



48-050 **U.S. NAVY 1941** THE PLANES OF THE MOVIE "DIVE BOMBER"



1/32

# 1/48 Scale

U.S.N. U.S.M.C. U.S.A.A.C.

featuring:

TBD-1

SB2U-112

F3F-2/3

BT-1

SOC-1 N3N-113

SBC-314 SNJ-3

1/72

1/48

XR20-1 F2A-2

XSB2C-1

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Visit our website at: www.yellow-wingsdecals.com Or contact us at: yellow-wingsdecals@att.net



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# YELLOW-WINGS DECALS PRESENTS THE PLANES OF THE MOVIE "DIVE BOMBER"



# About the decals:

The decals have been grouped on the different sheets according to the aircraft type.

Example: If you were looking to do a TBD-1 in the Pre-War U.S. Navy colors you would look through all of the 8 decal sheets and you'd find TBD-1 FULL COLORS (FULL COLORS means Pre-War colors) on decal sheets, A, D and H, this system would also apply to all the other aircraft as well.

Decal sheet "F" "contains tri-color prop tip decals which are used on all aircraft in this special package.

# **General painting Instructions:**

The standard paint scheme for U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aircraft during the "Golden Age" (1930 to early 1941) was, an overall clear semi-gloss aluminum pigmented dope finish on the fuselage and lower wing surfaces, which gave the appearance of a very light silvery-gray color. The upper surface of the wings were painted a glossy Orange-Yellow which wrapped around the leading edge to the underside of the wing for a distance equal to 5% of the lower wing width. The cowls of the aircraft were also painted with glossy paint. There were also fuselage bands and wing chevrons painted with gloss paint. The tails of the aircraft were also painted with a gloss finish in a number of different colors, according to the Squadron the plane belonged to or its individual assignment.

We've included a list of Testor's Model Master Enamel Paints that match the colors used by these services at the time.

## The Planes:

# Vought SB2U-1/2 Vindicator in Full Colors:

There are 4 different SB2U Vindicators to choose from in the set. 3-B-1, 3-B-2, 3-B-3, and the Commanders aircraft or CAG. They are one of the featured aircraft in the movie. We've included both the fictional High Hat in the ring Squadron Insignia (used only in the movie) as well as the real High Hat Insignia used by VB-3 (1937-39). We've also included the Black Panther Squadron Insignia which was also used by VB-3 (1939-46) on Saratoga. Also included is a fuselage band for the number one aircraft and wing chevrons for all 3 aircraft of the first section plus the diagonal fuselage band used on the Commander Air Group (CAG) aircraft.

### Douglas TBD-1 Devastator in Full Colors:

There are 3 different TBD Devastators to choose from in this set, 3-T-13, 3-T-14 and 3-T-15. These aircraft also have a prominent role in the movie, being seen in a number of shots. There is a fuselage band for the Section Leaders Aircraft as well as Wing Chevrons for all 3 aircraft of the fifth section. Also included is the Squadron Insignia for VT-3.

## Curtiss SBC-3 Helldiver in Full Colors:

There is 1 SBC-3 Helldiver aircraft in this set; this plane can be seen early in the movie taking off from the carrier Enterprise. The side-code reads 6-S-1, indicating the group Commanders aircraft and the number one plane in the first section. Included is the Aztec Headdress Squadron Insignia for VS-6. There are also Wing Chevrons and a Fuselage Band included.

### Grumman F3F-2/3 Bi-Plane in Full Colors:

There are 4 different F3F-2's and one F3F-3 to choose from in the set. Again this is another plane that has a prominent role in the story line of the movie. You can see F3F's in almost every ground shot in the movie, and a few aerial scenes. The 4 aircraft we've chosen are, 6-F-1, 6-F-4 and 6-F-10 which are all section leaders' aircraft.

The one F3F-3 is 6-F-14 and also has a featured roll in the movie, carrying one of the stars of the movie (Fred McMurry) to his demise. We've included the Squadron Insignia for "Fighting Six" the fighter group from the U.S.S. Enterprise. There are also wing chevrons, fuselage bands and pin striping in black and white.

#### Northrop BT-1 in Full Colors:

One of the prettiest aircraft in the movie is the Northrop BT-1, 5-B-1 seen just before the end of the movie.

This aircraft had the made for the movie High Hat in the Ring Squadron Insignia on it. We've also included 2 more BT-1's, 6-B-2 and 6-B-7. The charging Ram Squadron Insignia for VB-6 is also included, as well as a fuselage band and wing chevrons in the proper colors.

#### Curtiss SOC-1 Seagull in Full Colors:

There's one SOC-1 Seagull in the set, 4-CS-14, this is the second plane in a 4 plane Squadron from the Heavy Cruiser U.S.S. Houston. The top half of the cowl is painted in black gloss as well as the Wing Chevron on the upper wing. The elevator and tail have True Blue Bands on both the upper and lower sides.

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#### Douglas TBD-1, Brewster F2A-2, Curtiss SBC-4 All in Gray Camo:

There are 3 TBD's in Gray Camo, 3-T-2, 3-T-3 and 3-T-6. There is one F2A Buffalo, 3-F-17 and one SBC-4 Helldiver, 3-S-10. These aircraft all have the late 1941 Gray Camo color scheme with White numbers and letters.

#### N.A. SNJ/AT-6, Lockheed Electra Model 10 XR2O-1, Curtiss XSB2C-1:

The SNJ's seen in the movie were extremely new in early to mid 1941 and most had not yet been assigned and therefore had no coding on the fuselage, we added it as a generic SNJ. The Lockheed Electra XR20-1 with its unusual Olive Drab paint for a Navy plane was also curiously missing its National Insignia on the wings. The final aircraft in the movie and I do mean final the XSB2C-1 Helldiver can be seen at the very end of the movie behind the words THE END. Still in the experimental stage during the filming of the movie it would be almost 2 years before it would be put into full production.

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# <u>SUGGESTED MODEL PAINTS:</u>

Below is an updated list of hobby paints we have used and had very good results with.

#### Official U.S.Navy & Marine Corps Colors

#### Color Match

	Tamiya Gloss Aluminum #TS-17 (Comes in spray can
Gloss Aluminum Pigmented Dope FS-17178	only), best match for pre-war aluminum doped finish.
	Tamiya Camel Yellow #TS-34 (3oz spray can)
Orange-Yellow Gloss FS-13538	
	Testors Flame Red #28110 (3oz spray can)
Insignia Red Gloss FS-11136	
	Tamiya Pure White #TS-26 (3oz spray can)
Insignia White Gloss FS-17875	
	Tamiya Brilliant Blue #TS-44 (3oz spray can)
True Blue Gloss FS-15102	
	Tamiya Gloss Black #TS-14 (3oz spray can)
Gloss Black FS-17038	
	Testors Willow Green #2028 (1/2oz bottle)
Willow Green Gloss FS-14187	No spray can
	Tamiya Yellow #TS-16 (3oz spray can)
Lemon Yellow Gloss FS-13655	` ` ` ' /
	Polly Scale Blue-Gray #505088 (1/2 oz bottle)
Blue-Gray FS-35189	Testors Blue-Gray #2055 (1/2 oz bottle) No Spray Can
	Testors Camouflage Gray #1933 (3oz spray can)
Non Specular Lt. Gray FS-36622	Tamiya Light Gray USAF #AS-16 (3oz spray can)

The Tamiya spray paints are Lacquer based, dry quickly and are very hardy once fully cured. The Testors spray paints are enamel based, and are slower to dry but are just as hardy once fully cured.

#### "TRIVIA FOR "DIVE BOMBER", THE MOVIE"

- The movie opened in theaters on August 12, 1941.
- The carrier USS Enterprise was used in the film while docked in San Diego. The Enterprise would go on and become one of the most famous ships in history for her battles she took part in during WWII.
- The Navy Department allowed filming on the USS Enterprise at sea for only three days.
- One of the pilots who flew the planes in the film footage was Navy Lt. Edward "Butch" O'Hare. O'Hare served as a fighter pilot in the Pacific and shot down five Japanese planes in his first battle, earning ace status and the Medal of Honor. O'Hare would go on to down 12 planes total and become one of the top heroes of the war before he was killed in action off the Gilbert Islands in November, 1943. O'Hare International Airport in Chicago was later named for him.
- Stunt Pilot Paul Mantz was seriously injured on his way to San Diego. Frank Clarke (chief pilot in the movie "Captains of the Clouds" and 2<sup>nd</sup> unit camera operator in the movie "Flight Command" substituted for him during his convalescence.
- Byron Haskin designed special mounts for a heavy Technicolor camera to allow it to move back and forth inside an airplane, in order to film the squadron while diving.
- All stills and publicity shots had to be approved by the Naval Intelligence Bureau.
- When the movie was released, the Navy Department provided the new Douglas dive bomber "Northrup BT-1" to be displayed in principal cities, and set up recruiting booths by the theaters.

### **ABOUT THE MOVIE**

The first major prewar "preparedness" film to be filmed in Technicolor, "DIVE BOMBER" starred Errol Flynn and Fred MacMurray as Navy surgeon Lt. Douglas Lee and flight commander Joe Blake, respectively. Having helped Lee design a high-altitude pressure suit which would prevent "blackouts" during power dives, Blake intends to test the suit himself. Lee and researcher Dr. Lance Rogers (Ralph Bellamy) nix Blake's plan after several test-flight tragedies, but in the end, Blake proves the efficacy of the suit—albeit at a great personal price. Produced with full cooperation of the Naval Air Corps, "DIVE BOMBER" was filmed on location at the Navy's air stations in San Diego and Pensacola, and aboard the aircraft carrier Enterprise. Many of the pilots flying those Devastators in the movie must have fallen at Midway. Among the Warner Bros. contractees playing the pilots are such stars-to-be as William Hopper, Charles Drake, Gig Young and Alan Hale Jr.

The real stars of this movie are the actual aircraft the US Navy had in 1940, both old and new. Those aircraft are all in their original markings and complicated paint schemes during the time the navy was converting from colorful to subdued colors. Every color was part of a complicated plan to identify each aircraft's place in squadron formations allowing quick identifications of exactly where each aircraft belonged. All the planes are here: Vindicators, Helldivers, Buffalos, F3F's, PBY's and even the little used and known Northrup BT-1 Dive Bomber, competitor of the Vindicator. The US Navy went all out with massed formations in the air and on the ground, close ups, long shots, all of it most impressive.

The frosting on the cake is the stirring and patriotic score by Max Steiner, parts of which show up in his other film classics like "Fighter Squadron". This movie may have been made over sixty

years ago, but you'll find yourself ready to go running off to your local Navy recruiter, the effect it must have made on its audience at the time.

While "DIVE BOMBER'S" titles acknowledged the cooperation of the United States Navy, the lore behind the film indicates that the service's cooperation with the studio, at such a particularly sensitive time in history was grudging at best. The naval authorities were reluctant to give camera crews access to San Diego or to the USS Enterprise, so Jack Warner dispatched Col. William Guthrie to lobby Washington for the film's cause. "So great was the power of Hollywood studios at the time that the Secretary of the Navy ordered the San Diego Naval Base Staff to put the base at Warner's disposal."

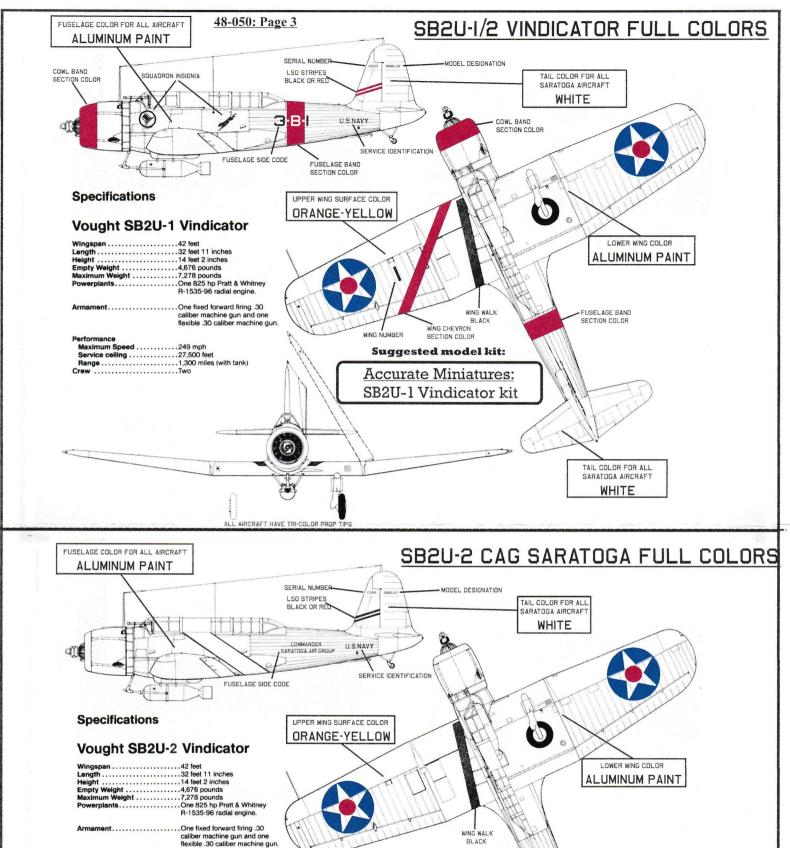
The three-day shooting stint aboard the Enterprise was no less tense; the cast and crew bumped the ship's officers from their bunks, and director Michael Curtiz at one point demanded the vessel turn around so he could get a satisfactory angle on the smoke from its stacks. The Enterprise's officers took their vengeance on the filmmakers by nightly setting off guns and depth charges from the moment they settled in to sleep. Just as photography wound down on the final day, the boat was ordered out to sea with such speed that the cameras fell to the deck, and the filmmakers were made to debark onto smaller boats along the sides while the ship was still cruising.

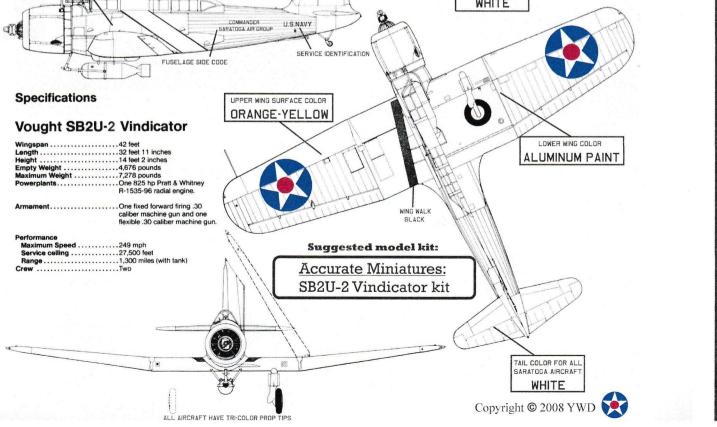
The film crew of "DIVE BOMBER" was deservedly lauded for the striking aerial images that it captured. Bosley Crowther stated in his New York Times review that "never before has an aviation film been so vivid in its images, conveyed such a sense of tangible solidity when it is showing us solid things, or been so full of sunlight and clean air when the camera is aloft." The 600 pound Technicolor camera for flight sequences was utilized for the first time. The camera was positioned in a twin-engine Stinson. The filmmakers cut another door in the fuselage opposite a standard one. Between these three-foot-wide times five-foot-high doorways, a track was laid so the camera could be dollied from one side of the plane to the other. Story and shared script credit on "DIVE BOMBER" went to Frank "Spig" Wead, the retired naval commander who worked tirelessly for the advancement of the Navy's air corps and who was portrayed by John Wayne in the John Ford-helmed biopic "THE WINGS OF EAGLES".

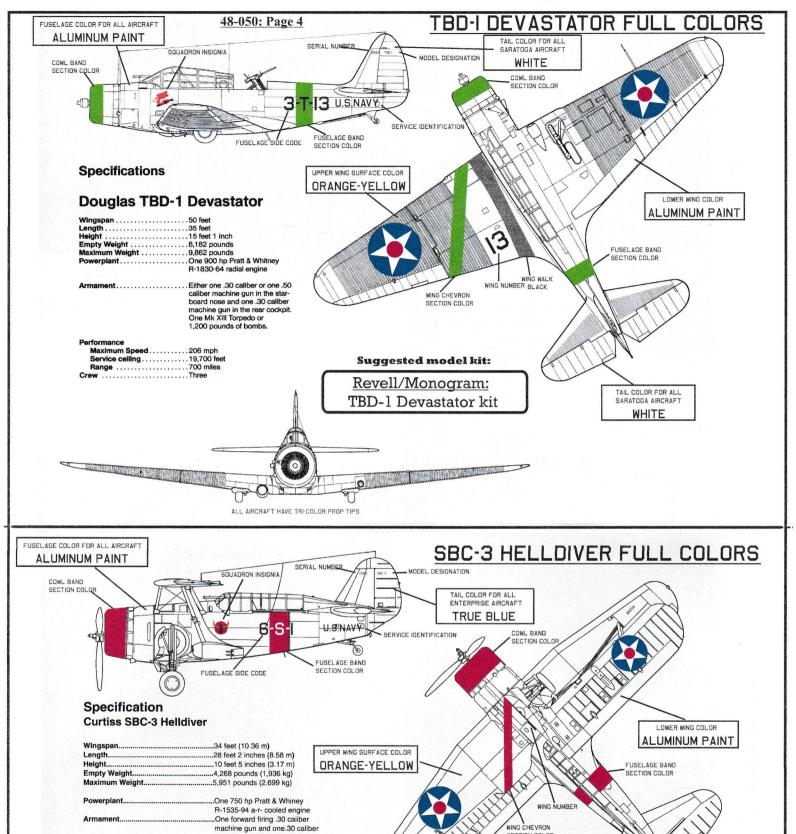
"DIVE BOMBER" is a glorious Technicolor view of US Naval aviation just before the US entered WWII. The air sequences include shots of aircraft (Vindicators, Devastators, Curtiss Hell Divers, etc.) that soon became obsolete and have never been seen in any other Technicolor film. The carrier scenes are set on the USS Enterprise the year before this ship fought in the Midway and Guadalcanal battles. In the critical battle at Midway a year later, the sadly out-of-date Devastators were almost totally wiped out in a brave but futile attack. many of the pilots flying those Devastators in the movie must have fallen at Midway. "DIVE BOMBER" stands out among the service dramas released during its period. The striking Technicolor effort remains impressive today.

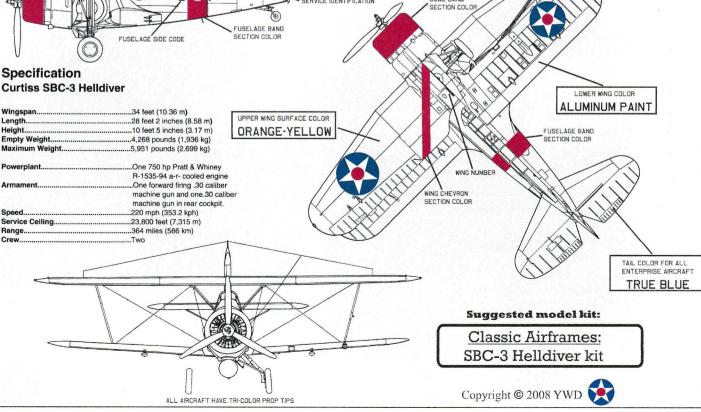
This excellent movie is available in both VHS and DVD. If you haven't seen it I suggest you pick up a copy, you won't be disappointed.

Wayne Tevlin Yellow-Wings Decals

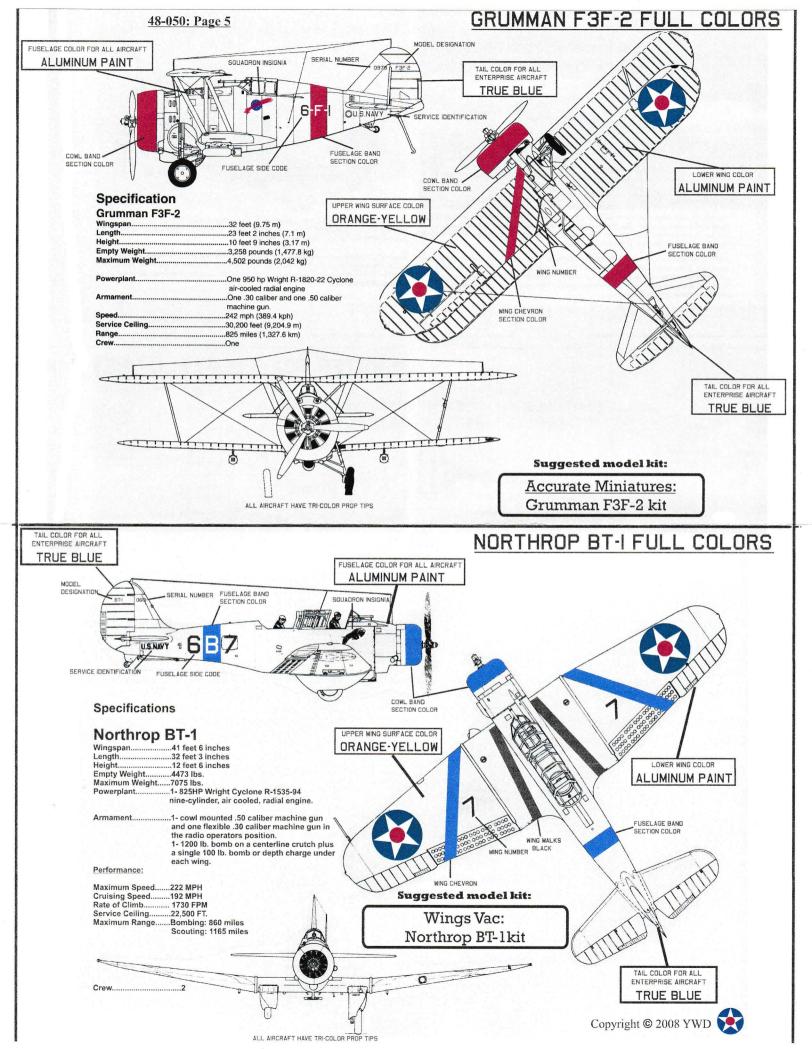


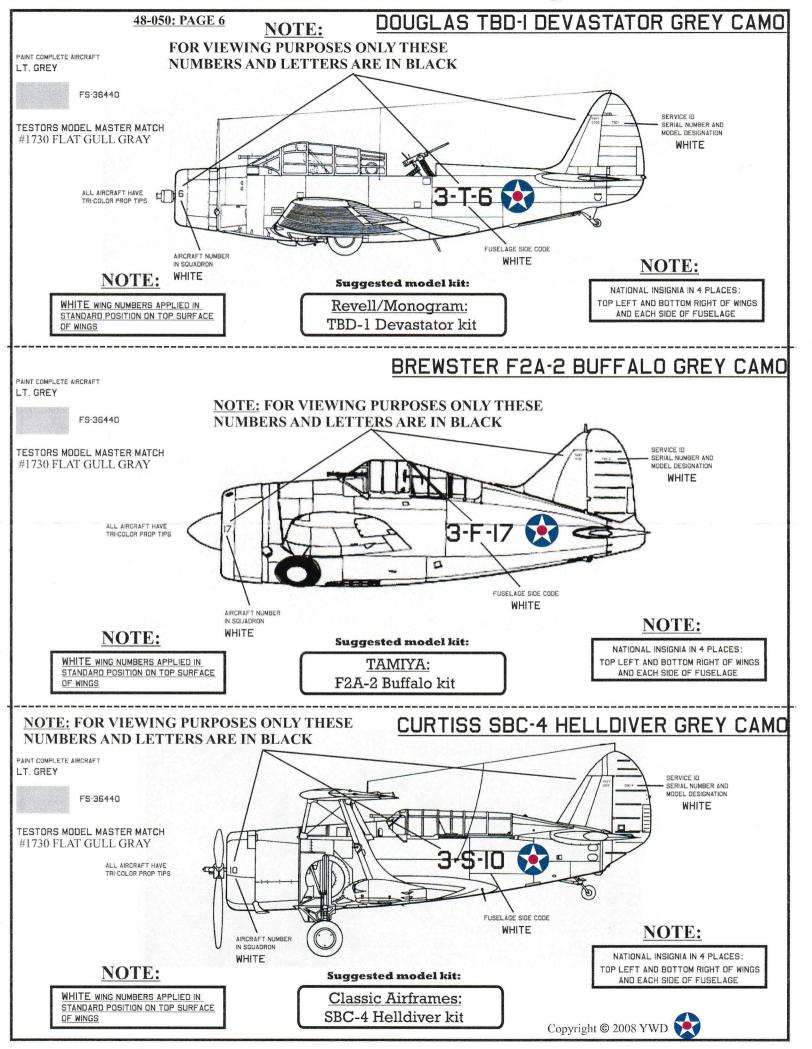


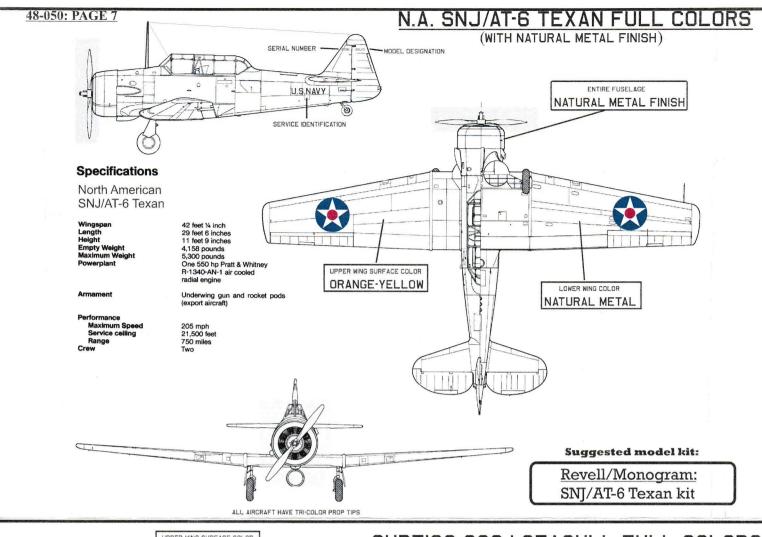


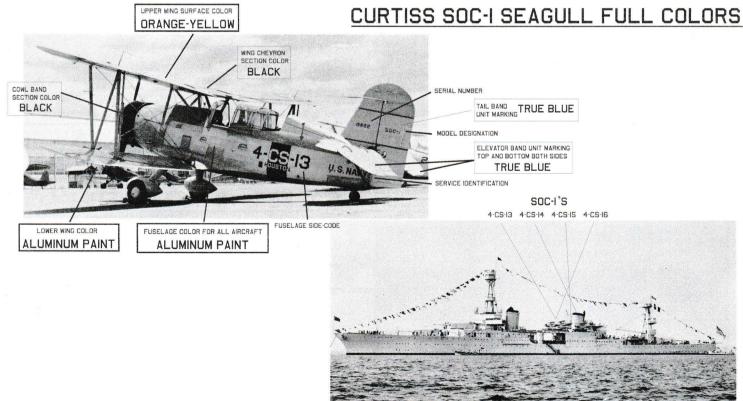


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HEAVY CRUISER U.S.S. HOUSTON CA-30 Suggested model kit:

> Wings: Curtiss SOC-1 kit

> > Copyright © 2008 YWD

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# NAF N3N OR STEARMAN N2S TRAINER (YELLOW PERILS)



INDIVIDUAL AIRCRAFT NUMBER

COLOR OF WHEEL HUBS INNER AND OUTER ALUMINUM PAINT



Suggested model kit:

Lindberg: Stearman PT-17 Trainer kit

ALL AIRCRAFT HAVE TRI-COLOR PROP TIPS

#### PAINT ENTIRE AIRCRAFT OLIVE DRAB

# LOCKHEED XR20-I TRANSPORT OLIVE DRAB



SERVICE IDENTIFICATION

SERIAL NUMBER

ODEL DESIGNATION

OLIVE DRAB

FS-34087



PAINT ENTIRE AIRCRAFT

TESTORS MODEL MASTER MATCH #1711 OLIVE DRAB

Suggested model kit:

Williams Bros: Lockheed Electra 10 kit

# CURTISS XSB2C-I HELLDIVER FULL COLORS

ALL AIRCRAFT HAVE TRI-COLOR PROP TIPS



SERIAL NUMBER MODEL DESIGNATION



Suggested model kit:

Revell/Monogram: Curtiss SB2C Helldiver kit

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LOWER WING COLOR

FUSELAGE COLOR FOR ALL AIRCRAFT **ALUMINUM PAINT ALUMINUM PAINT** 

#### A BRIEF HISTORY

In the pre-war years (1930-41) the U.S. military had some of the most colorful aircraft ever flown. This period, known as "the golden age" was also a transitional period for military aircraft, evolving from bi-planes to monoplanes. These brightly colored aircraft, though not very practical from a modern military perspective, reflected the times and the invulnerability the U.S. thought it had during this period. \*Pearl Harbor changed all that.

The high visibility orange-yellow paint of the upper wing surface of these aircraft (used as a recovery tool in search and rescue) along with painted tail sections, fuselages, wing chevrons and belly bands added to the color of these planes. During the decade of the 30's these brightly colored aircraft, known as "YELLOW-WINGS", filled the skies.

#### **OUR GOAL**

Our goal at "YELLOW-WINGS" DECALS is to replicate the colorful markings of these aircraft. Using historic records, military archives and published reference materials on the subject, we hope to bring you the most accurate and authentic markings possible. Yellow-winged aircraft will be our primary subject matter, although we may occasionally depart from this theme to do a decal sheet on an unusual or unique aircraft from the time period (1930-45). We believe our decals will help both the novice and serious modeler build a model with museum quality markings. Our decals are custom printed by Microscale and we highly recommend the use of their decaling system which can be found at your local hobby shop.

#### APPLYING DECALS

- 1. Choose and cut out the subject decal from the sheet, being careful not to trim the excess clear film from around the subject.
- 2. Immerse the subject decal into lukewarm water for 10-15 seconds.
- Let decal sit for approx. 1 minute or more until decal slides easily off backing paper. Do not force, or decal may split or tear.
- 4. Slide decal onto model surface by gently holding in place while sliding away paper backing.
- 5. Using a piece of paper towel or soft cloth, blot away any water and adhesive. Let dry thoroughly, preferably over night