

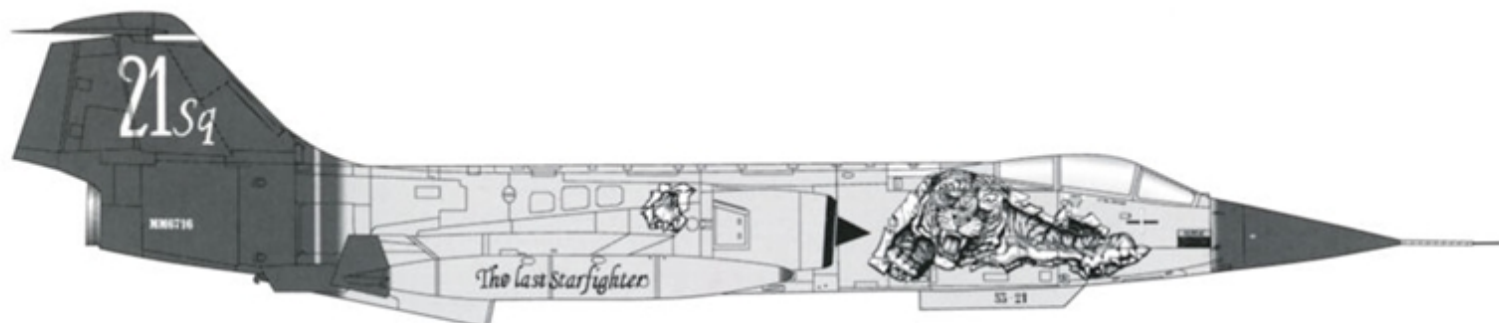
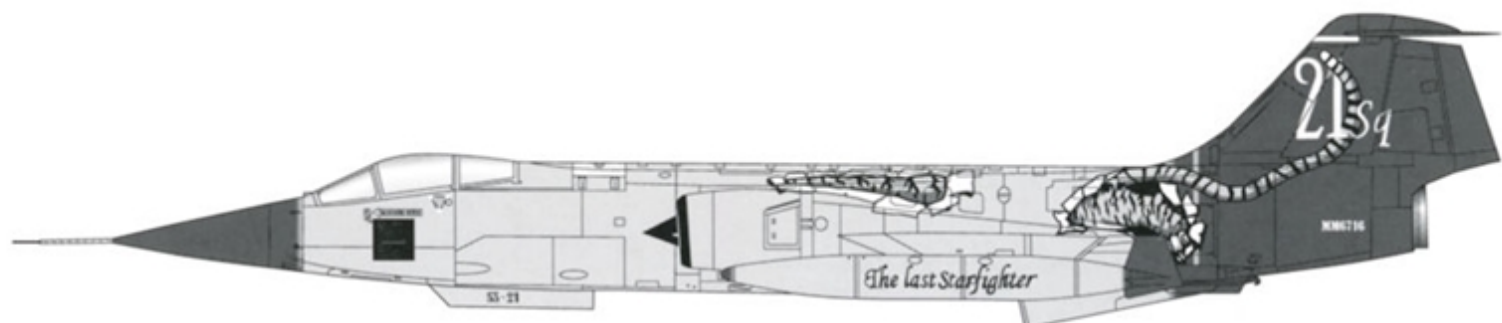
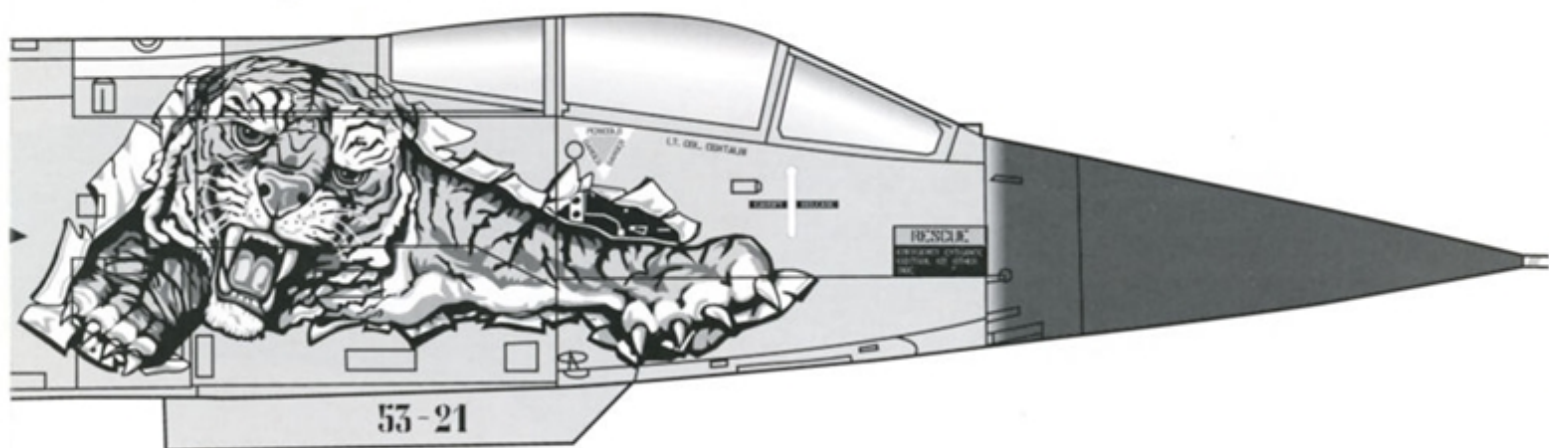
**SPECIAL EDITION!** CED32011

# F-104

## Tiger Special



F-104S 21° Gruppo, 53° Stormo, Italian Air Force  
NATO Tiger Meet, 1996



Recommended kit:  
1/32 Hasegawa F-104G

**Cutting  
Edge**

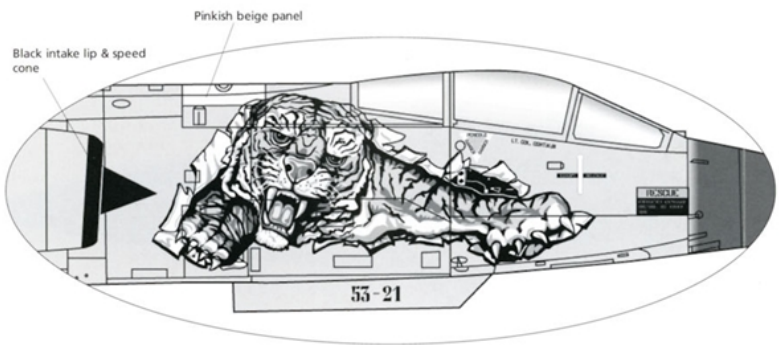
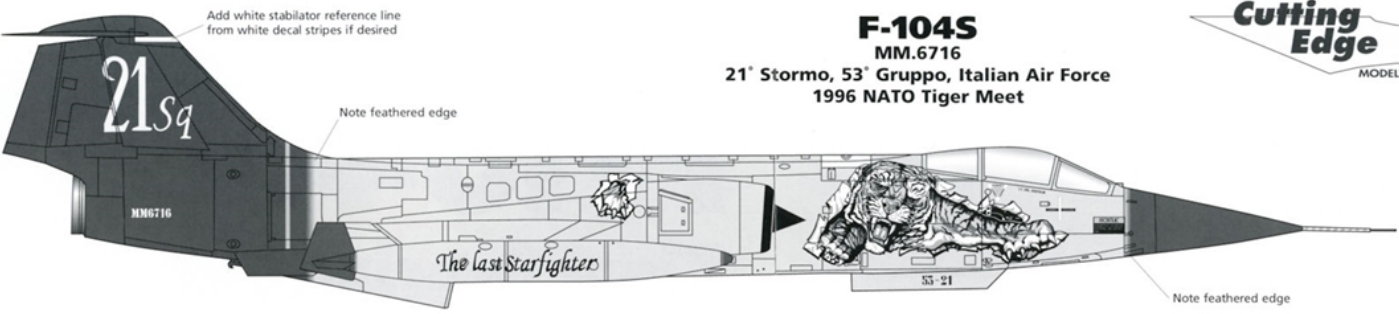
MODELWORKS

P.O. Box 3956  
Merrifield, VA 22116  
USA

# F-104S

MM.6716

21<sup>st</sup> Stormo, 53<sup>rd</sup> Gruppo, Italian Air Force  
1996 NATO Tiger Meet



- RAL 5003 Saphirblau (FS 15050 + 10% white is very close)\*
- Alluminio Opaco 26 (FS 37178)\*\*

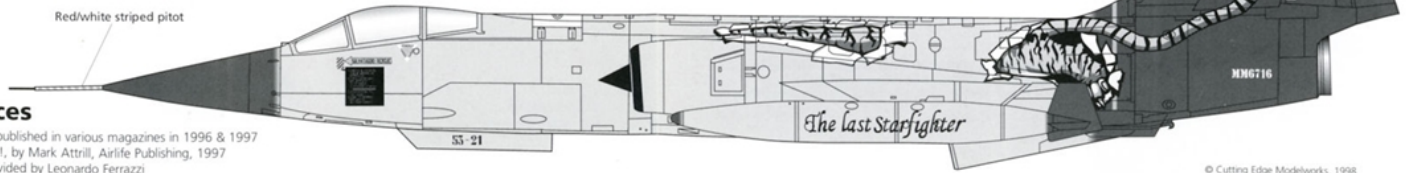
\* However, we recommend adding about 15% white to account for both scale color and the fact that the blue was sprayed over the bright silver undercoat, which somewhat lightened the basic color

\*\* Although the original color was matt, the entire aircraft was painted with a high gloss clear overcoat

FS 15050 Xtracolor X123, Modelmaster 1772, Gunze Sangyo H328, Mr Color 328, Floquil 303053/303080/303088

FS 17178 Xtracolor X142, Tamiya XF16, Modelmaster 1790, or any aluminum paint

The wing frequently had a bright red plastic leading edge protector attached while on the ground; this device extended back from the leading edge about 3" above and below the wing.



I just love being able to provide my fellow modelers with interesting decals!

After **Cutting Edge Modelworks** first released our 1/48 & 1/72 decals for this gorgeous jet, we got a nice letter from my old friend (and graphic artist/modeler) **Leonardo Ferrazzi** of Valenza, Italy. Leo and his friend **Fabio Morra** were the artists who actually painted "The Last Starfighter" based on the original idea by **Captain Achille Cazzaniga** of the 21st Stormo (squadron).

The two artists took only three days (13-16 May 1996) to paint this beautiful scheme in time for the 1996 NATO Tiger Meet. They even *hand-painted* the words "The Last Starfighter" on the tip tanks! Interestingly, quite a few German RAL standard colors were used in the markings on this bird in addition to the expected Italian standard colors, and the color boxes below correctly identify these main colors. The thin white stabilator reference line on the fin was added sometime after the first flight, so you can add it from white decal striping if you wish. The air intake lips and speed cones were black, as was true of all other IAF Starfighters. Finally, the whole aircraft was overpainted with high gloss clear acrylic varnish a few days after the artwork was finished.

I think I can speak for all modelers when I say: **THANKS, Achille, Leo & Fabio!**

*Dave*  
David H. Klaus, President  
**Cutting Edge Modelworks**

## References

Numerous photos published in various magazines in 1996 & 1997  
Tiger! Tigre! Tigros!, by Mark Attrill, AirLife Publishing, 1997  
Specific details provided by Leonardo Ferrazzi

## 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:

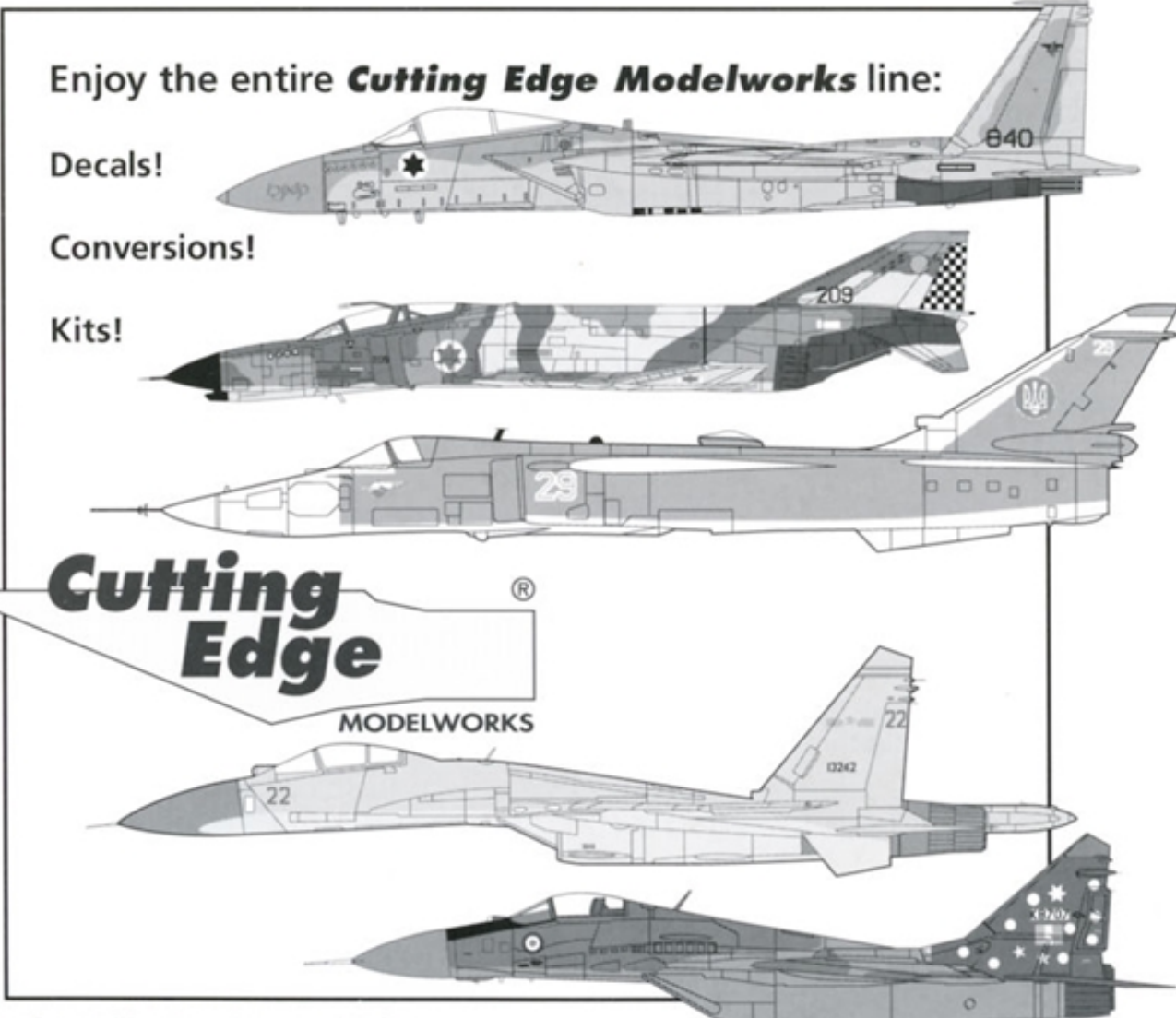
- Generally, use the Microscale Finishing System. We don't recommend extremely strong decal solvents such as Solvaset.
- Your model must have a smooth, glossy surface, as decals won't adhere well to matte surfaces. Use gloss paints or your favorite clear gloss overspray over matte or semigloss paint.
- 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.

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