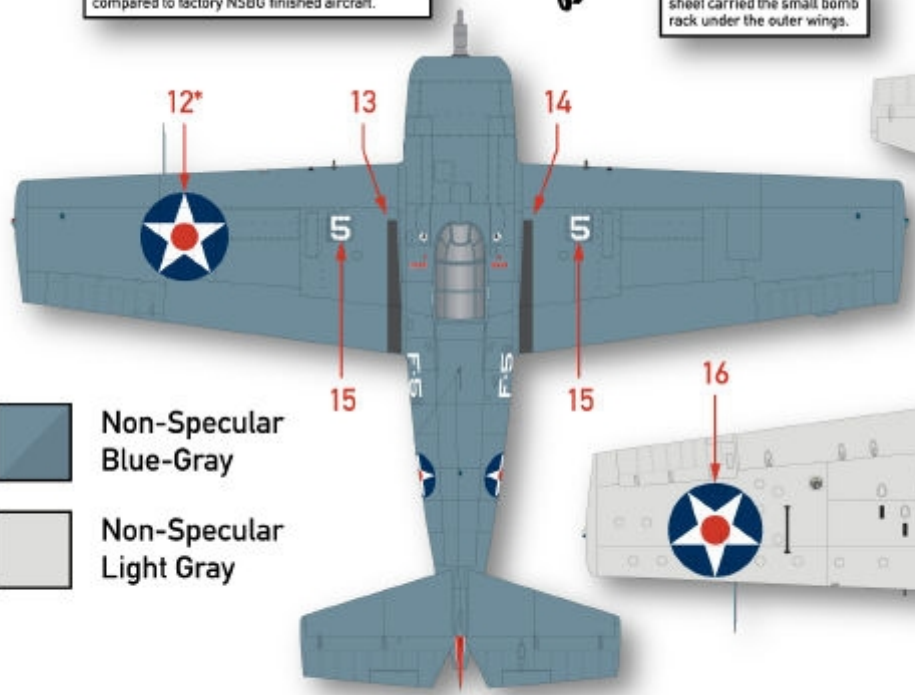
Detail Note
Note white tip on radio mast.

Detail Note

Fox Five's code numbers and Lt. Gayler's name were painted over fresh, slightly darker patches of NS Blue-Gray paint covering her previous markings. She is believed to have been F-13 previously. Delivered in overall NS Light Gray the aircraft received the upper surface NS Blue-Gray after delivery, retaining the Light Gray wheel disks, and featuring a different camouflage demarcation compared to factory NSBG finished aircraft.

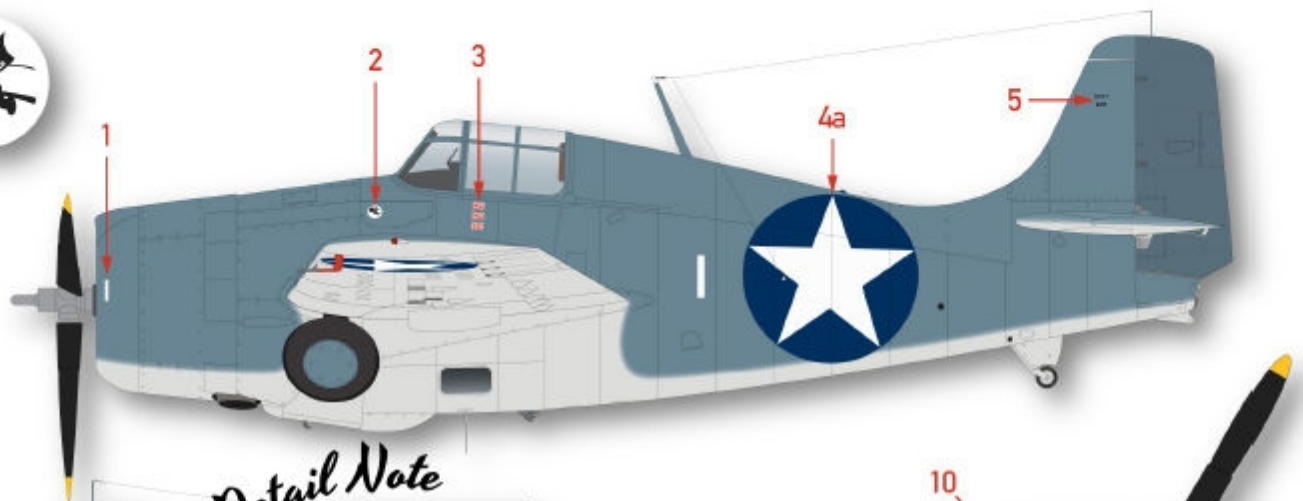
Detail Note
Both of the F4F-3s on this sheet carried the small bomb rack under the outer wings.

**Decal Note*
Decals 7 & 11: Separate "F4F-3" titles are provided if you wish to paint the rudder stripes.



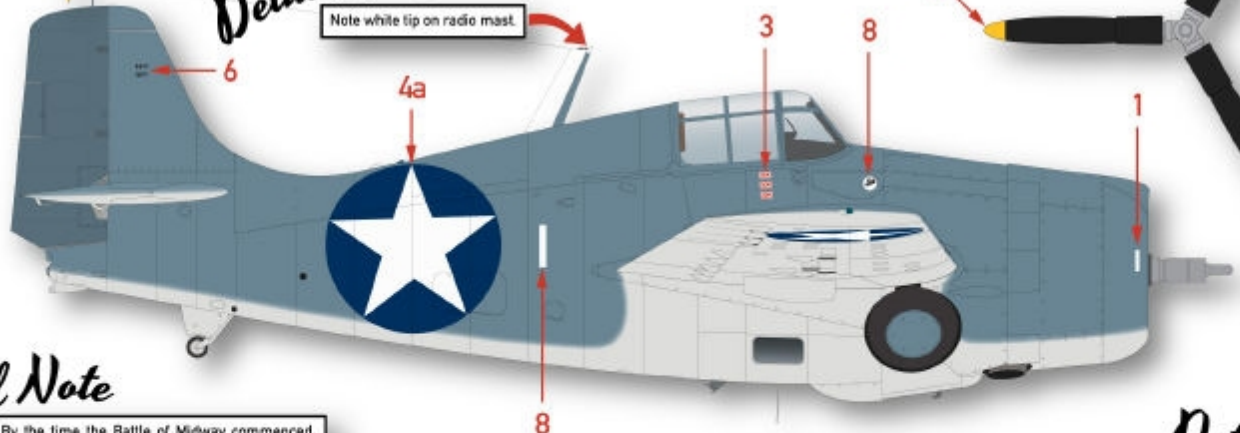
Detail Note
Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Light Gray.

- Non-Specular Blue-Gray
- Non-Specular Light Gray



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.

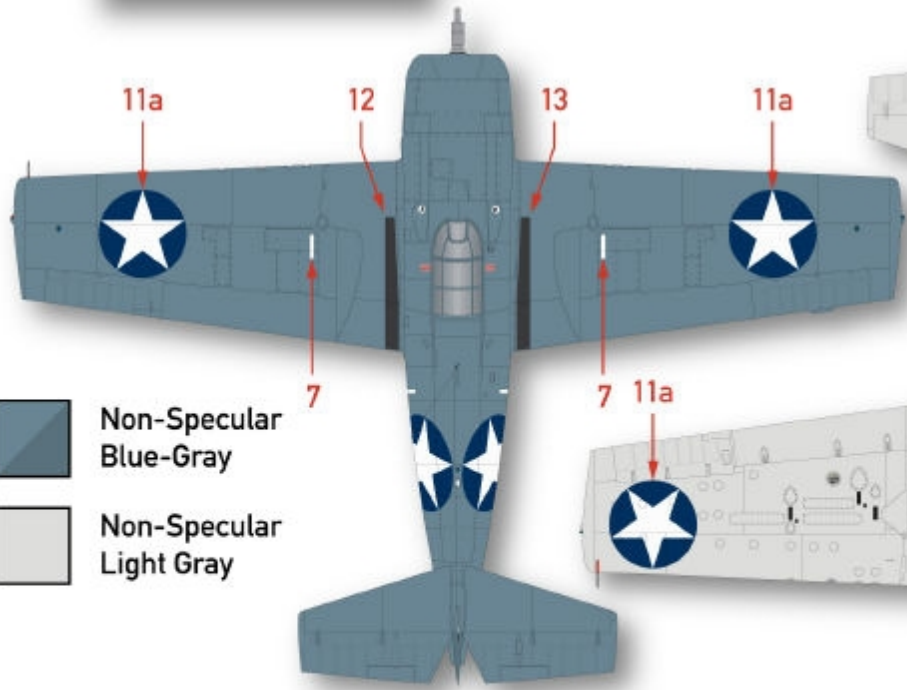


Detail Note

By the time the Battle of Midway commenced, the Navy had ordered the red center spot and the red/white rudder stripes removed on all combat aircraft. Photos of F4Fs of this period clearly show a darker shade of NS Blue-Gray visible on the rudders where the stripes were overpainted.

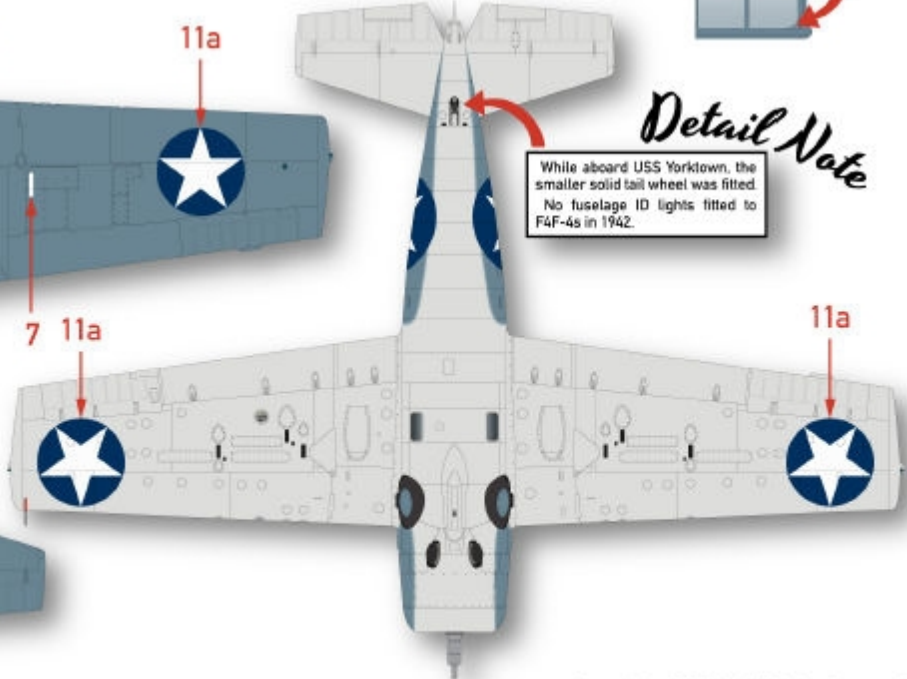
Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.



Detail Note

While aboard USS Yorktown, the smaller solid tail wheel was fitted. No fuselage ID lights fitted to F4F-4s in 1942.

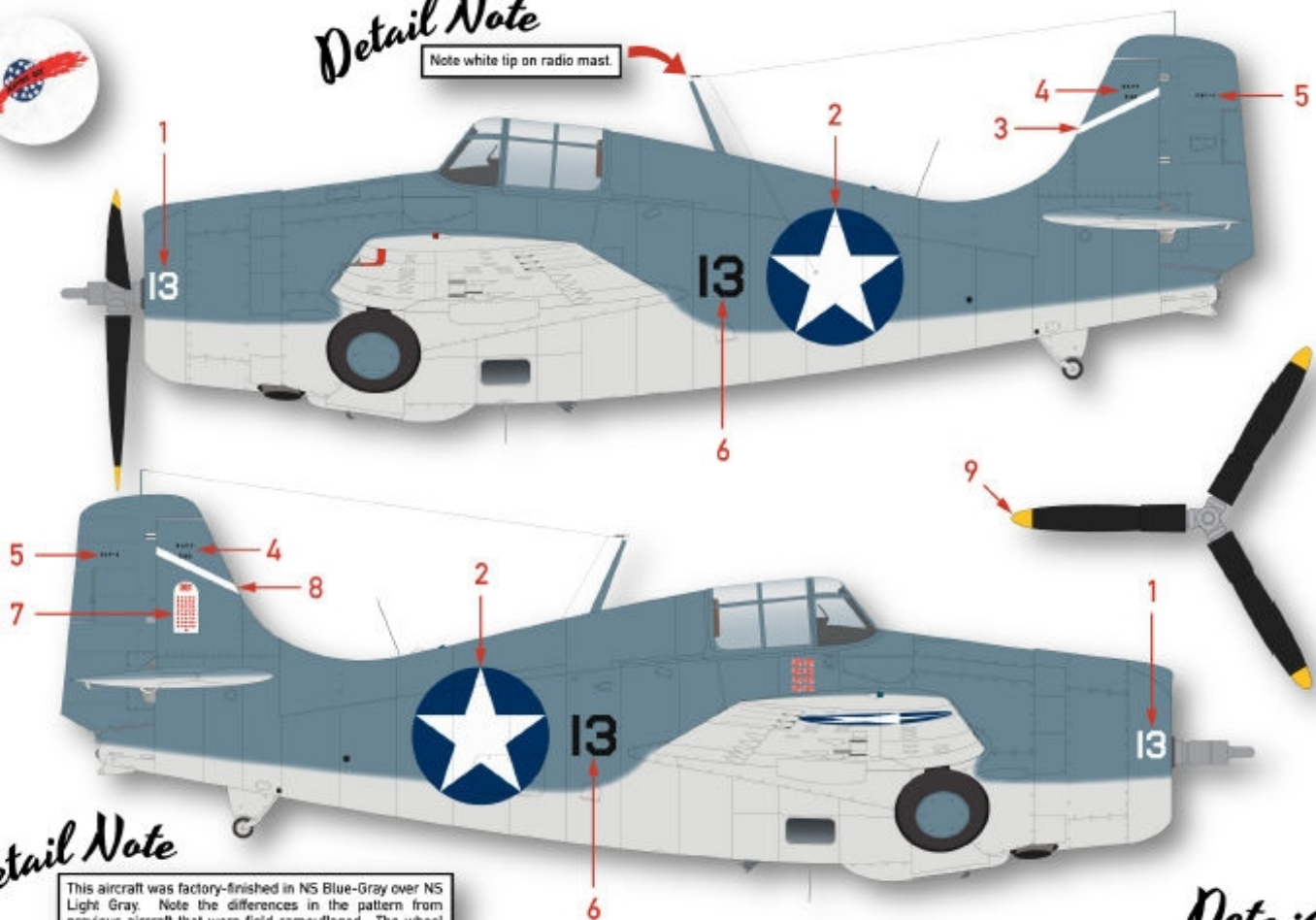


-  Non-Specular Blue-Gray
-  Non-Specular Light Gray



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Detail Note

This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. Note the differences in the pattern from previous aircraft that were field camouflaged. The wheel cover is now Blue-Gray, and the fuselage demarcation line is lower. Also note the red pitot mast - common to all F4F-4s. Cockpit was Bronze Green, and the cowling interior and wheel bay were Grumman light gray (almost off-white).

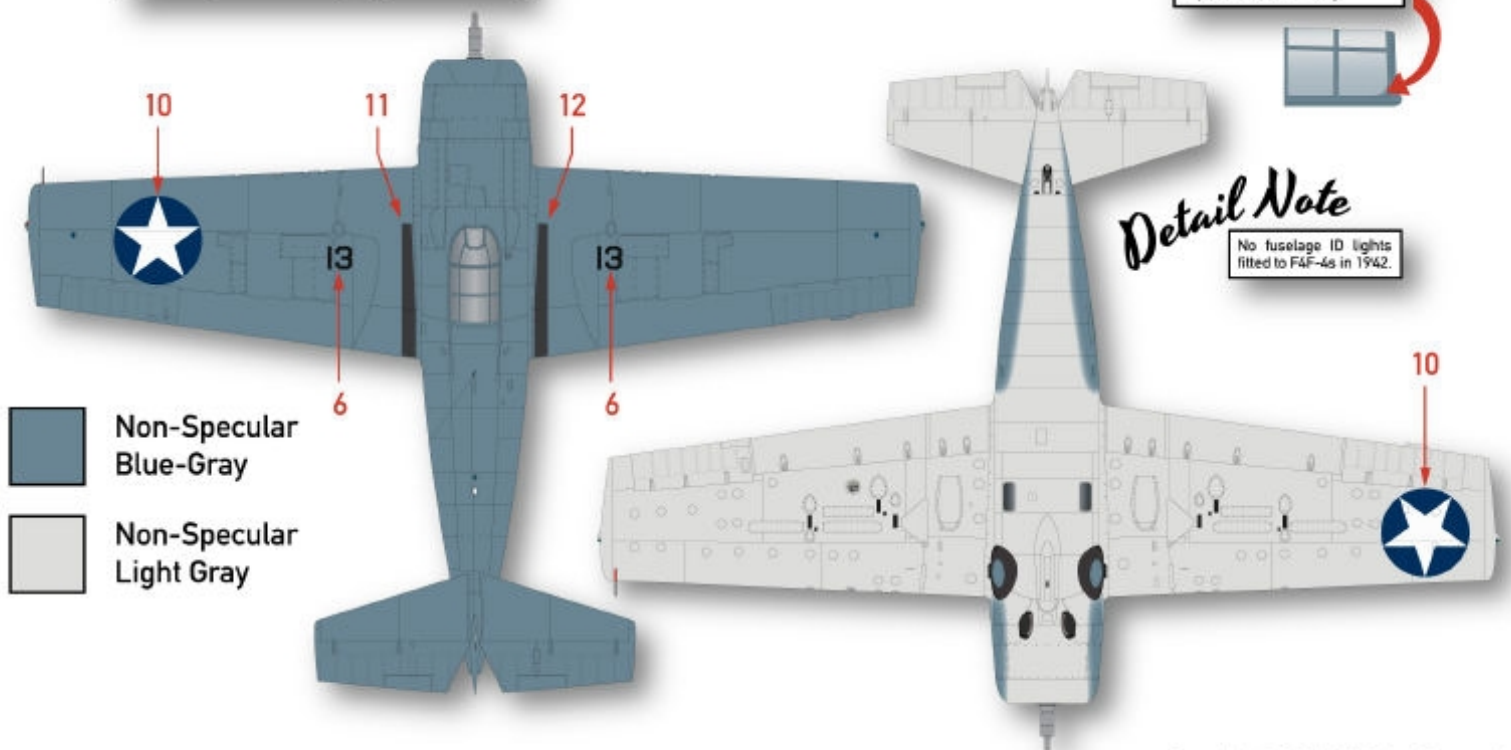
Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.



Detail Note

No fuselage ID lights fitted to F4F-4s in 1942.

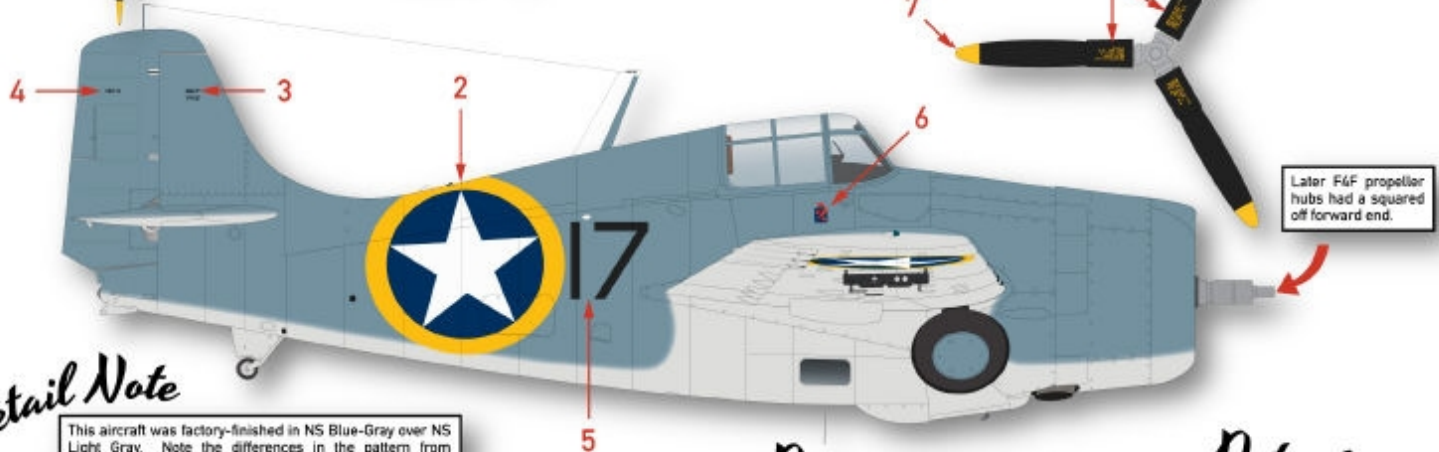
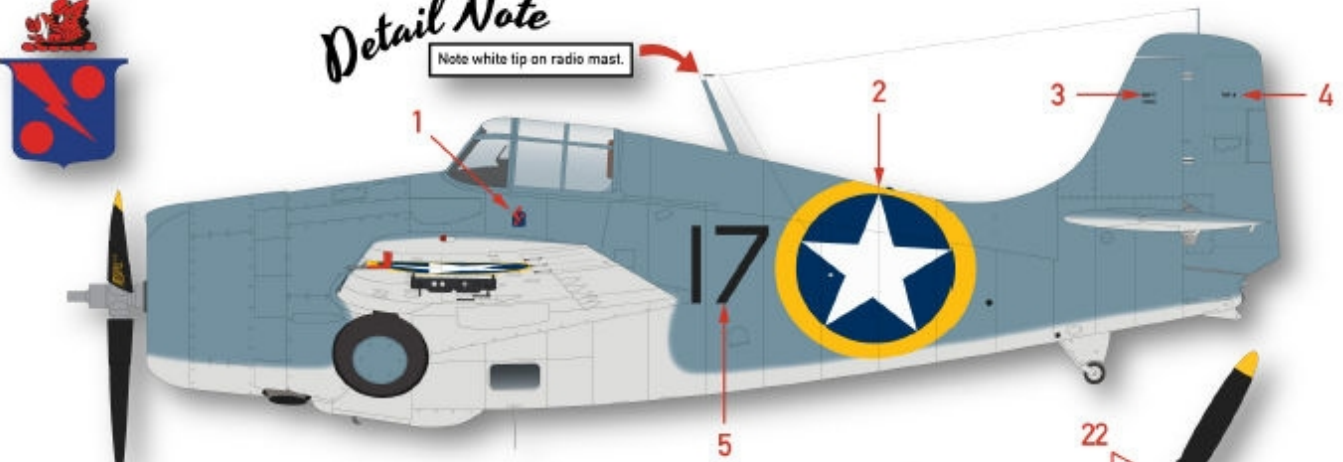


- Non-Specular Blue-Gray
- Non-Specular Light Gray



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Later F4F propeller hubs had a squared off forward end.

Detail Note

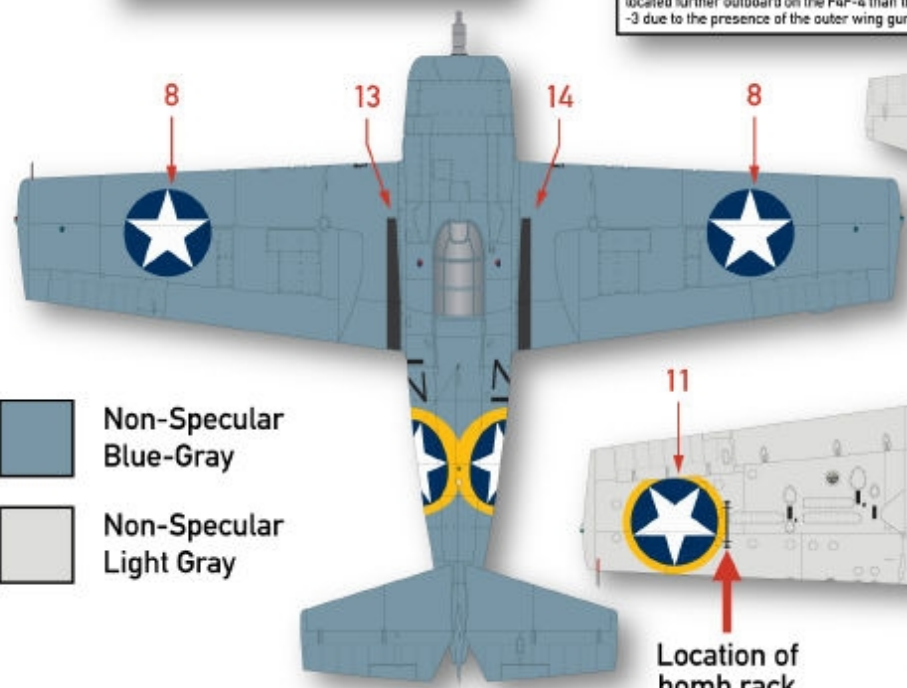
This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. Note the differences in the pattern from previous aircraft that were field camouflaged. The wheel cover is now Blue-Gray, and the fuselage demarcation line is different. Also note the red pilot mast - common to all F4F-4s. Cockpit was Bronze Green, and the cowling interior and wheel bay were Grumman light grey (almost off-white).

Detail Note

VF-41 Wildcats carried wing bomb racks during Operation Torch missions. They were located further outboard on the F4F-4 than the -3 due to the presence of the outer wing guns.

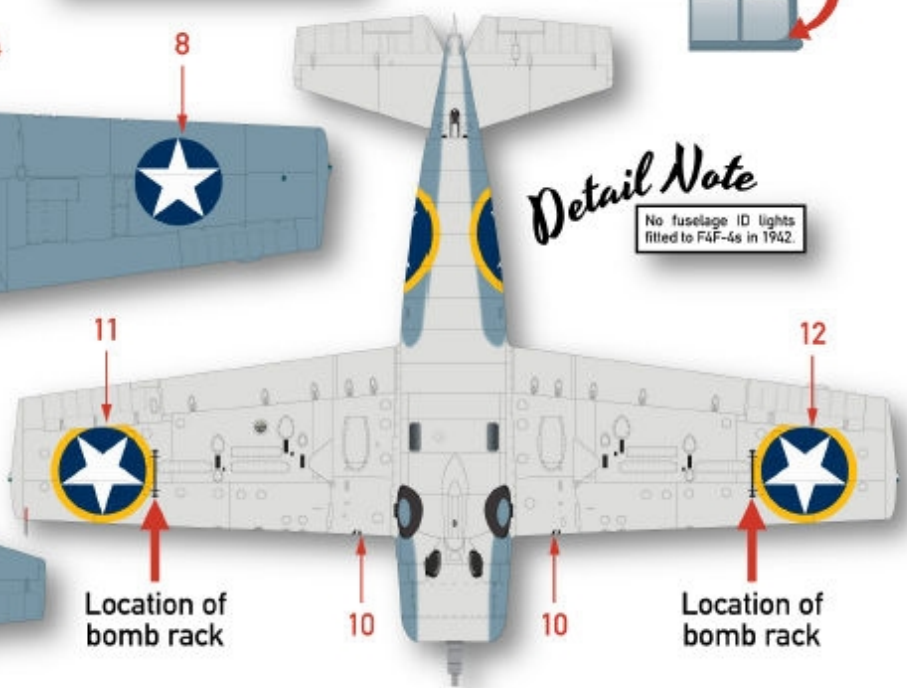
Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.



Detail Note

No fuselage ID lights fitted to F4F-4s in 1942.

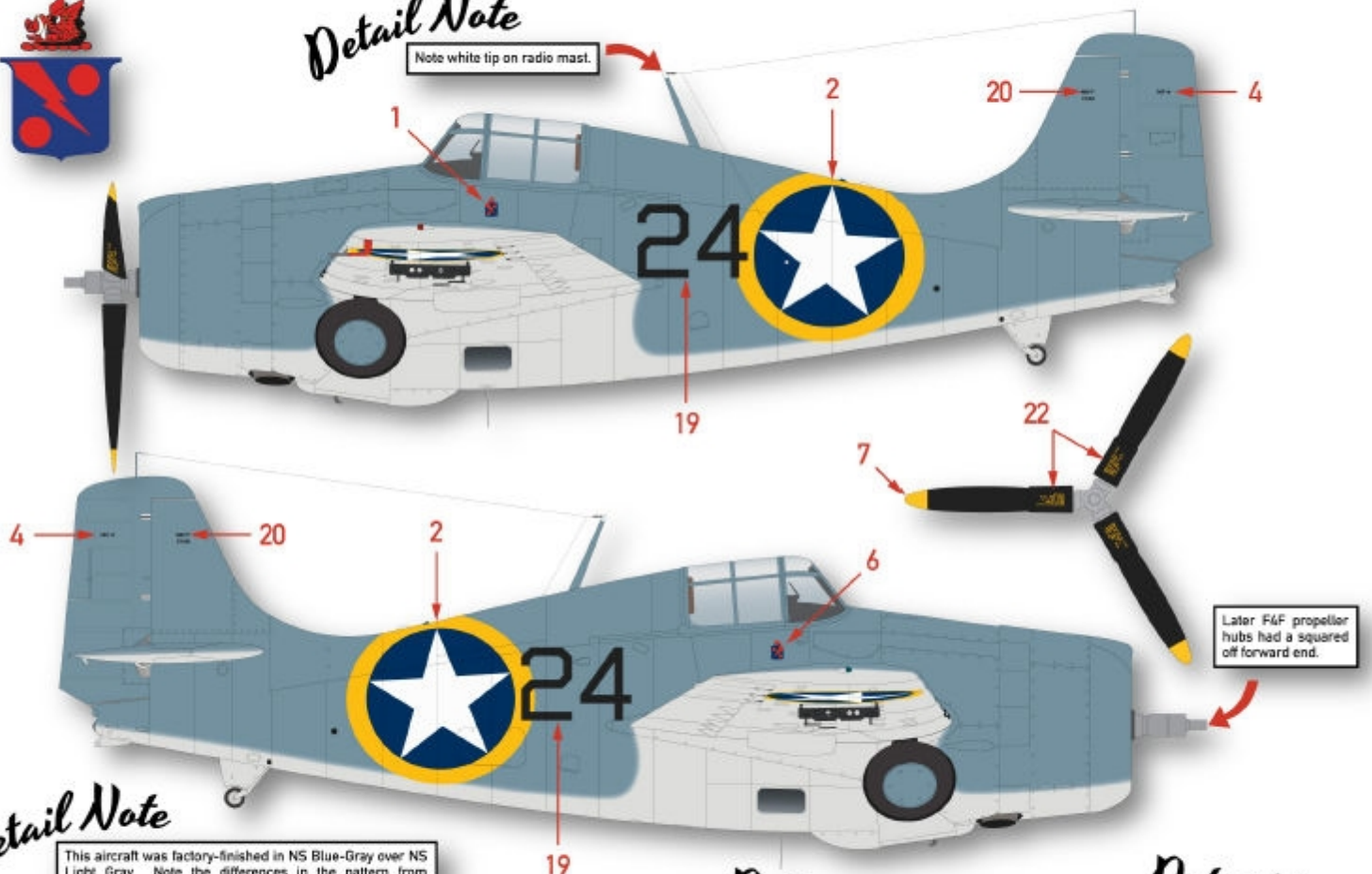


- Non-Specular Blue-Gray
- Non-Specular Light Gray



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Later F4F propeller hubs had a squared off forward end.

Detail Note

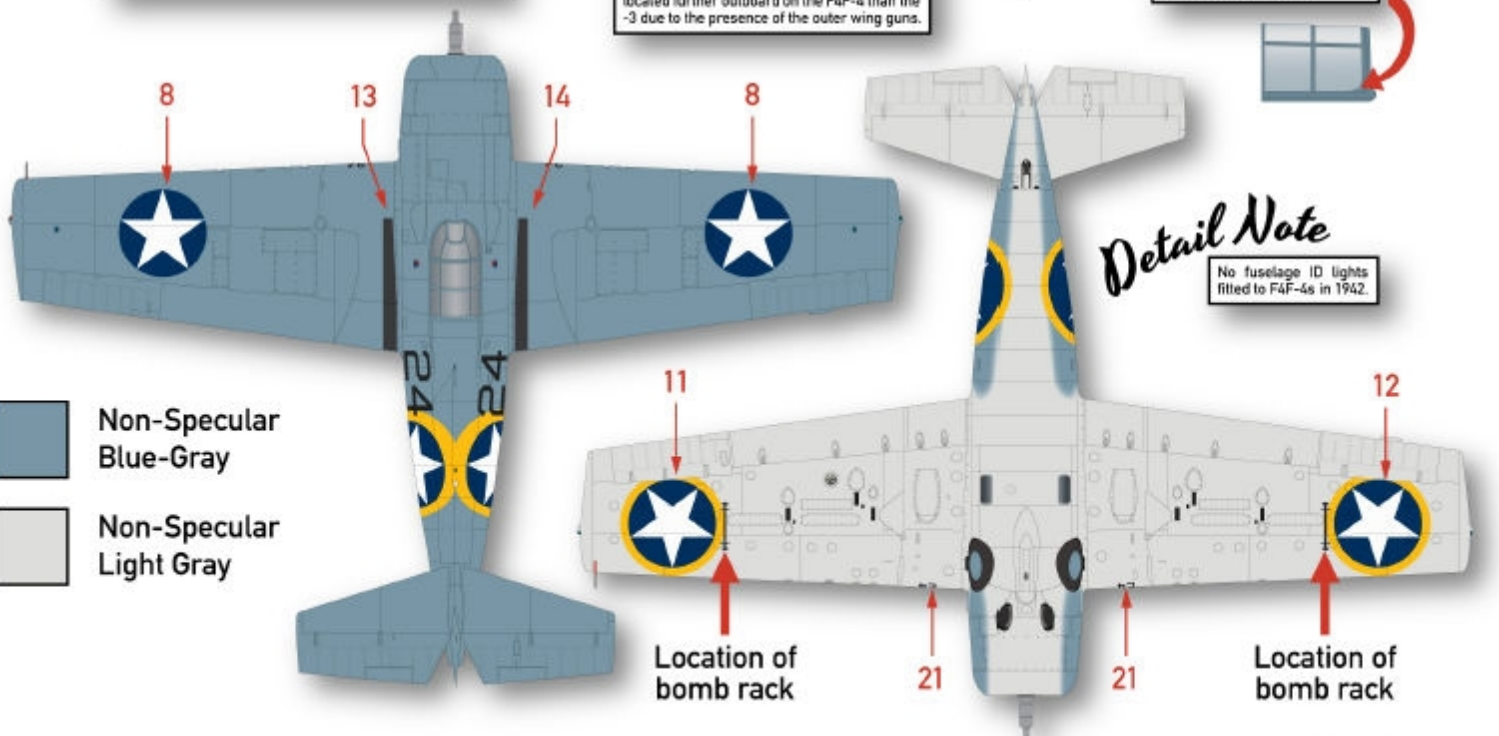
This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. Note the differences in the pattern from previous aircraft that were field camouflaged. The wheel cover is now Blue-Gray, and the fuselage demarcation line is different. Also note the red pilot mast - common to all F4F-4s. Cockpit was Bronze Green, and the cowling interior and wheel bay were Grumman light gray (almost off-white).

Detail Note

VF-41 Wildcats carried wing bomb racks during Operation Torch missions. They were located further outboard on the F4F-4 than the -3 due to the presence of the outer wing guns.


Detail Note


Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.



Detail Note

No fuselage ID lights fitted to F4F-4s in 1942.

 Non-Specular Blue-Gray

 Non-Specular Light Gray

Location of bomb rack

Location of bomb rack



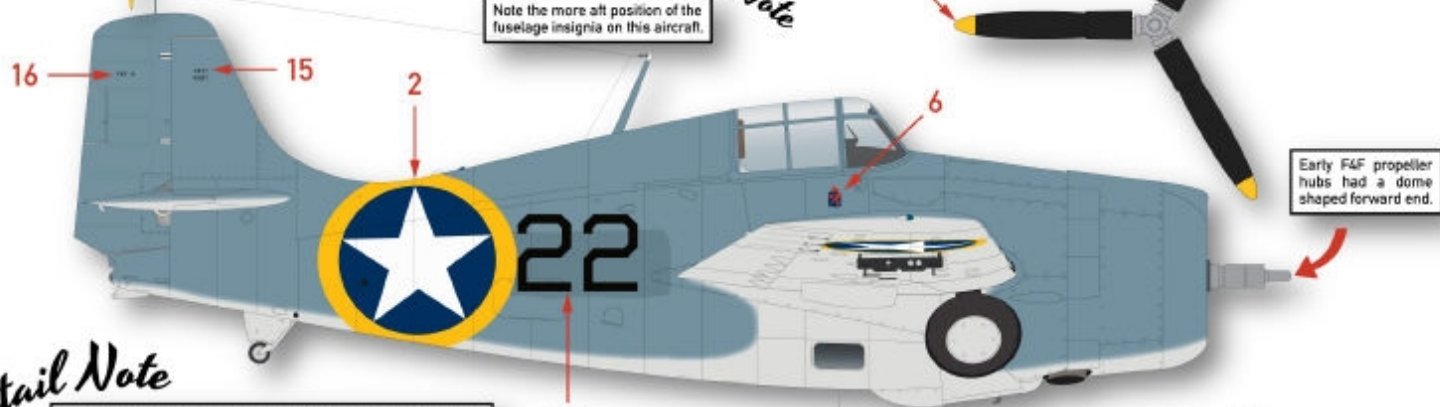
Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Markings Note

Note the more aft position of the fuselage insignia on this aircraft.



Early F4F propeller hubs had a dome shaped forward end.

Detail Note

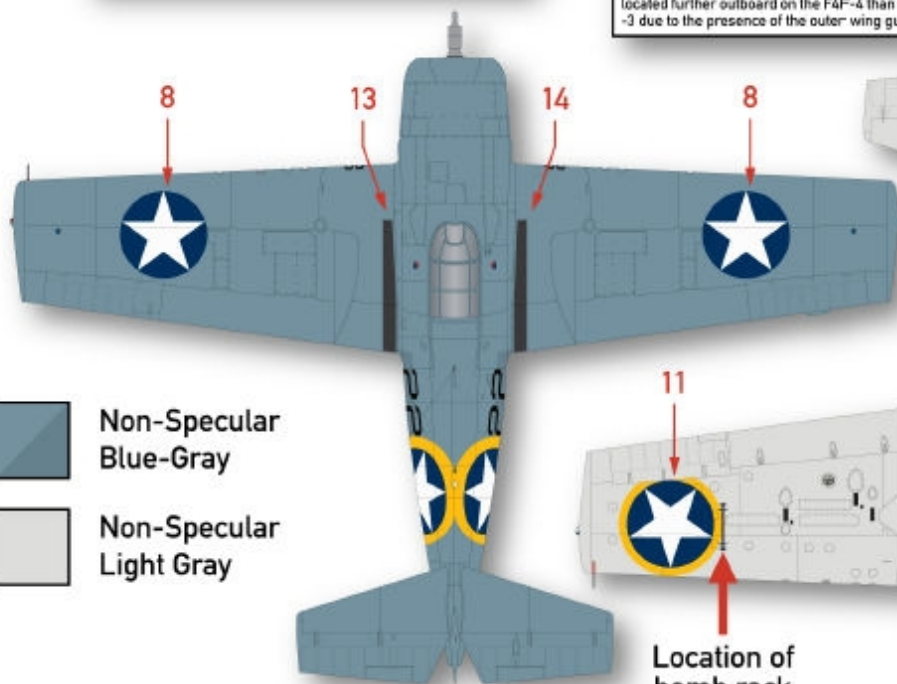
This aircraft was factory-finished in overall NS Light Gray. NS Blue-Gray was applied after delivery. Note the NS Light Gray wheel covers and the darker patches of NS Blue-Gray covering the previous "41-F-22" codes. Also note the red pitot mast - common to all F4F-4s. Cockpit was Bronze Green, and the cowl interior and wheel bay were Grumman light grey (almost off-white).

Detail Note

VF-41 Wildcats carried wing bomb racks during Operation Torch missions. They were located further outboard on the F4F-4 than the -3 due to the presence of the outer wing guns.

Detail Note


Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Light Gray.

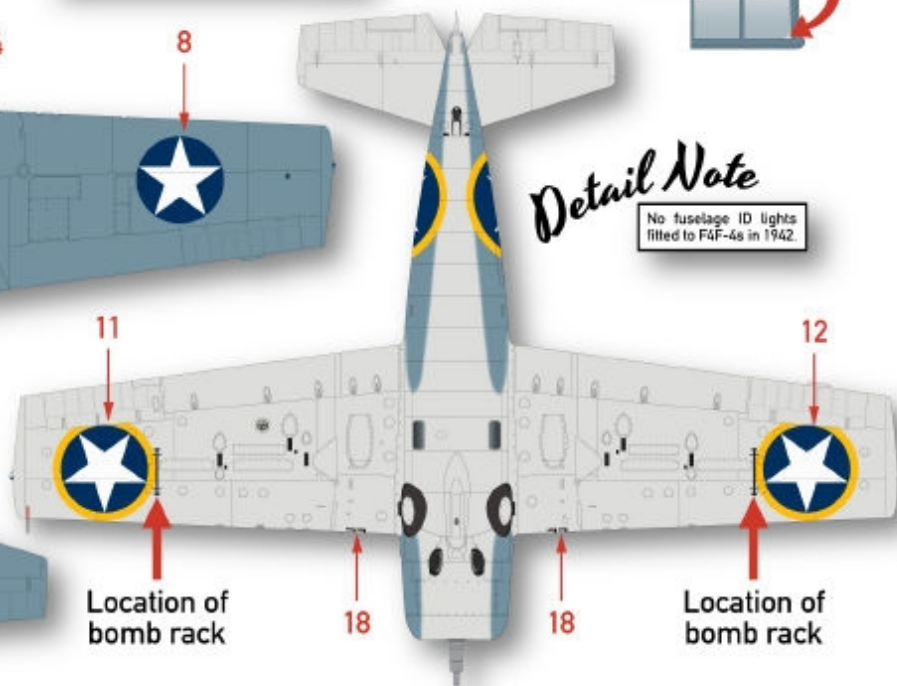


Detail Note

No fuselage ID lights fitted to F4F-4s in 1942.

 Non-Specular Blue-Gray

 Non-Specular Light Gray



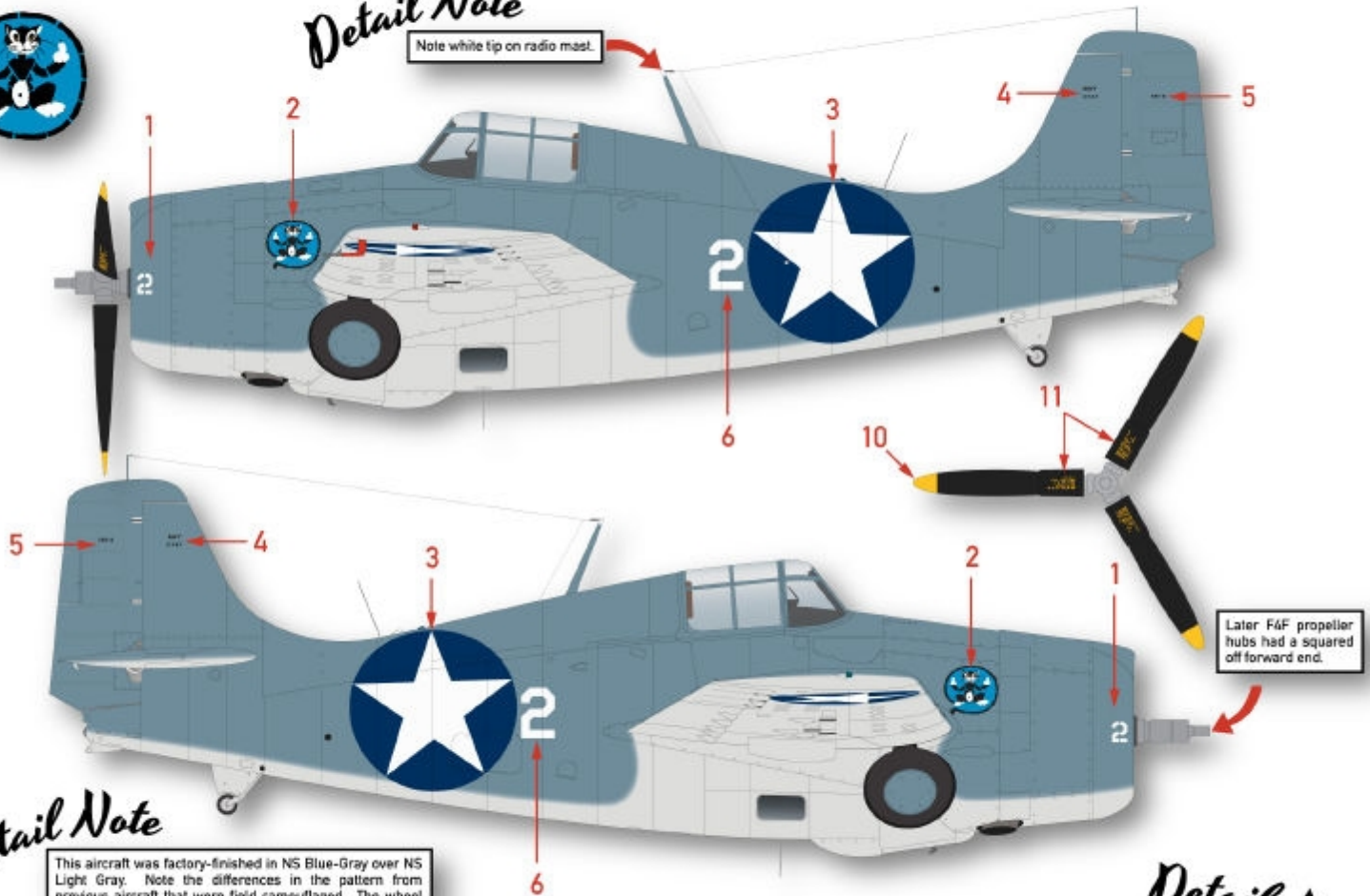
Location of bomb rack

Location of bomb rack



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.

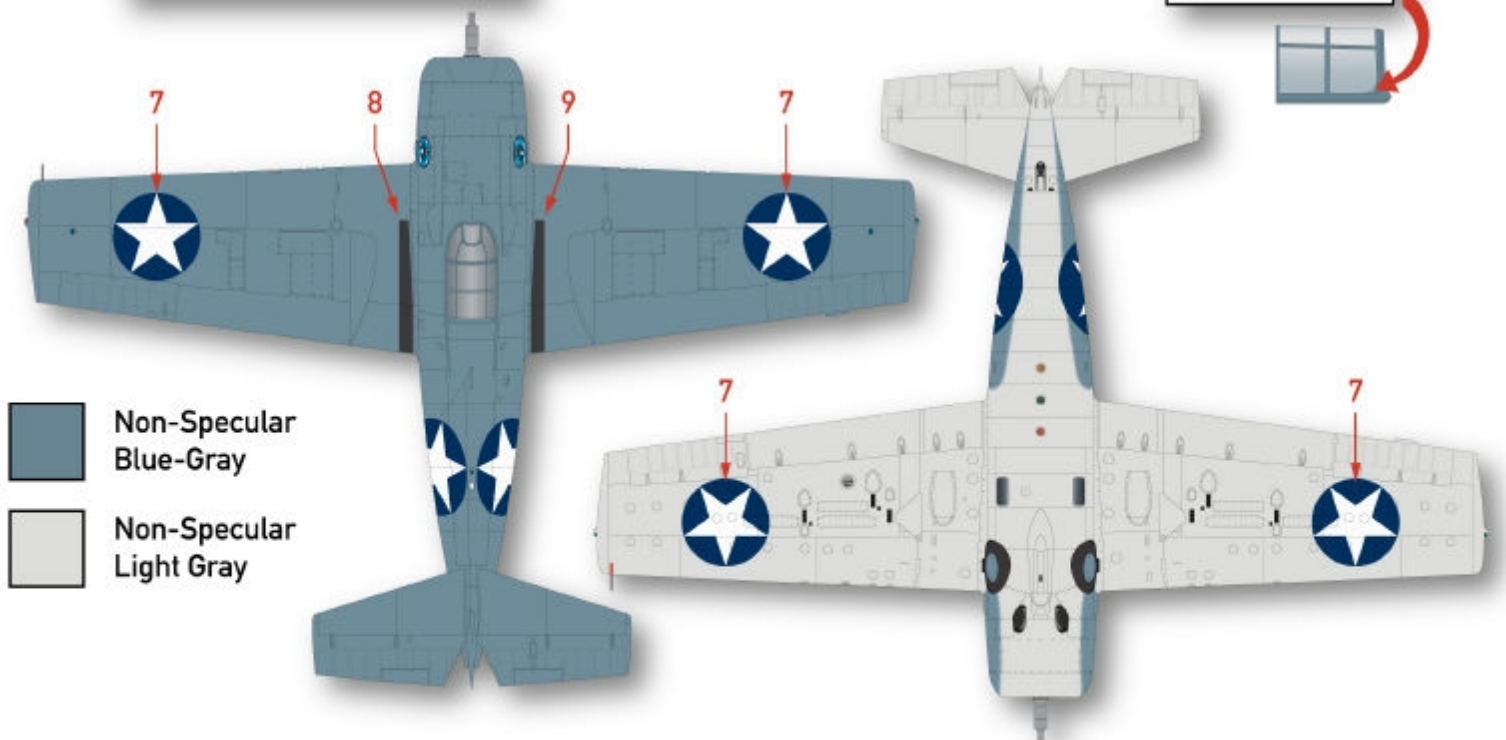



Detail Note


This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. Note the differences in the pattern from previous aircraft that were field camouflaged. The wheel cover is now Blue-Gray, and the fuselage demarcation line is lower. Also note the red pilot mast - common to all F4F-4s. Cockpit was Bronze Green, and the cowlings interior and wheel bay were Grumman light gray (almost off-white).

Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.



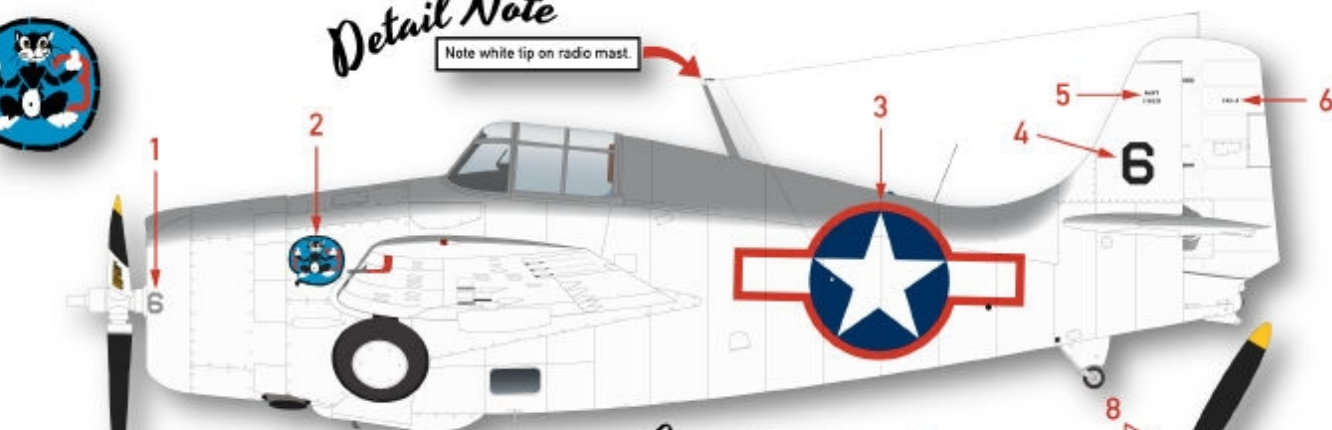
 Non-Specular Blue-Gray

 Non-Specular Light Gray



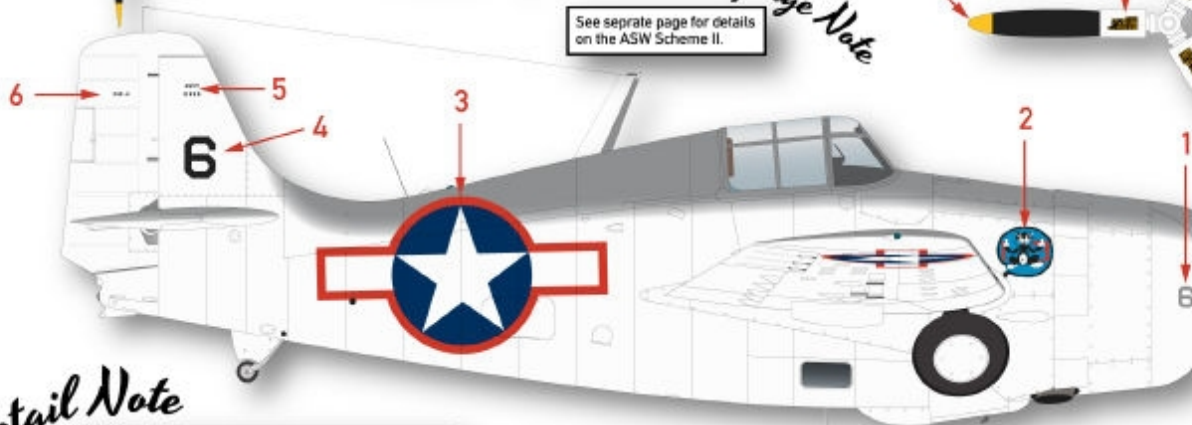
Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Camouflage Note

See separate page for details on the ASW Scheme II.



Later F4F propeller hubs had a squared off forward end.

Detail Note

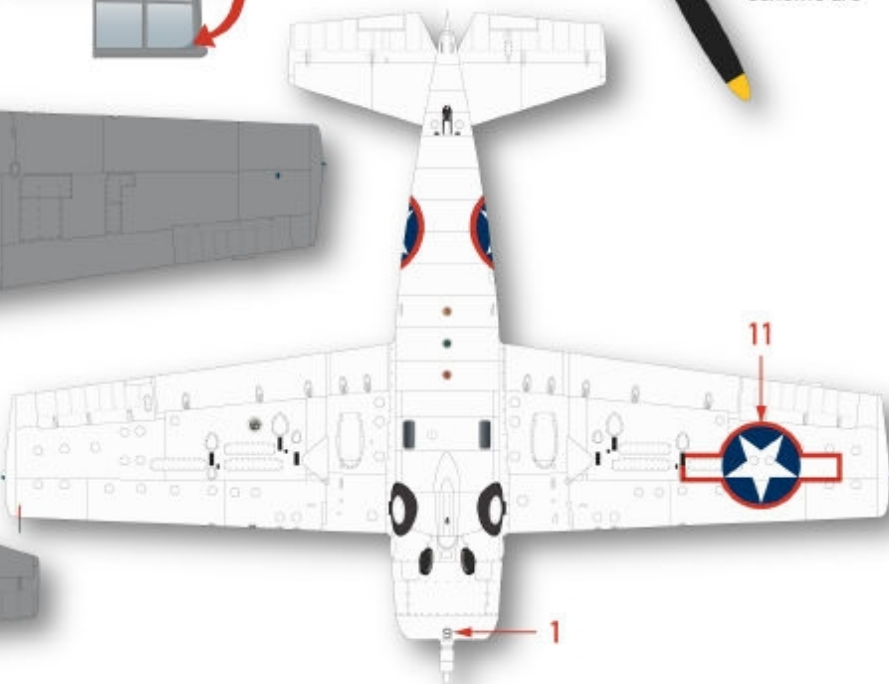
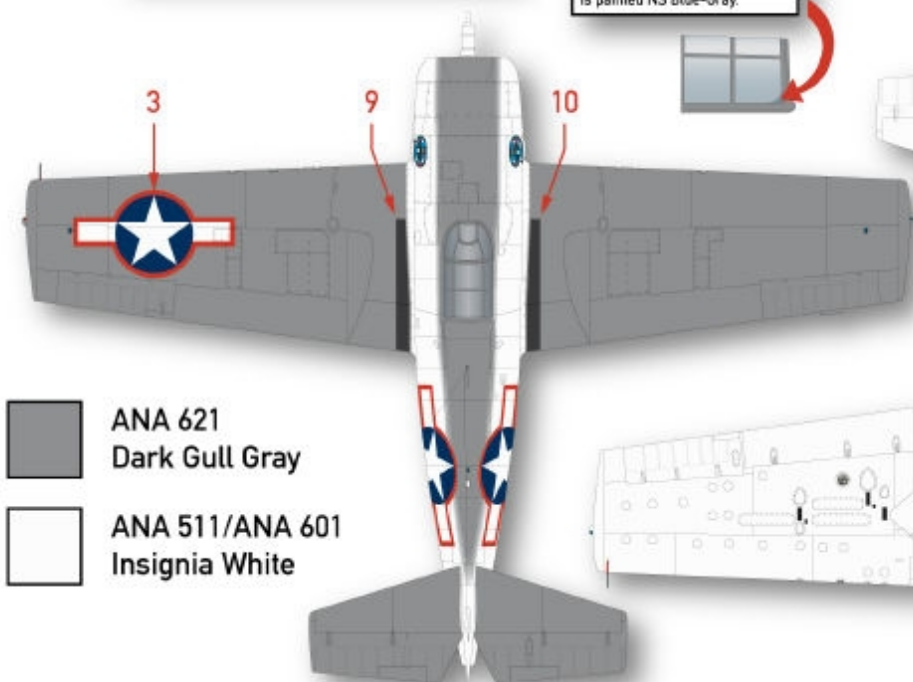
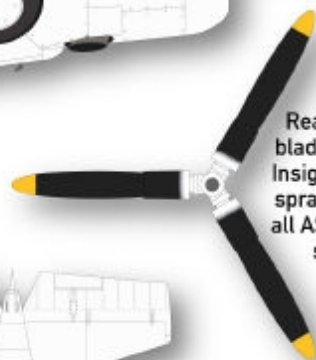
This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. The ASW II scheme was applied by the Navy, probably at NAS Norfolk. All traces of the NSBG/NSLG scheme have disappeared except for the crescent of sheet metal visible inside the aft lower sliding canopy window.

Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.



Rear face of prop blades showing NS Insignia White overspray. Applicable to all ASW camouflage scheme a/c

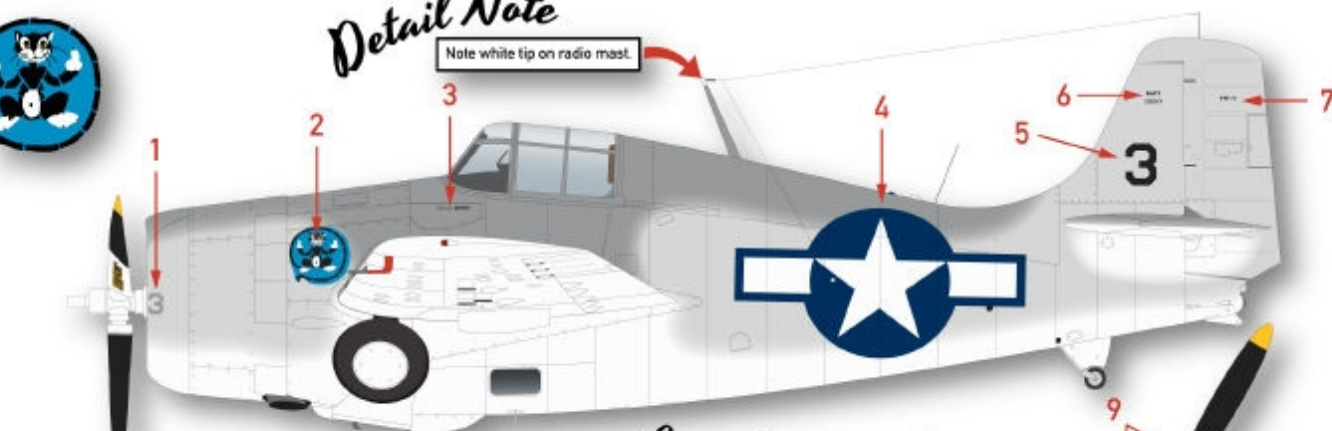


- ANA 621
Dark Gull Gray
- ANA 511/ANA 601
Insignia White



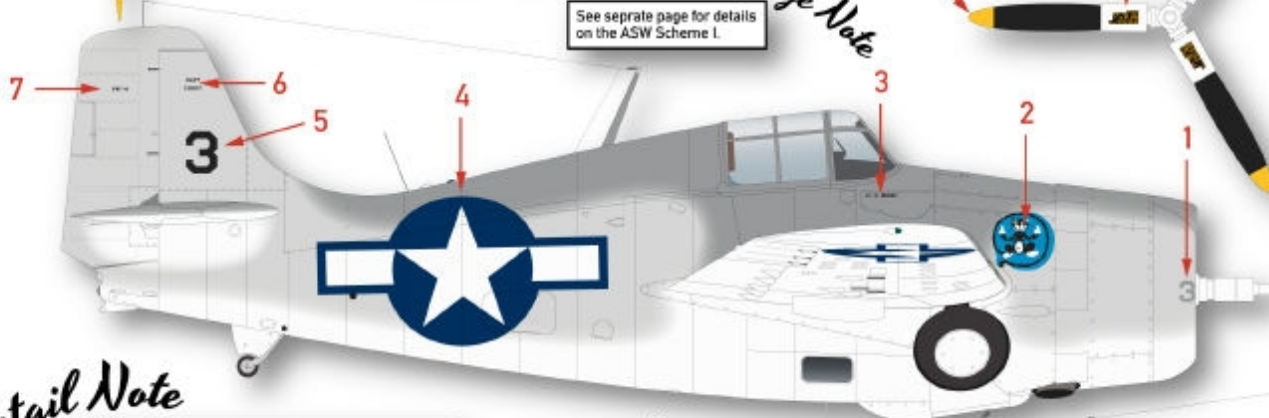
Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Camouflage Note

See separate page for details on the ASW Scheme I.



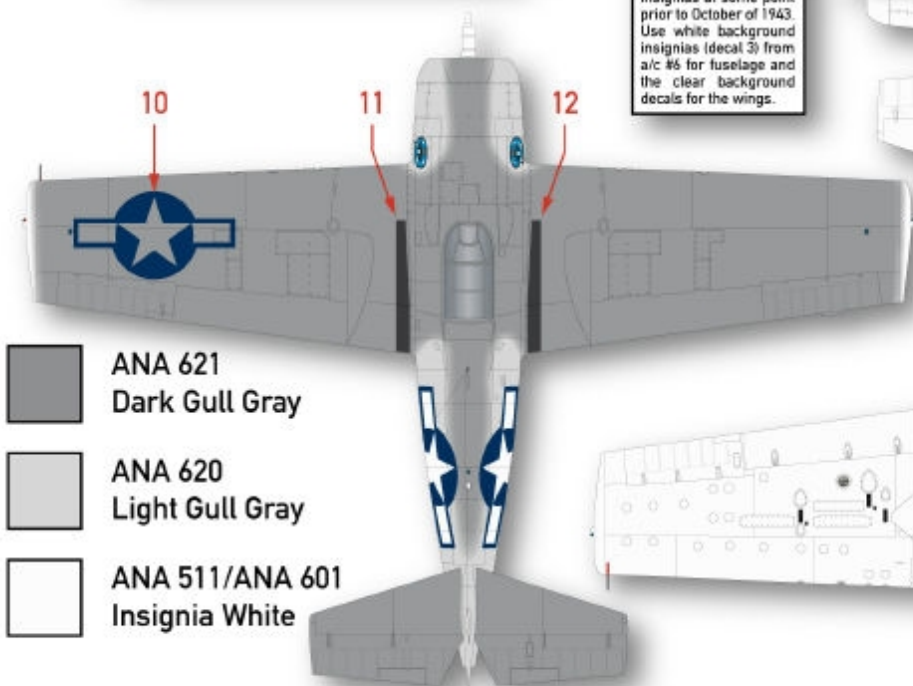
Later F4F propeller hubs had a squared off forward end.

Detail Note

This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. The ASW II scheme was applied by the Navy, probably at NAS Norfolk. All traces of the NSBG/NSLG scheme have disappeared except for the crescent of sheet metal visible inside the aft lower sliding canopy window.

Markings Note

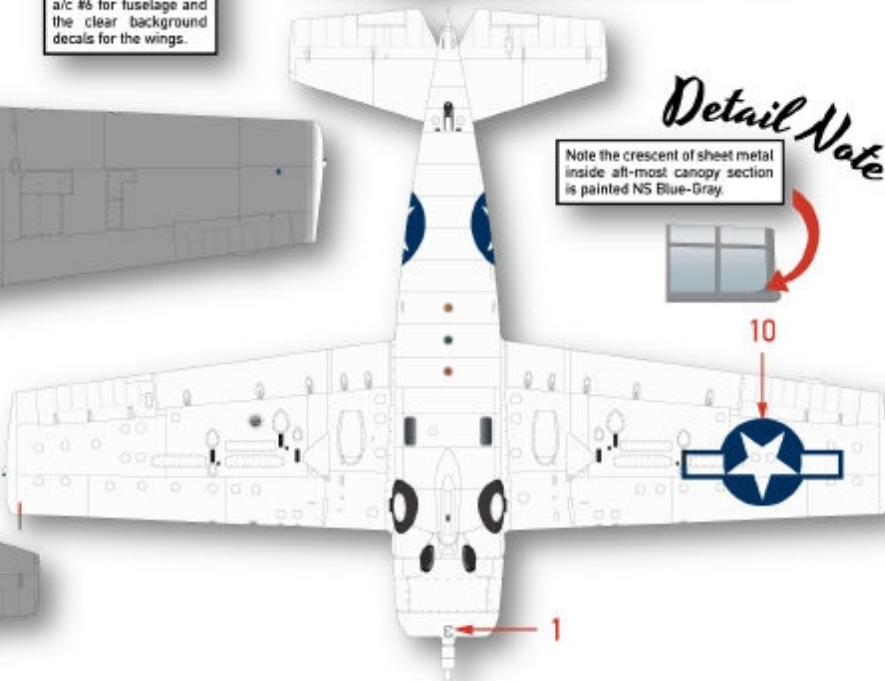
It is quite probable that this aircraft carried the red-bordered national insignias at some point prior to October of 1943. Use white background insignias (decal 3) from a/c #6 for fuselage and the clear background decals for the wings.



-  ANA 621
Dark Gull Gray
-  ANA 620
Light Gull Gray
-  ANA 511/ANA 601
Insignia White

Detail Note

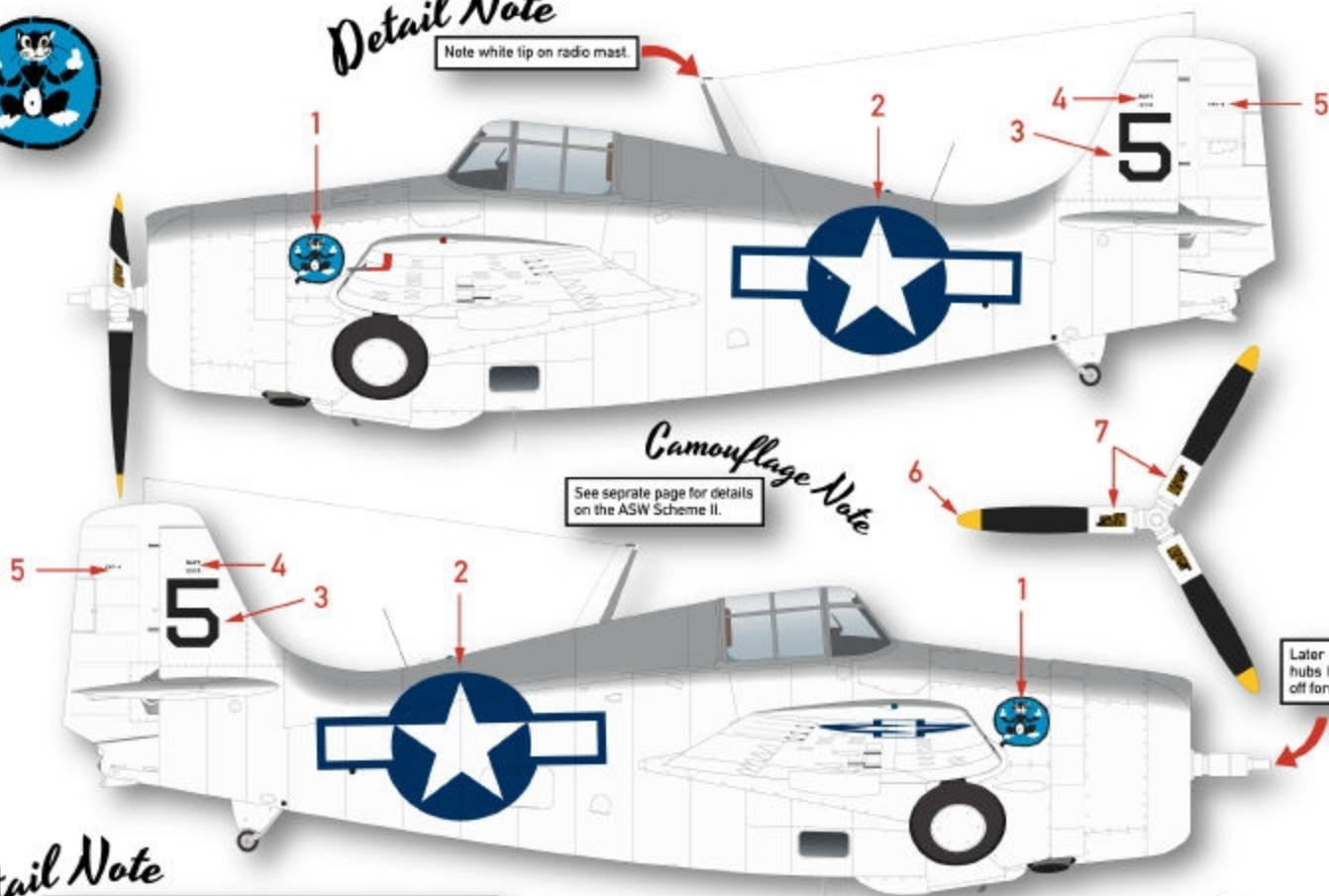
Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.





Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Camouflage Note

See separate page for details on the ASW Scheme II.

Later F4F propeller hubs had a squared off forward end.

Detail Note

This aircraft was likely factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray, or possibly the newer tri-color blue/white scheme. The ASW II scheme was applied by the Navy, probably at NAS Norfolk. All traces of the factory color scheme have disappeared except for the crescent of sheet metal visible inside the aft lower sliding canopy window. Note the red pitot mast, in common with all F4F-4s.

Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray (or possibly NS Dark Sea Blue).

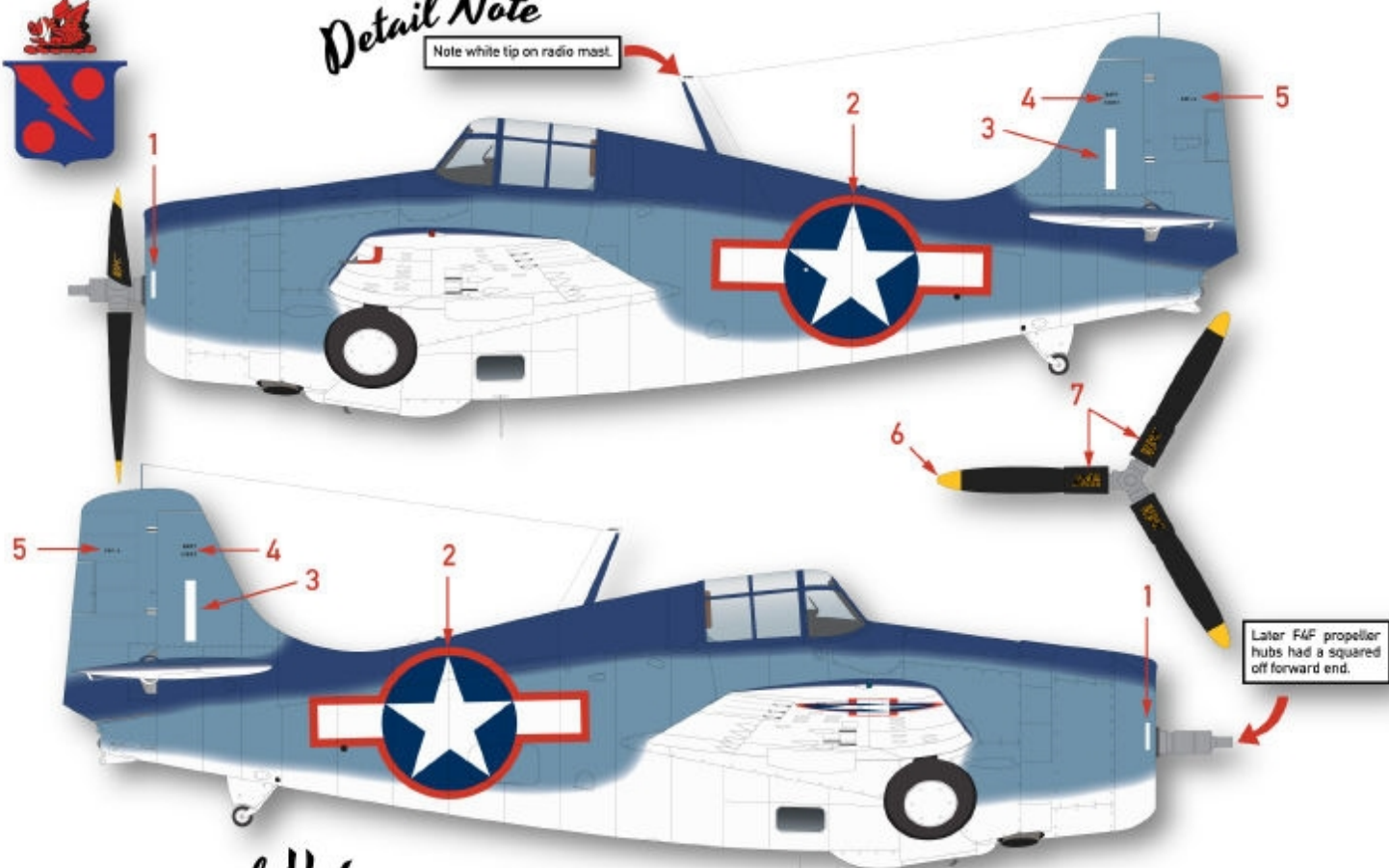


- ANA 621
Dark Gull Gray
- ANA 511/ANA 601
Insignia White



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



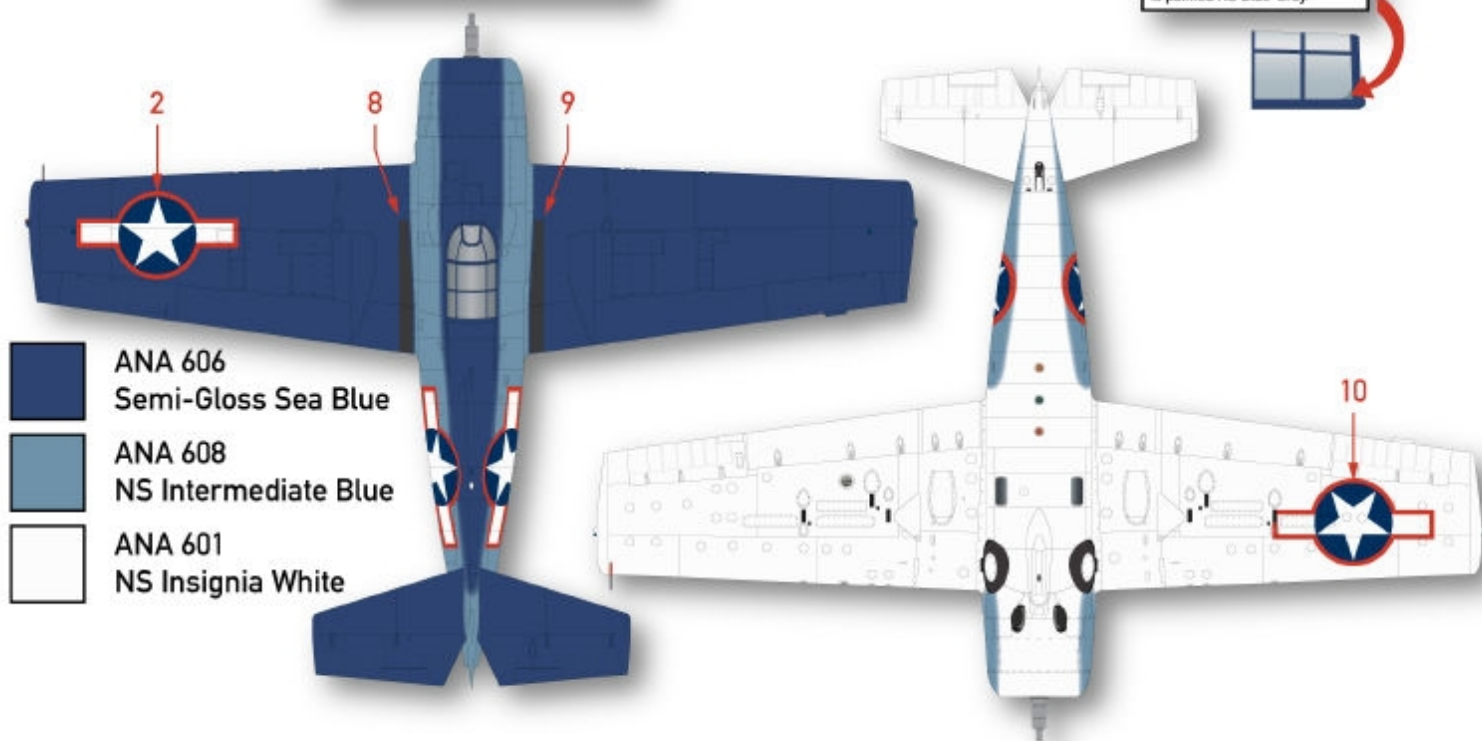
Later F4F propeller hubs had a squared off forward end.

Detail Note

This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. The new tri-color scheme was applied by the Navy, possibly at the NAS Norfolk or NAS Jacksonville depot.

Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.

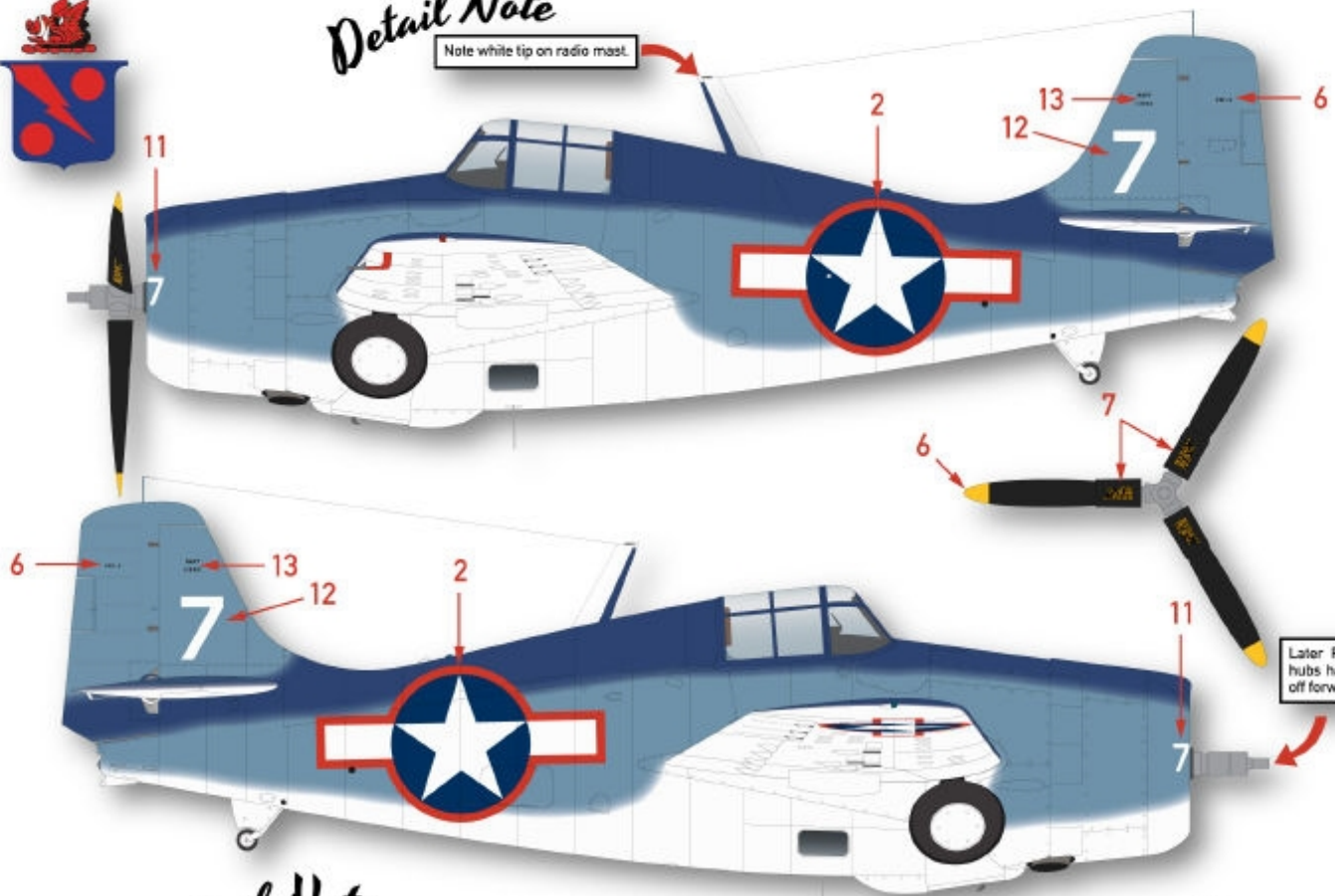


- ANA 606
Semi-Gloss Sea Blue
- ANA 608
NS Intermediate Blue
- ANA 601
NS Insignia White



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Detail Note

This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. The new tri-color scheme was applied by the Navy, possibly at the NAS Norfolk or NAS Jacksonville depot.

Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.

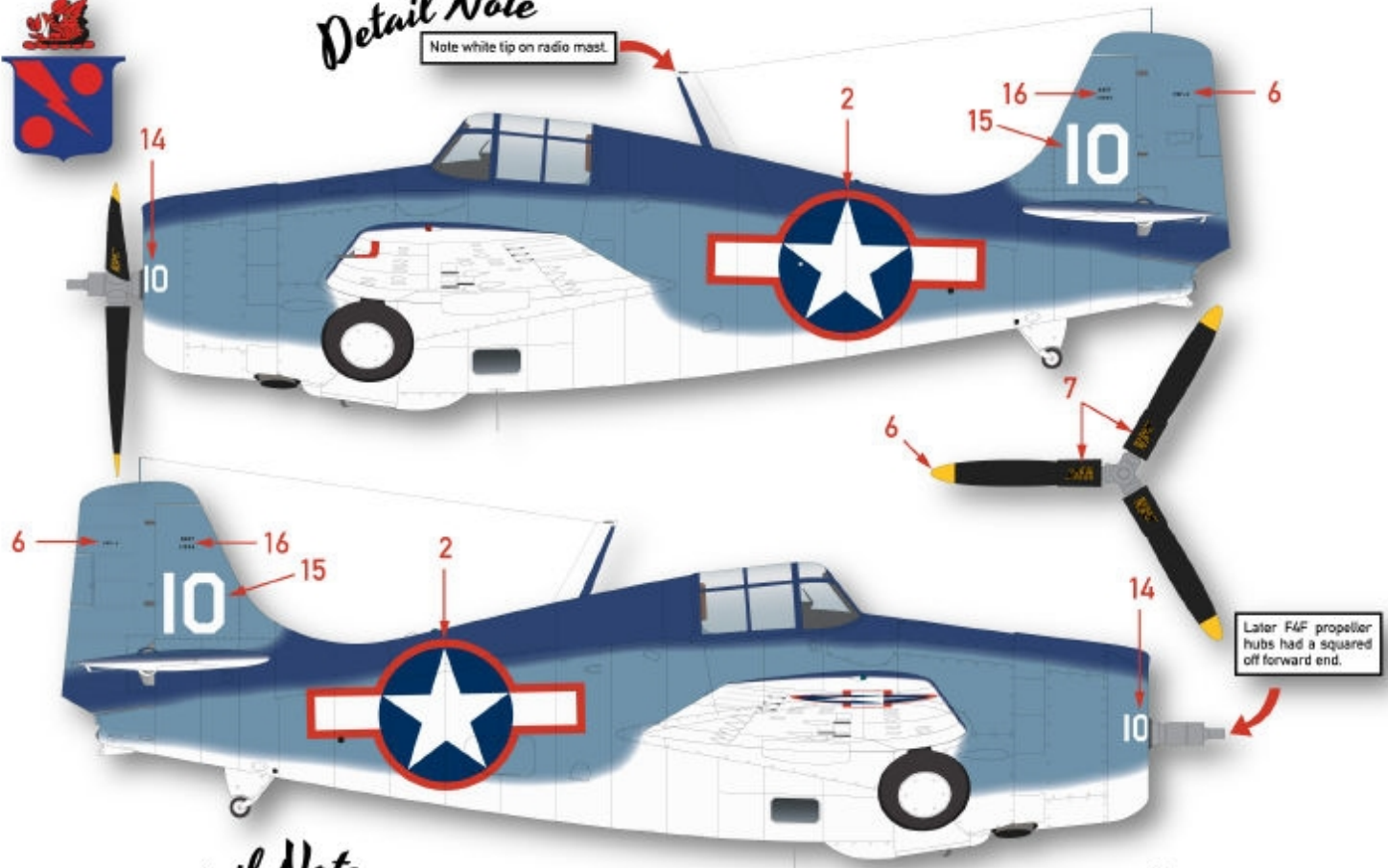


- ANA 606
Semi-Gloss Sea Blue
- ANA 608
NS Intermediate Blue
- ANA 601
NS Insignia White



Detail Note

Note white tip on radio mast.



Detail Note

This aircraft was factory-finished in NS Blue-Gray over NS Light Gray. The new tri-color scheme was applied by the Navy, possibly at the NAS Norfolk or NAS Jacksonville depot.

Detail Note

Note the crescent of sheet metal inside aft-most canopy section is painted NS Blue-Gray.



- ANA 606
Semi-Gloss Sea Blue
- ANA 608
NS Intermediate Blue
- ANA 601
NS Insignia White

F4F-3 Details

Grumman produced the F4F-3 in four distinct groups. Each had its own unique configuration as shown in the illustrations below. All Grumman-built Wildcats featured Bronze Green cockpits, and Grumman's unique light grey (a very light, almost off-white color) inside the cowlings, wheel wells, and other interior areas.

F4F-3 Group A

BuNos 1848-1896 delivered to VF-4 (later VF-71) Dec 1940 - Jan 1941. Probably never used in combat.

BuNos 2512-2538 delivered to VF-71 and VF-42 Feb 41. Some used in combat. 2512, 2517, 2526, 2530, and 2537 converted to F4F-3P.

F4F-3 Group B

BuNos 3856 - 3874 delivered to VF-42 and VF-71 in Jun 1941. Never used in combat, but later used as stateside trainers.

F4F-3A Group C

BuNos 3875 - 3969 delivered to VF-5, VF-6, and VMF-111 in May - Jun 1941. Most aircraft saw combat with VF-2, VF-3, VF-6, and VMF-212. 3918 converted to F4F-3AP photo reconnaissance fighter.

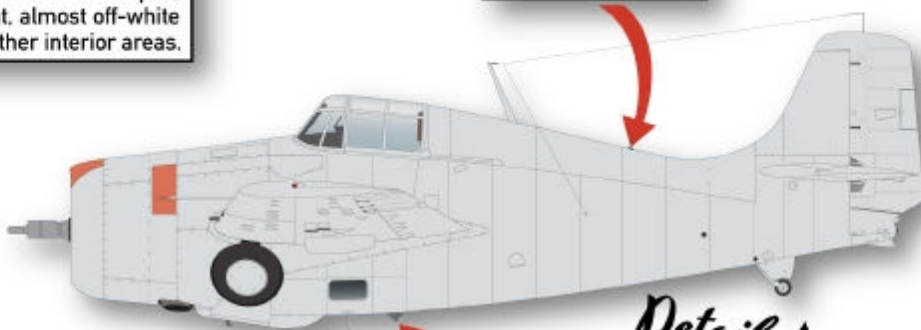
The F4F-3A had a single-stage, two-speed supercharger, and had markedly inferior performance compared to other F4Fs with two-stage superchargers.

F4F-3 Group D

BuNos 3970-4057 delivered to VF-3, VF-5, VMF-121, VMF-211, and VMF-221 between Jul - Sep 1941.

BuNos 12230-12329 delivered Jan - May 1943 and used only for stateside training.

Detail Note
F4F-3s had only the blue formation light on the spine. No white light as on later variants.



Detail Note
Early F4Fs, up through at least early F4F-4 production had a substantial target tow lug on the belly.



Detail Note
Many early war F4F-3s had these twin ABA IFF antenna posts offset a few inches left of center.

