

GR.5 / Pegasus 11-61 ZD402

The Pegasus 11-61 / Mk.107 was a more powerful development of the 11-21 / Mk.105 originally fitted in the Harrier GR.5 and the USMC AV-8B ; providing about 10% more thrust. A pre-production engine was installed in GR.5 ZD402 for flight testing. The aircraft first flew on 9 June 1989, finished in a special "Midnight Blue" colour scheme with white trim and markings. The blue colour was a one-off Dunsfold mix of 25% black and 75% Roundel Blue.

Note that the markings varied slightly in detail throughout the test programme, so we suggest consulting photos to ensure an accurate combination of markings: The main changes were the logos above the forward nozzle fairings and on the upper fin. These were the logos of Rolls-Royce, Rolls-Royce Flight Test Centre, USMC, BAe, and also a yellow rubber duck. The McDonnell Douglas titles were applied on the strakes for a few days in July 1989 when the aircraft was flown by a McDD test pilot. On some occasions, a large Rolls-Royce sticker replaced the BAe logo on the fuselage top.

After the test programme, ZD402 was brought back to GR.5 standard configuration, including a Pegasus 11-21 / Mk.105 engine. It was repainted in operational camouflage and delivered to No. 1 Sqn. in December 1990.

GR.7A ZD318

ZD318 is one of three GR.5 prototypes, originally built in 1985, ZD319 and ZD320 being the other two. They were used as prototype airframes for further development of the second generation Harrier family. ZD318 served as the prototype for the GR.7A in 2002, an upgrade which included the Pegasus 11-61 / Mk.107 engine.

The three prototypes were painted in a proposed new camouflage scheme comprising of semi-matt Dark Sea Grey upper surfaces with Medium Sea Grey lower surfaces. These colours were not adopted for operational GR.5s, but have been retained on the three prototypes for subsequent upgrades.

Use stencilling from the GR.9 / ZD320 option.

GR.9 ZD320

The GR.9 was a development from the GR.7, with enhanced weapons capability and updated avionics. It was powered with the Pegasus 11-21 / Mk.105 engine (while the GR.9A was fitted by the Pegasus 11-61 / Mk.107). ZD320 served as the prototype for the GR.9. It was painted in the same Dark Sea Grey and Medium Sea Grey colour scheme as GR.7A ZD318, retaining also the gloss black "canopy" on the underside of the nose.

Bonus decals

As a bonus, we have provided a set of serials for ZD319 to enable you to model any of the three second generation Harrier prototypes. The SAOEU tailfin logo can be used for other Harriers too, e.g. GR.7 ZD411.

Modelling notes

Various kits of the Harrier GR.5/7/9 exist in 1/72 scale, but the new Airfix GR.7/9 is regarded as the best one, and both grey options can be built more or less straight from the box. Note that ZD318 lacks both the antennas on the trailing edge of the ventral strake, while ZD320 has the upper missile-warning antenna installed but not the lower radar-warning antenna. To build the GR.5 from the Airfix kit, Quickboost has released a nose, intended as a replacement part for the incorrect nose in the Hasegawa kit, which may fit the Airfix kit. A GR.5 nose can also be taken from the original Airfix GR.5 kit, released in the early 1990s.

Decal application

The decals have a very thin carrier film and need to be handled with care. Individual decals should be cut out and soaked for a few seconds in lukewarm water. Slide the decal from the paper over to the model's surface without wrinkling. Avoid moving the decal excessively to avoid tearing the film and washing off the adhesive. The carrier film might at first seem rigid and difficult to lay down over complex surfaces, but from experience, these decals will only require the use of Micro Set to make them snuggle down over detail (with a little Micro Sol for the really difficult areas) and make them look painted on when completely dry. For best results, decals should always be applied to a gloss surface.

Thanks

Thanks to Jens Håkon Brandal for help with the instructions.

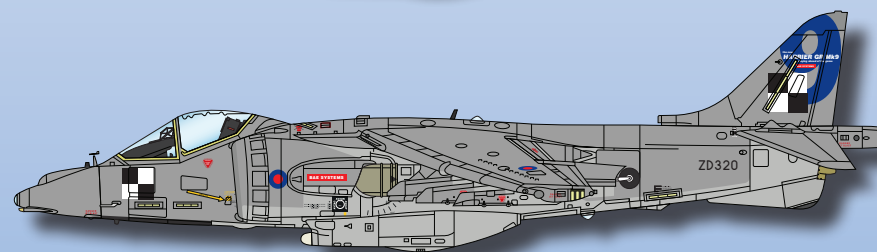
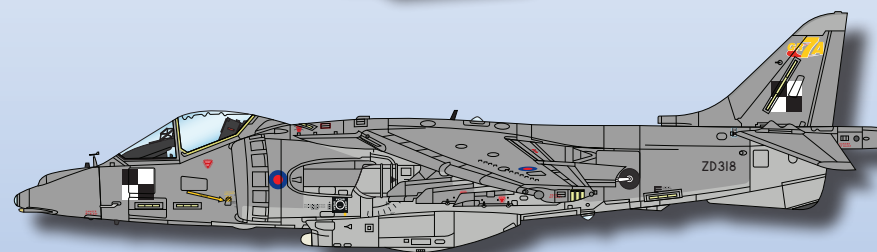
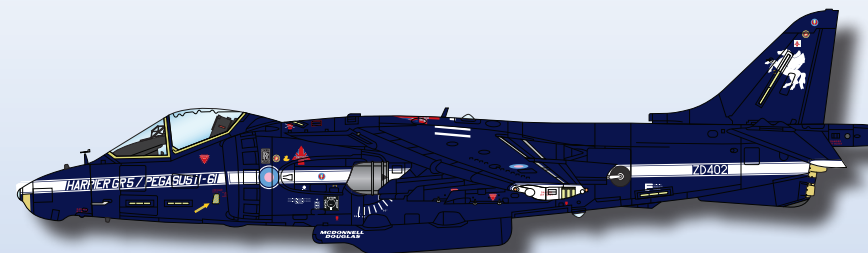
72-122

Vingtor

DECALS

Harrier

Test & demonstration aircraft #4



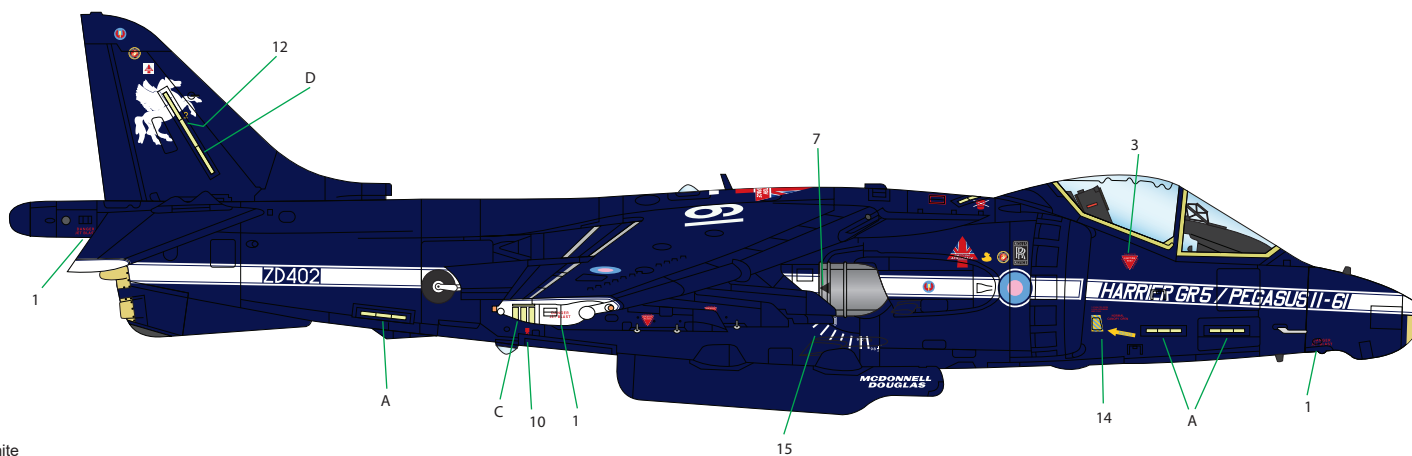
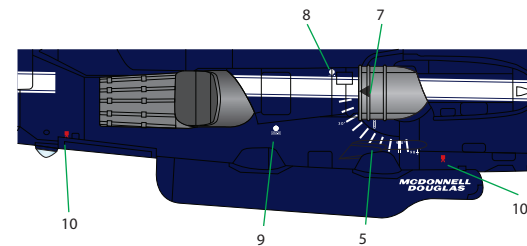
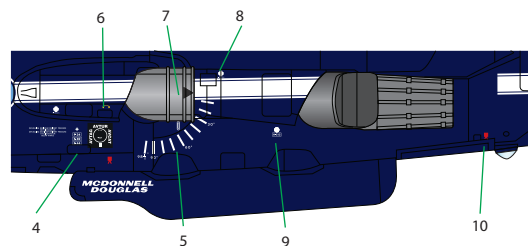
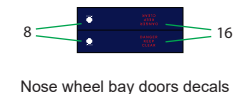
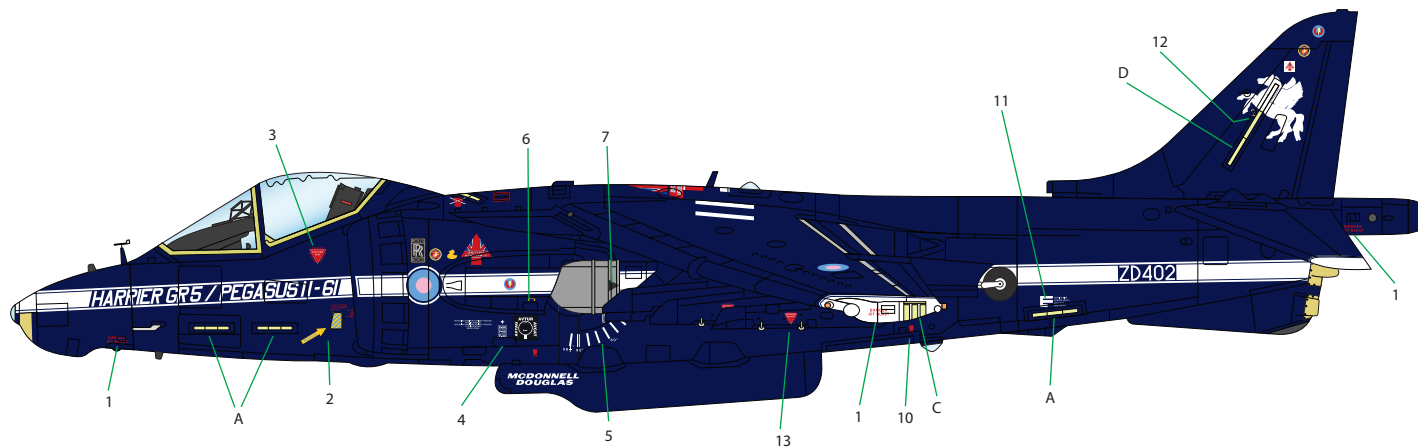
NORDIC DECALS GROUP

ArcticDecals
www.arcticdecals.com

Lima November
Decals
NORWEGIAN AIRLINER DECALS
www.indecals.com

Vingtor
DECALS
www.vingtor.net

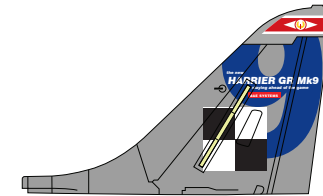
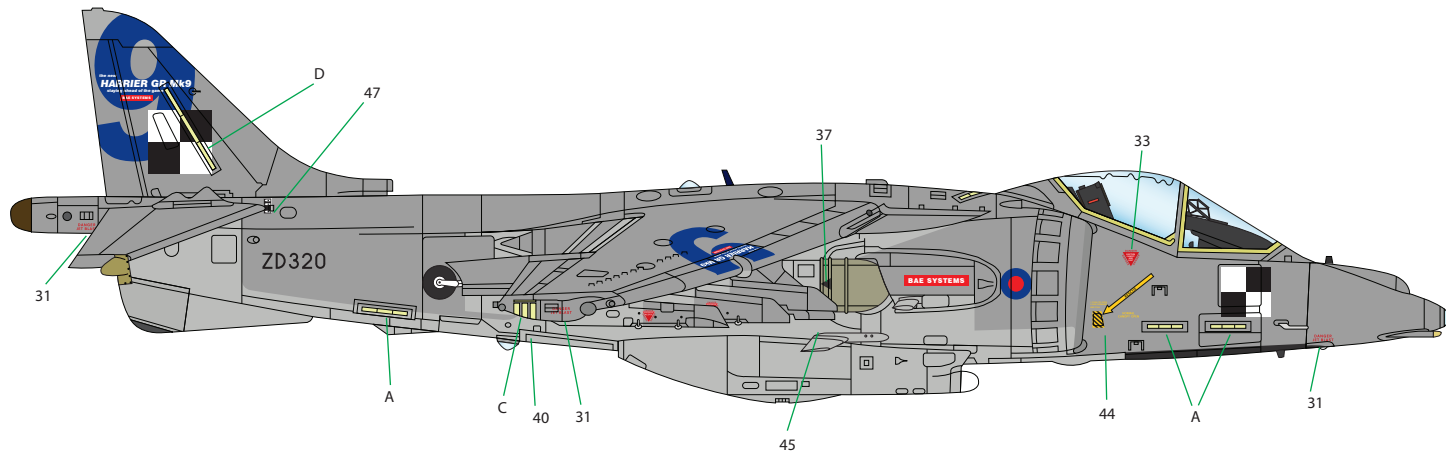
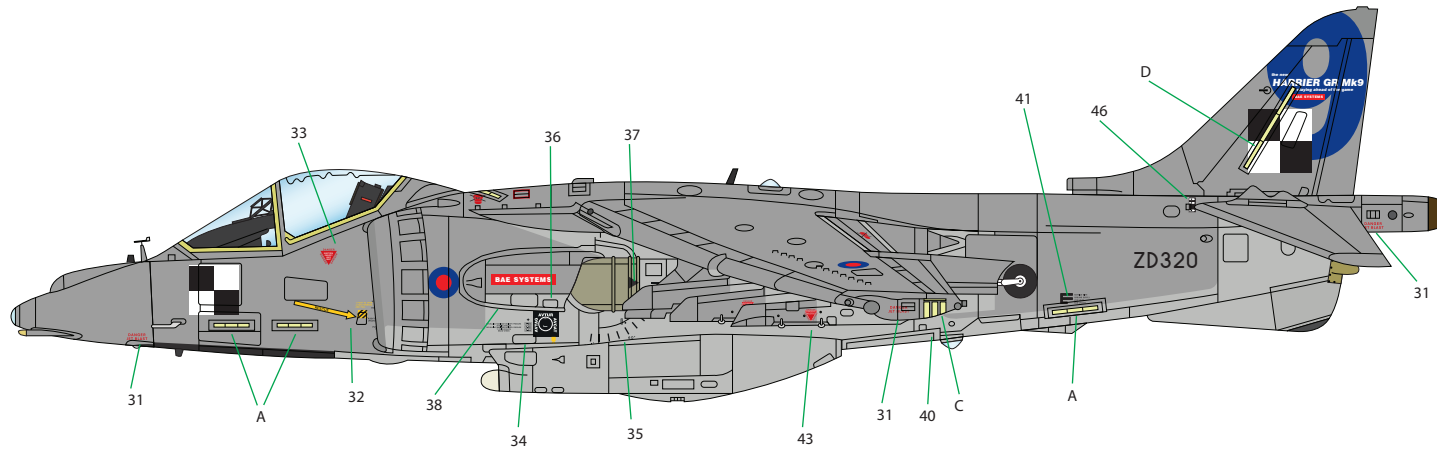
www.vingtor.net



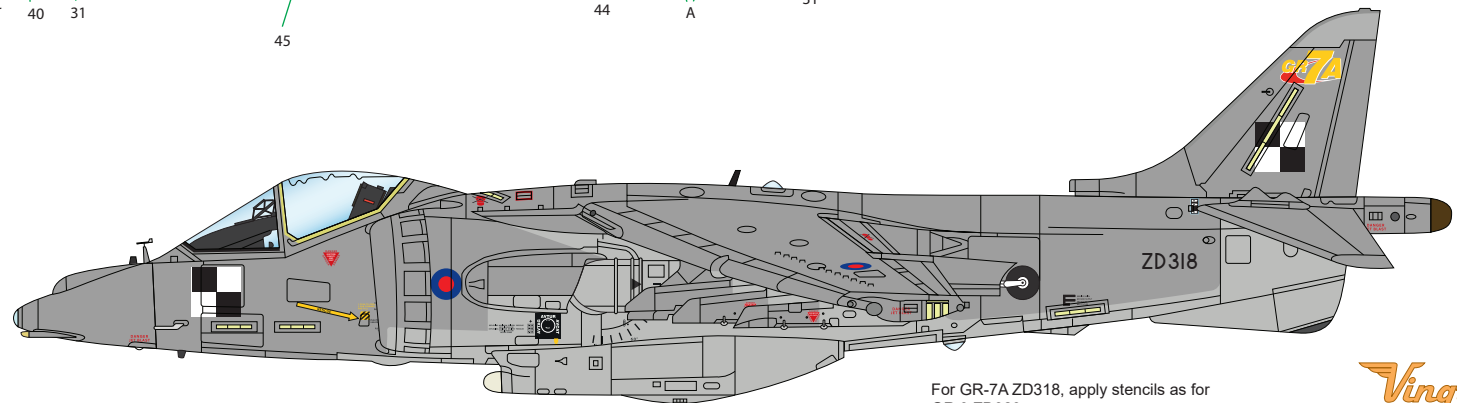
White



"Midnight Blue" - 75% BS381C / 10 Roundel Blue & 25% Black

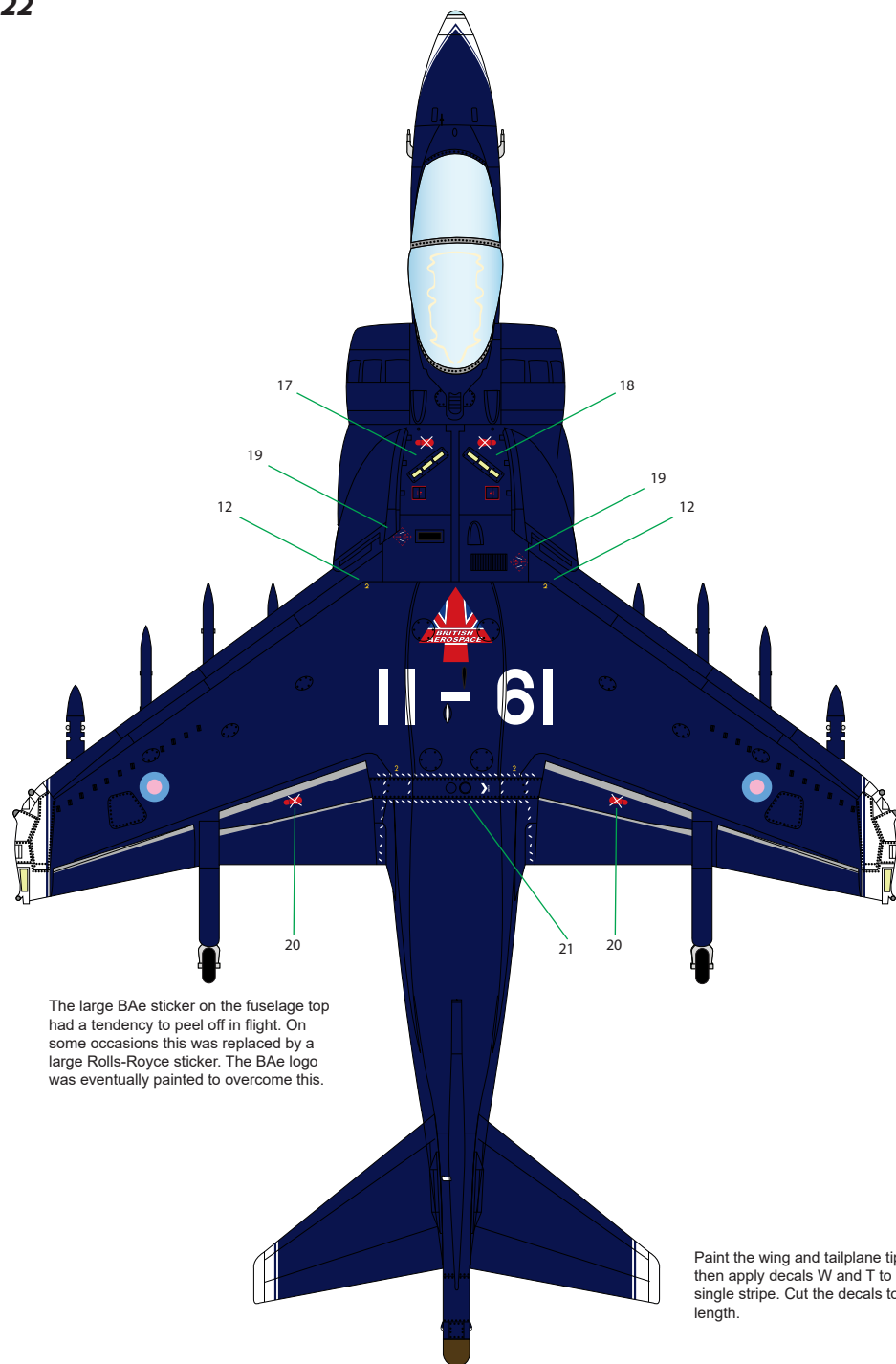


GR.9 ZD320 had the fin tip replaced with a part containing the No. 1 Sqn. insignia.



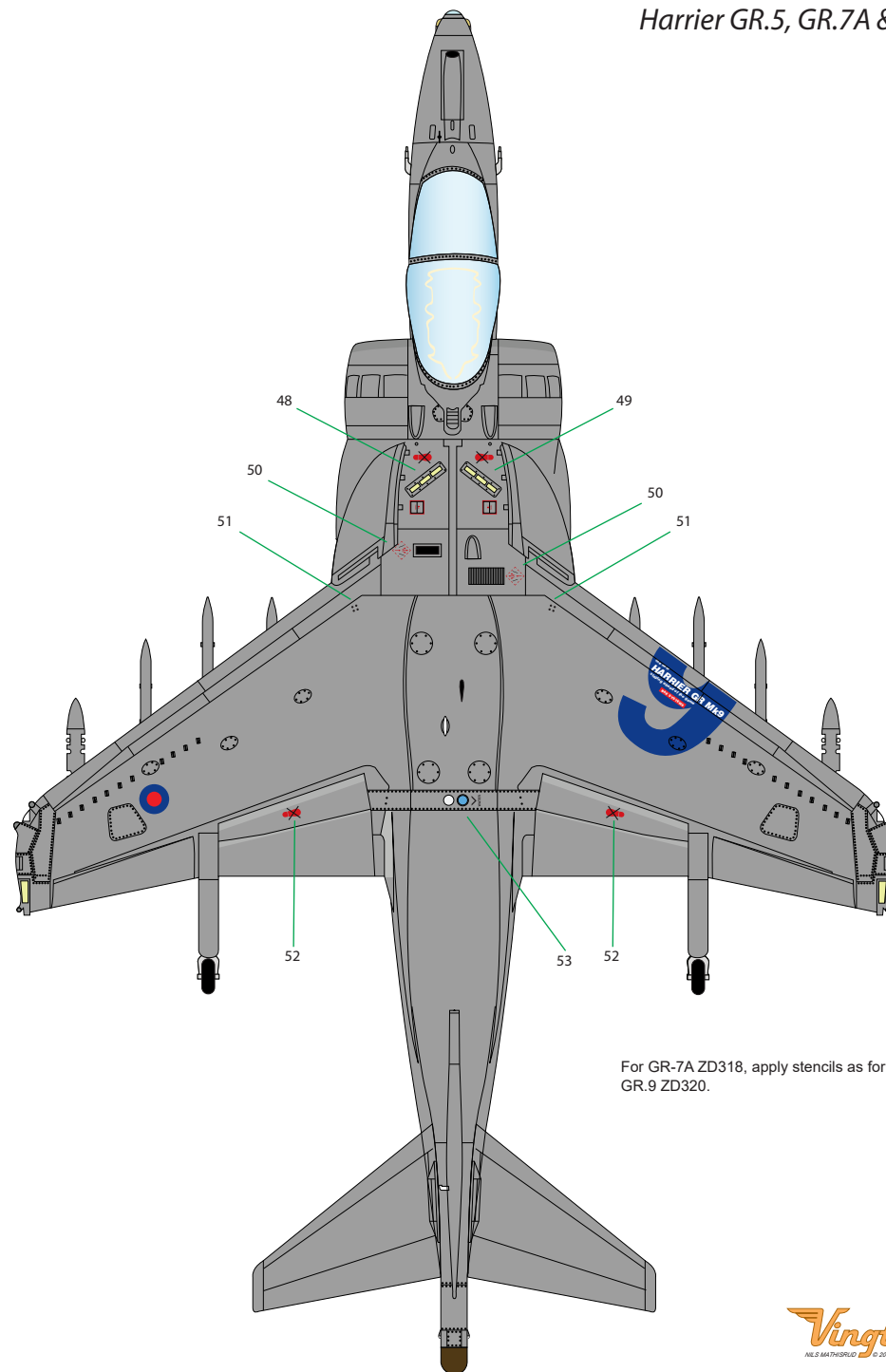
- BS381C / 638 Dark Sea Grey
- BS381C / 637 Medium Sea Grey

For GR-7A ZD318, apply stencils as for GR.9 ZD320.



The large BAe sticker on the fuselage top had a tendency to peel off in flight. On some occasions this was replaced by a large Rolls-Royce sticker. The BAe logo was eventually painted to overcome this.

Paint the wing and tailplane tips white, then apply decals W and T to create the single stripe. Cut the decals to chord length.



For GR.7A ZD318, apply stencils as for GR.9 ZD320.