

ARC72-072

1/72 scale ALPS-printed decals

The Hawker Hart was a British two-seater biplane light bomber aircraft of the Royal Air Force. It was designed during the 1920s and manufactured by Hawker Aircraft. The Hart was a prominent British aircraft in the inter-war period, but was obsolete and already side-lined for newer monoplane aircraft designs by the start of the Second World War, playing only minor roles in the conflict before being retired.

Several major variants of the Hart were developed, including a navalised version for the Royal Navy's aircraft carriers. The Hart was operated also by a number of foreign nations, including Sweden, Yugoslavia, Estonia, South Africa, and Canada.

Hawker Hart II **G-ABMR**, is displayed currently at the Royal Air Force Museum. The 13th off the production line, it was built as a civilian demonstration aircraft for Hawker Aircraft Ltd. Under the civilian registration G-ABMR, it was used by Hawker in various roles, including testbed, demonstration aircraft and a camera aircraft. It was originally painted in silver with black registration markings.

On 23 Jun 1951 aircraft entered by Princess Margaret, together with Hawker's Hurricane IIC `Last of the Many' for the Royal Aero Club-organised Kings' Cup Air Race at Hatfield, Herts, both to have been flown by Gp Capt Peter Townsend, but bad weather caused the racing to be abandoned. For this event the Hart gained a royal blue and gold colour scheme and had the rear cockpit faired over, but with the projecting lip of the gun-ring fairing visible. The large race number '91' was carried on rudder, fuselage and wings. It continued flying until 1971. Still airworthy, it was then transferred to the RAF Museum, on loan from Hawker Siddeley. It remains there, painted to represent RAF Hart serial number J9941.

The full history of this aeroplane can be seen at:

http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/collections/74-A-29-Hawker-Hart-II-G-ABMR.pdf Also it is highly recommended to visit the site of Mr Gabriel Stern building the Hawker Hartracer:

https://wingsofintent.blogspot.com/2017/02/hawker-hart-racer-amodel-arctic-decals.html

These decals are made for Aeroclub, Airfix, Amodel/Avis, AZmodel and Kora 1/72 scale Hawker Hart/Audax kits. They are printed with an ALPS printer on decal paper where the carrier film covers the complete sheet, so each decal need to be cut out separately. They do not have a sealing coat. ALPS-printed decals are very fragile, soft and will easily scratch. Be extremely careful, for example long cheatline decals can curl and break very easily.

Cut out each decal with sharp scissors. Dip the decal in warm water (add one or two drops of washing-up liquid to the water). Do this for 5 to 10 seconds, then remove it from the water and let it sit for about a minute.

The area where the decal is to be applied should be kept level. Apply water and/or setting solution to the area, then put the decal (on the backing paper) in position on the model. Use a wet paint brush to slide the decal off the backing paper and on to the model and put it in the correct position and move around for final positioning. Apply more water or setting solution if the decal is hard to move and adjust the position of the decal if necessary. When the decal is in position, let it dry on its own. Do not touch it unless it is necessary to change the position.

When the decal has dried, apply your preferred decal solvent, but avoid very strong liquids. Do not touch the decal until it is dry, because when the ink is wet it will smear and ruin the decal. When the decal is dry, remove any residual solution with a cotton bud or swab dipped in water with washing-up liquid added.

Do NOT apply any strong solvent-based clear lacquer over these decals with a brush, as they will instantly dissolve. If you use a clear lacquer, apply it with an airbrush in very light coats. It is recommended to use acrylic clear coat for this type of decals as a safer choice.

