

AN  
**EXPERTS-CHOICE**  
 DECAL

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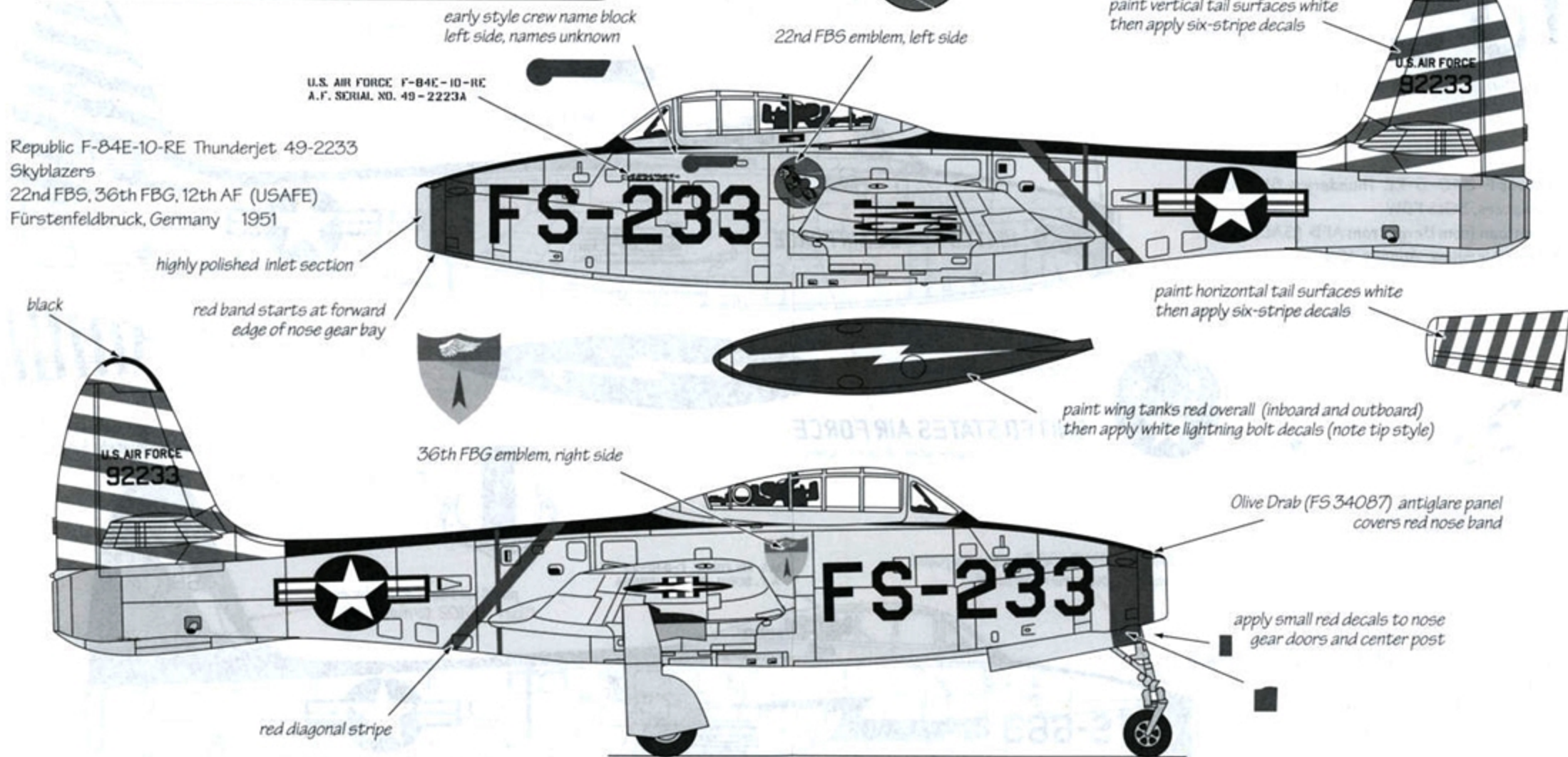
1/48 SCALE

NO. 48-53

**USAFE SKYBLAZERS THUNDERJETS**

These decals are designed to fit the 1/48th scale  
 Tamiya F-84G and Monogram F-84E/G kits

To convert the kit F-84G to an early F-84G or an F-84E, fill in the engine air inlet suction doors on the lower fuselage sides beneath the cockpit and the in-flight refueling receptacle on the inboard leading edge of the left wing. You must also replace the "Swiss cheese" speed brake with the early style slotted speed brake.



U.S. AIR FORCE F-84E-10-RE  
 A.F. SERIAL NO. 49-2223A

Republic F-84E-10-RE Thunderjet 49-2223  
 Skyblazers  
 22nd FBS, 36th FBG, 12th AF (USAFE)  
 Fürstenfeldbruck, Germany 1951

highly polished inlet section

black

red band starts at forward  
 edge of nose gear bay



36th FBG emblem, right side



paint wing tanks red overall (inboard and outboard)  
 then apply white lightning bolt decals (note tip style)

paint horizontal tail surfaces white  
 then apply six-stripe decals



Olive Drab (FS 34087) antiglare panel  
 covers red nose band

apply small red decals to nose  
 gear doors and center post

red diagonal stripe

**Skyblazers Thunderjets**

The Skyblazers aerial demonstration team was formed at Fürstenfeldbruck, Germany, by the 22nd Fighter Squadron, 36th Fighter Group in May, 1950. The team converted from the F-80B Shooting Star to the Republic F-84E Thunderjet in the fall of 1950. The team carried 22FBS markings for its displays in Europe. In 1952, the 36th FBW Skyblazers team

did their last show at Detroit with F-84Gs borrowed from SAC and painted specially for the show.

During 1952, the wing replaced the group as the basic USAF combat unit and the 36th FBG became the 36th FBW. By the end of 1952, the 36th FBW had converted to the North American F-86 Sabre and the Skyblazers mission was transferred to the 86th FBW at Landstuhl, Germany. Unfortunately, usable photos

of the team in its 86th FBW markings are hard to find. While based at Landstuhl, the team's F-84E Thunderjets reportedly carried the name Skyblazers on their tip tanks.

The fall of 1953 saw the Skyblazers' home base change again, this time to Chaumont, France. The 48th FBW, equipped with late production F-84Gs, was assigned the Skyblazers air demonstration mission in Europe.

The Thunderjet was withdrawn from US Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) service in 1954 and the Skyblazers, still assigned to the 48th FBW, transitioned into the F-86F Sabre. In 1956, the Skyblazers returned to the 36th FBW at Bitburg, Germany, flying the F-100 Super Sabre until the team was disbanded in 1962.



**Experts-Choice 48-53**

# USAF

left main wheel well decal placement



left main gear doors decal placement

Use the large bonus emblems on a display base or put them on a desk nameplate or a coffee mug!

USAFE Thunderjets were Natural Metal with Olive Drab (FS 34087) anti-glare panels on the upper fuselage fore and aft of the cockpit. National insignias were applied to the fuselage sides, above the left wing, and below the right wing. Non-standard national insignia with "skinny" red bars as provided on this decal sheet were carried by almost all the F-84s in Europe. Buzz numbers containing the "last three" of the aircraft serial number were usually applied to both sides of the nose.

Republic F-84G-5-RE Thunderjet 51-1065  
Skyblazers, 36th FBW  
A/c on loan from Bergstrom AFB (SAC)  
Detroit Air Show, August 1952

Olive Drab (FS 34087) anti-glare panel covers red nose band

U.S. AIR FORCE F-84G-5-RE  
A.F. SERIAL NO. 51-1065A

black  
paint vertical tail surfaces white then apply seven-stripe decals

later style crew name block left side, names unknown

highly polished inlet leading edge

Air Force emblem, both sides

paint horizontal tail surfaces white then apply seven-stripe decals



slotted speed brake found on both aircraft flown by 36th FBW

center red dot in star

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**  
same stencil, both sides

48th FBW emblem, both sides

gray dielectric fin cap (approximately FS 36628)

Republic F-84G-25-RE Thunderjet 51-16669  
Skyblazers  
48th FBW, 12th AF (USAFE)  
Chaumont, France 1954

Olive Drab (FS 34087) anti-glare panel does not cover red nose band

U.S. AIR FORCE F-84G-25-RE  
A.F. SERIAL NO. 51-16669A

paint vertical tail surfaces Blue FS15102 to match trim

highly polished inlet leading edge

paint outboard halves of wing tanks white then apply blue lightning bolt decals (tanks possibly Yellow FS13538)

paint tank fins Blue FS15102 to match trim

Many thanks to Dave Menard and Norm Taylor for their help on this decal sheet

paint horizontal tail surfaces Blue FS15102 to match trim

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Use Bare-Metal Foil for a realistic finish on natural metal and exhaust areas.