

SINGAPORE Scooters

A4S-1,
A/TA-4SU
and
Black Knights

HMD-48001



A4S-1 Skyhawk 929, 143 Sqn, Tengah AB, 1989



A-4SU Super Skyhawk, Black Knight 2, AA2000



TA-4SU Super Skyhawk 905, 150 Sqn, Cazaux AB, France, Dec 2000

Black Knight 4 at AA2000



A-4SU of 145 Sqn at RSAF Open House 1998



Recommended Kits : 1/48th scale
Hasegawa PT22 A-4C Skyhawk
Hobbycraft HC1434 A-4C Viet Nam Skyhawk
Horizon ModelTech Resins HMR48-001 A4S-1/A-4SU conversion (Expected August 2002)

A4S-1 Skyhawk 977, 142 Sqn, Tengah AB, mid 1980s



A-4SU Super Skyhawk 971, 145 Sqn, 2000



A-4SU Super Skyhawk 941, 145 Sqn, Sept 1998



A-4SU Super Skyhawk 941, 150 Sqn, Cazaux AB, France, Dec 2000



Closeup shot of A-4 intake



Detail of upper side of port wing



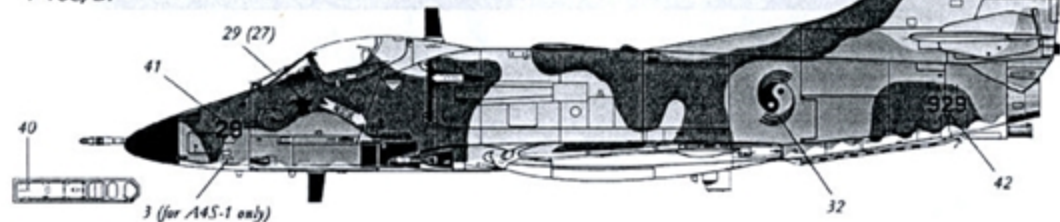
SINGAPORE Scooters

HMD-48001



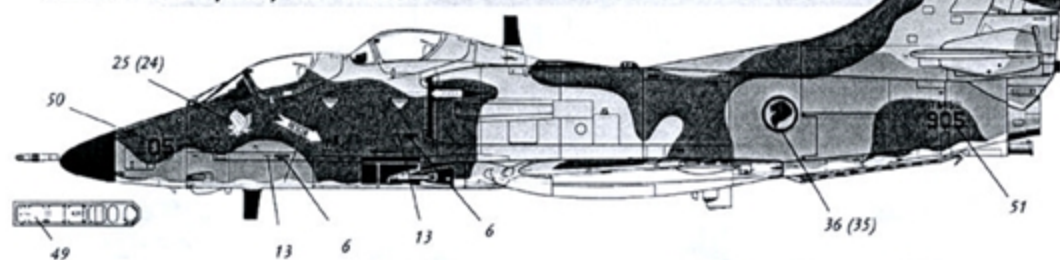
A4S-1 Skyhawk 929 (145073), 143 Sqn, Tengah AB, late 1980s

This is the guise the RSAF's A-4 fleet looked like prior to the Super Skyhawk 'Delphi' upgrade programme after the installation of F404-GE-100 non-afterburning engine. Unit markings and national insignia have been toned down. The Phoenix squadron markings disappeared soon after the upgrade, and only reappeared recently with the unit's conversion to the F-16C/D.



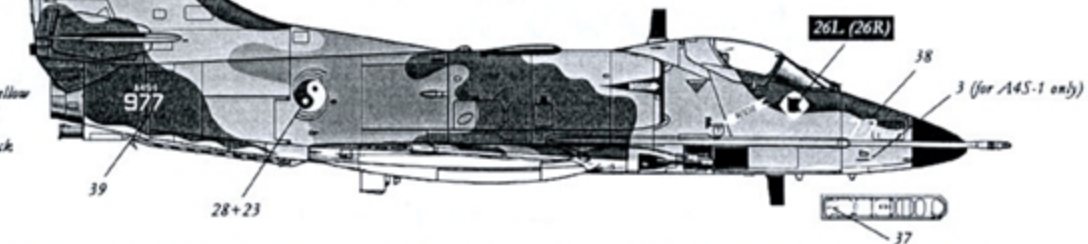
TA-4SU Super Skyhawk 905 (145029), 150 Sqn, Cazaux AB, France, 2000

This 'T-bird' is among one of the 18 shipped over to France with the Advance Jet Training Detachment. The stepped canopies of Singapore's TA-4s make them the most unique aircraft in the world. 150 Sqn markings were on the nose and tail when it was seen. These have subsequently been removed.



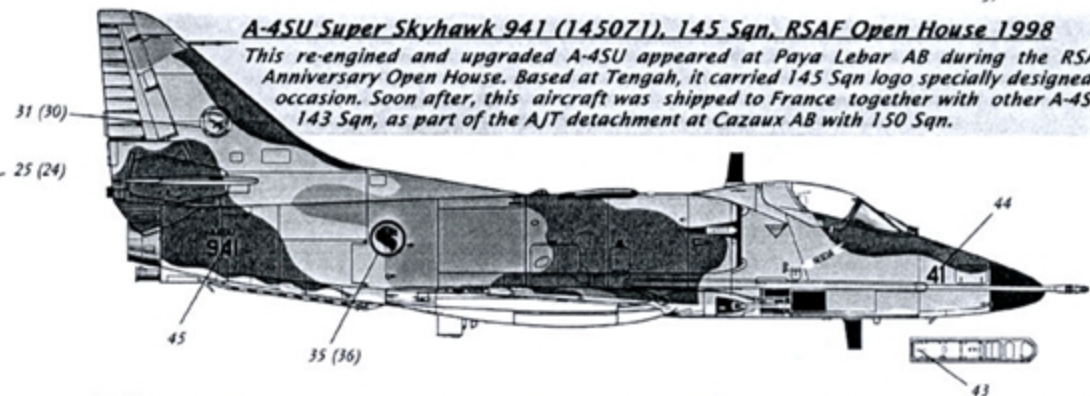
A4S-1 Skyhawk 977 (147752), 142 Sqn, Tengah AB, mid 1980s

This aircraft, originally an A-4C, refurbished to A4S-1 Standards when bought over by Singapore. Serving the Gryphons Sqn in the mid 1980s, it is finished in typical 80s high vis markings.



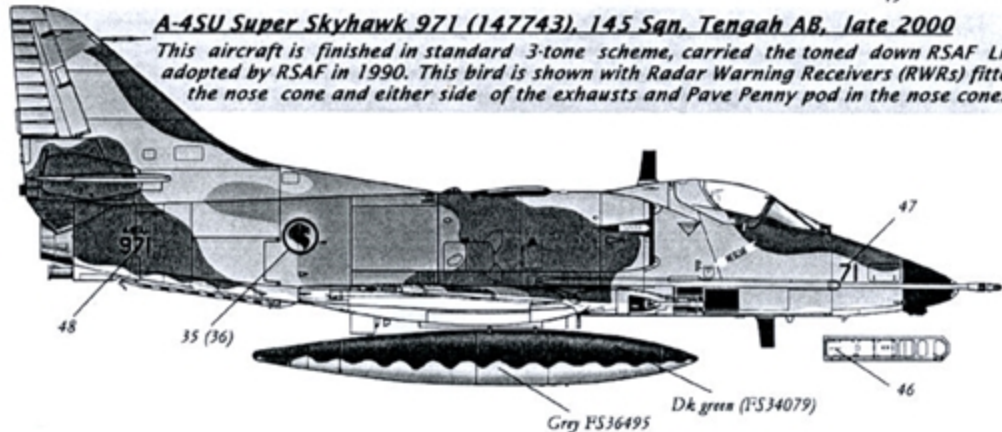
A-4SU Super Skyhawk 941 (145071), 145 Sqn, RSAF Open House 1998

This re-engined and upgraded A-4SU appeared at Paya Lebar AB during the RSAF 30th Anniversary Open House. Based at Tengah, it carried 145 Sqn logo specially designed for the occasion. Soon after, this aircraft was shipped to France together with other A-4SUs from 143 Sqn, as part of the AJT detachment at Cazaux AB with 150 Sqn.



A-4SU Super Skyhawk 971 (147743), 145 Sqn, Tengah AB, late 2000

This aircraft is finished in standard 3-tone scheme, carried the toned down RSAF Lion head adopted by RSAF in 1990. This bird is shown with Radar Warning Receivers (RWRs) fitted below the nose cone and either side of the exhausts and Pave Penny pod in the nose cone.



* () denotes the decals for opposite side of aircraft.

SINGAPORE'S SCOOTERS

Singapore purchased ex-US Navy A-4Bs in 1972. These were refurbished into A-4S standard with Lockheed's help, including the creation of Singapore's unique TA-4S which incorporated a separate second cockpit for the instructor. This aircraft served with two then Singapore Air Defence Command squadrons from 1974 primarily in the ground attack role. In 1980, Singapore purchased a further 70 airframes, this time, A-4Cs. Local industry modified those aircraft into A4S-1 standard and by 1984, a third squadron had been formed. From 1986, an ambitious upgrade programme was initiated. In conjunction with Singapore Technologies Aerospace, the A4S-1's avionics were replaced with newer and up-to-date systems and the J65 engine with non-afterburning General Electric F404 turbofan. This new version, dubbed the A-4SU Super Skyhawk, entered squadron service in 1988 and by the mid-1990s, all three RSAF squadrons were flying the Super Skyhawk from Tengah AB in Singapore.

The Super Skyhawks form the backbone of the RSAF strike force until recently, with between 60-70 aircraft on strength. By late 1997, 143 Sqn had disbanded and its aircraft handed over to 150 Sqn as advanced fighter trainers. In 1998, 150 Sqn moved to Cazaux AB, France, as part of the RSAF's Advanced Jet Training Detachment with its 20 aircraft, leaving 142 and 145 Sqn in Tengah as the remaining Singapore based Skyhawk operators. The Super Skyhawk has also been a spritely acrobatics platform, and had taken part in several demonstrations in the 90s with the RSAF's Black Knights Demonstration Team. This culminated in 2000, when four A-4SUs and two F-16As formed the Black Knights Team which performed at Asian Aerospace 2000, the first time an acrobatics team anywhere in the world has performed with 2 different aircraft types.

RSAF Skyhawks have been known to carry the following stores in their service lives:

- AIM-9J/P Sidewinders,
- Mk 82 LDGP bombs,
- Mk20 Rockeye cluster bombs,
- GBU-12 Paveway II LGBs,
- AGM-65B/D/G Maverick ASMs,
- CRV-7 and 2.75in unguided rockets in various pods(LAU-68/LAU-5003) and
- Westinghouse ATLANTIC FLIR pods.

Painting guides:

- Inside of airbrake well: fuselage colour
- Inside of airbrake: gloss red
- Inside of air intake: gloss white
- Inside of split flaps & slats: red
- Nose cone: Very dark grey with semi-gloss black tip

We have printed some of the white designs on a separate sheet to allow for the best colour saturation of other colours on the sheet, to allow for the best quality decals. We apologise for any inconvenience. When applying decals of labelled such as " 36 ", place white backing " 26 " first before placing the colour portion.

We wish to thank the following people for their invaluable assistance in providing information: Mr. David Boey, Mr. Paul van der Linden and Mr. Chris Taylor

References:

1. Air Forces Monthly, Mar 1994, Mar 1998 & Nov 1998
2. Air International, August 1986
3. Osprey, Combat aircraft Series No.11: A-4 Skyhawk
4. Pioneer Magazine (various issues)
5. The Air Force (RSAF 20th Anniversary book)
6. The Sky, Our Country (RSAF 25th Anniversary book)
7. Wings of Fame, Vol. 5
8. World Air Power Journal, Vol 36 Spring 1999 & Vol 41 Summer 2000
9. The Unofficial RSAF Homepage, <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/3900>
10. The Skyhawk Association, <http://www.skyhawk.org>

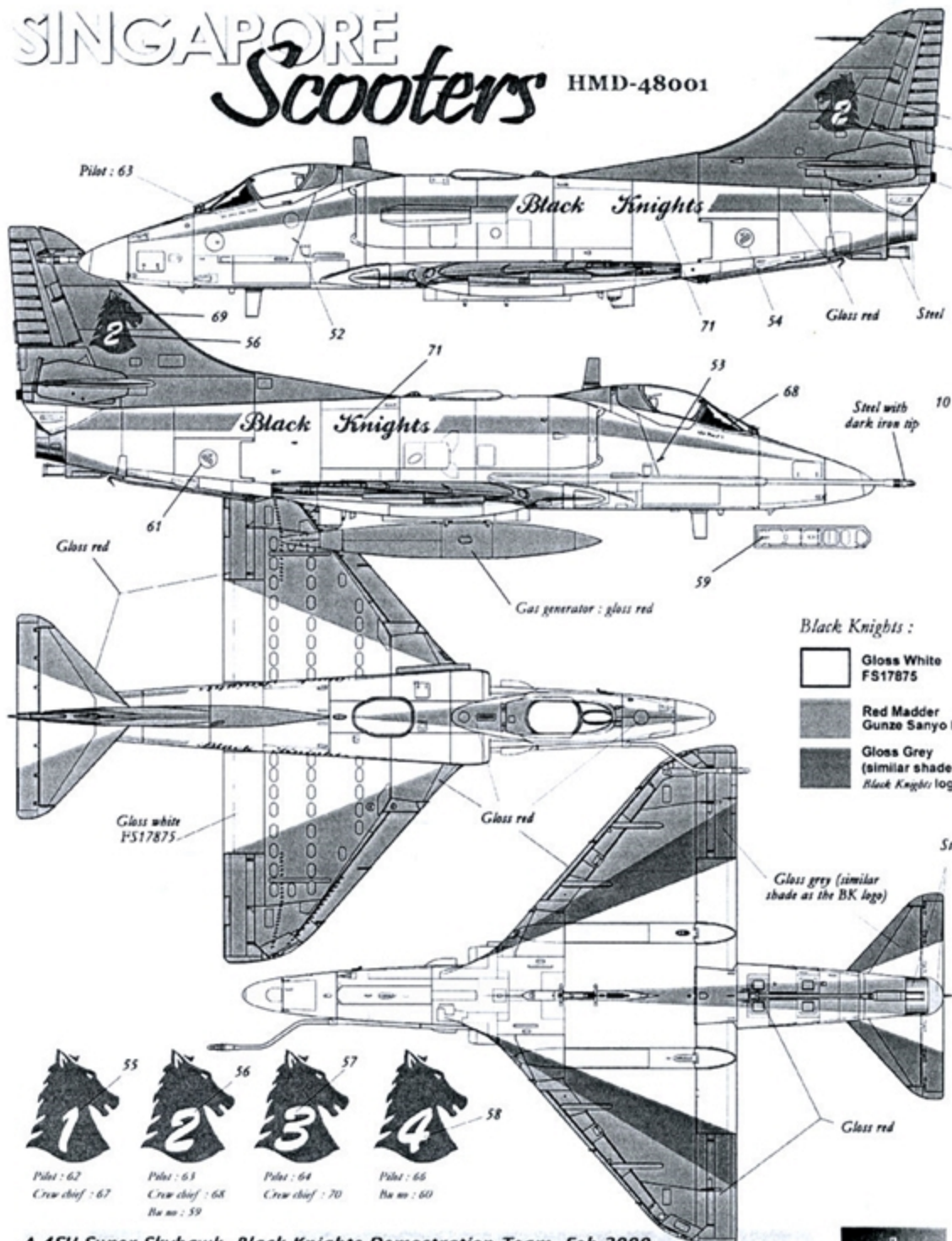
Copyright Horizon ModelTech, 2002

<http://www.horizontech.bizland.com>

	Grey FS36495
	Brown FS30219
	Green FS34102
	Dk Green FS34079

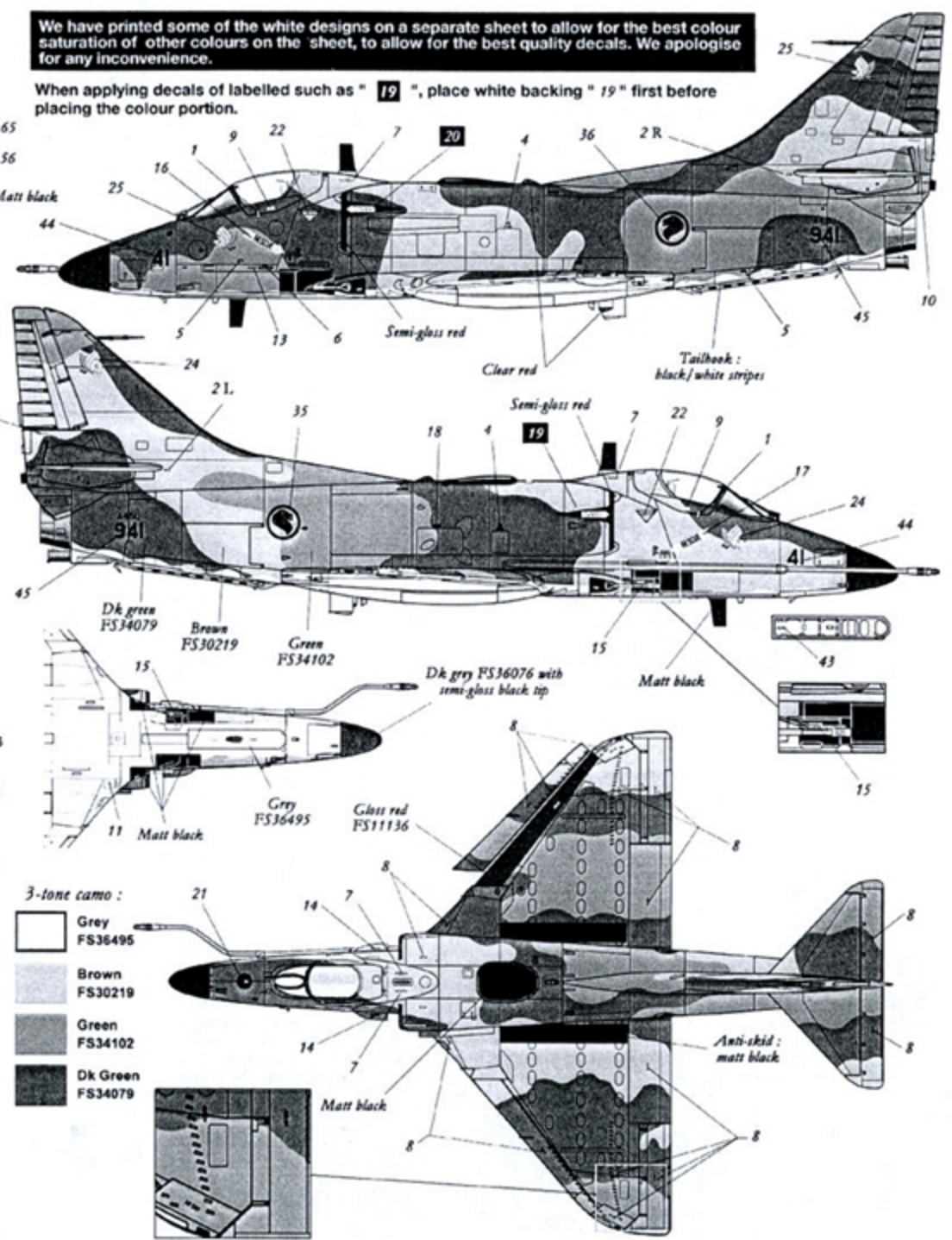
SINGAPORE Scooters

HMD-48001



We have printed some of the white designs on a separate sheet to allow for the best colour saturation of other colours on the sheet, to allow for the best quality decals. We apologise for any inconvenience.

When applying decals of labelled such as " 19 ", place white backing " 19 " first before placing the colour portion.



A-4SU Super Skyhawk, Black Knights Demostration Team, Feb 2000
 The RSAF Black Knights demonstration team at AA2000, consisted of 4 A-4SUs and 2 F-16As. Markings are provided for Black 1, 2, 3 and 4. Pilot/crew names are included although Bu nos are only provided for Black Knight 2 and 4, due to insufficient information. Black Knights A-4SUs have no RWRs and cannons fitted. They are mounted with 4 special underwing pylons and normal centreline pylon for gas generator.

A-4SU Super Skyhawk 941 (145071), 150 Sqn, Cazaux AB, France, 2000
 This re-engined and upgraded A-4SU is a ex-145 Sqn bird. In late 1998, it was shipped to France as part of the RSAF's Advanced Jet Training (AJT) programme in Cazaux AB with 150 Sqn. This aircraft can be modeled in either 145 sqn or 150 Sqn marking, as both markings are included in this sheet!