

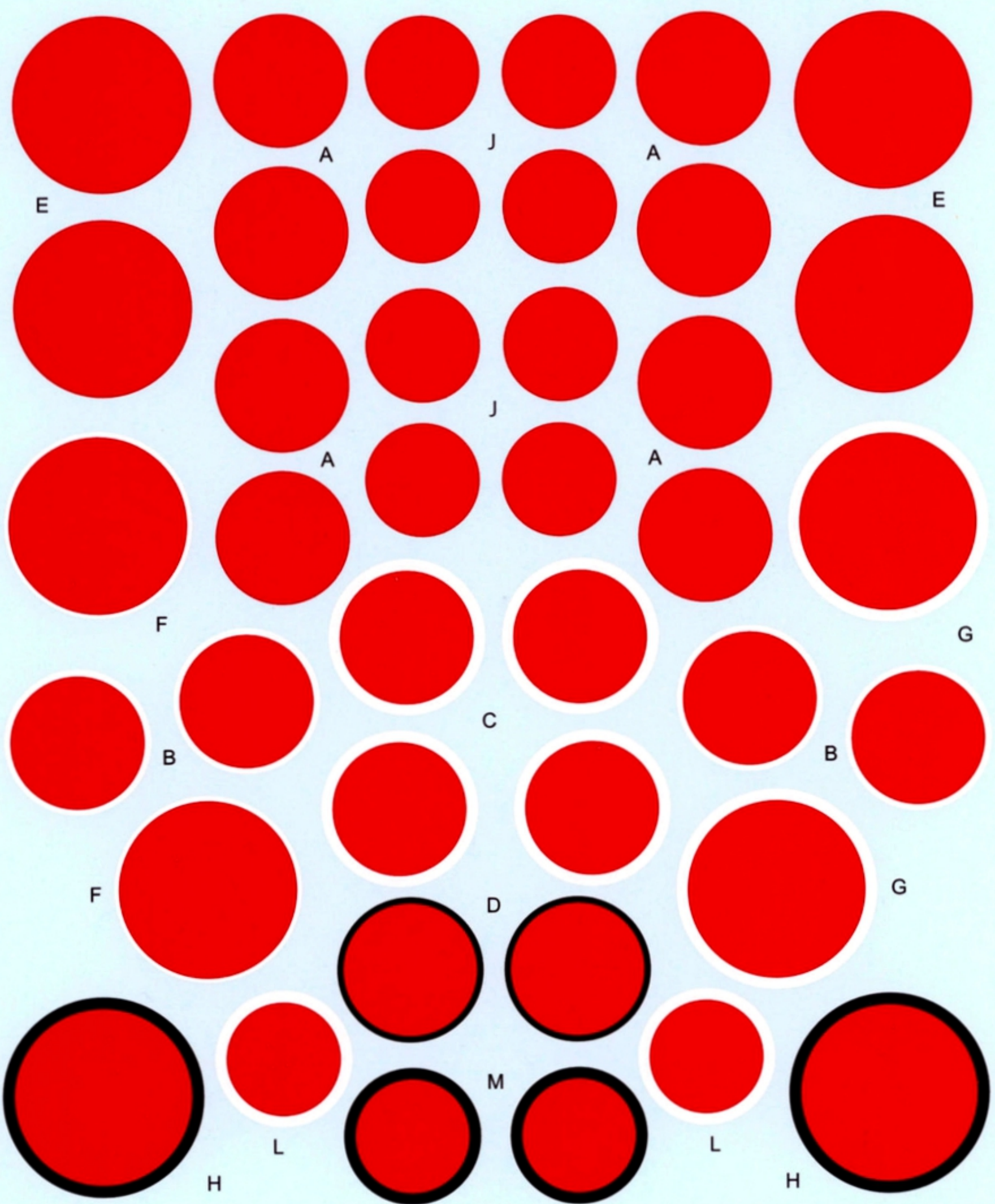
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Lifelike Decals

48-SP-01

**Hinomaru for
Zero Fighters**



It was found that the size of Hinomaru mark in some of Zero kits or after-market decals are not always correct, which made us to release this sheet.

Size of Hinomaru is rigorously stipulated as below, and Mitsubishi/Nakajima followed this rule.

Type	Wing Hinomaru	Fuselage Hinomaru
11~32	88cm (1.83cm on 1/48 scale)=mark A	75cm (1.56cm on 1/48 scale)=mark J
52	117cm (2.44cm on 1/48 scale)=mark E	75cm (1.56cm on 1/48 scale)=mark J

When white or dark green outline is applied to these Hinomarus, Mitsubishi and Nakajima adopted different practice

(Mitsubishi)

- (A) Mitsubishi did not apply white outline to Hinomaru before introduction of dark green camouflage on upper surface.
- (B) When this order was released, Mitsubishi applied 75mm white outline on fuselage and upper wing Hinomarus in their plant from June 1944. Lower wing Hinomaru was left without white outline.

(Nakajima)

- (A) Nakajima produced type 21 Zero up to May 1944. From around summer 1942 Nakajima applied white outline (75mm) to fuselage Hinomaru ONLY to make distinctions with Mitsubishi Zeros.
- (B) When application of dark green camouflage is decided, Nakajima applied dark green paint and 30mm white outline on fuselage and upper wing Hinomarus in their plant from March 1944. Lower wing Hinomaru was left without white outline.

In the area of severe air combat or no air superiority, frontline units very often applied DG camouflage on upper surface, and DG paint on white outline of Hinomaru to seal them. And both Mitsubishi and Nakajima stopped applying white outline from January 1945.

These changes are summarized as follows.

Type	Wing Hinomaru	Fuselage Hinomaru
11~32	88cm (1.83cm on 1/48 scale) = mark A	75cm (1.56cm on 1/48 scale) = mark J
Mitsubishi	add white outline→C, paint with DG→I	add white outline→L, paint with DG→M
Nakajima	add white outline→B, paint with DG→D	add white outline→L, paint with DG→M
52	117cm (2.44cm on 1/48 scale) =mark E	75cm (1.56cm on 1/48 scale) =mark J
Mitsubishi	add white outline→G, paint with DG→H	add white outline→L, paint with DG→M
Nakajima	add white outline→F, paint with DG→K	add white outline→L, paint with DG→M

88cm Hinoaru (excluding outline) was applied from 88cm from wing tip (ref. 1), and no position change with type 32 Zeros with shortened wing (making it much outward on wing). 117cm Hinomaru (excluding outline) was applied from 127.5cm from wing tip (ref. 2). Fuselage Hinomaru (excluding outline) is applied from 2cm behind 7th panel line. Zero trainer (A6M2-K) and some Zero with overall dark green camouflage (typically training units) had white outline on lower wing Hinomaru as well to make it distinct.

(References)

- (1) M-Cats #8 (Model Art, Nov. 2002)—in one article Mr. Satoru Sugita of SWEET Aviation Model visited Australian Aviation Heritage Center and reported the hue of J3 and size/position of wing Hinomaru remaining on the wreckage of BII-124 (LLD 48-06).
- (2) Color profile for the Imperial Japanese Navy Aircraft; Featuring A6M "Zero Fighter" (Kenji Miyazawa, Taizo Nakamura, Dainippon Kaiga, 2022)