

A-10 Thunderbolt

ITALERI

1/48

BY SAM SCOLES

The kit comes in a large box with five sprues moulded in light grey styrene. I was impressed with the excellent engraving on the wings and fuselage, although some areas have raised rivet detail. I was a little disheartened that the kit has no real detail in the cockpit, as all dials and instruments are on decals.

Construction

Assembly begins with painting the insides of the two fuselage halves, the instrument panel and rear bulkhead. The four-piece nosewheel bay came next. Care should be taken to align all the bay walls before attaching it to the lower fuselage. The instructions show that 30g of weight need to be added, but it requires more than this. As I was using lead shot (from diving weights) I needed to construct a box shape from plasticard to prevent it from becoming loose and rattling around. Despite using more than the recommended weight of ballast, my A-10 still turned out to be a tail-sitter.

The four-piece wings were next in the building stage and fitted together well with no gaps. In the instructions there is a choice of colours for the interior part of the wing structure depending on which



TECHNICAL DATA

Scale: 1/48	Kit No: 2655
Price: £14.50	Decal Options: 3
Panel Lines: Recessed	Status: New Tooling
Type: Injection Moulded Plastic	
Parts: Plastic 208, Clear 10	
Manufacturer: Italeri	
UK Importer: The Hobby Company	

decal option you choose. As I decided to have my A-10 with full armament I also needed to drill out six holes for the weapons pylons.

The engine assembly consists of 11 pieces. The nacelle interiors have first to be painted white. Next the turbine fans and exhausts are mounted onto one half of each nacelle before they are joined. There is a large step between the fans and inlets which is very tricky to fill and sand — it can be done but requires some work. Another problem is that the engine doors and inlets stand proud of the rest of the engine nacelle, requiring a lot of filling



and sanding that results in all the raised detail being lost.

Next the fuselage, tailplane, wings and engines were glued together. These all fitted well with a minimum amount of filler needed. The gun and nose sections were attached and only a tiny amount of sanding was required to make them sit flush. I masked the canopy and fixed it with white glue. The canopy does actually work however with the cockpit details being decals, and thus not worth showing off, so I fixed mine in the closed position.

Colour Options

A coat of white primer was used in the wheel bays and once dry these areas were sprayed gloss appliance white then masked off. The airframe was then primed with grey primer (all paints coming from Halfords) and left to dry for 48 hours before a base coat of Humbrol

117 was airbrushed, followed by the camouflage colours, Humbrol 149 and Humbrol 125.

The decals are in good register and are easy to work with, although there was some silvering. Once the Klear had dried, a wash of Payne's grey oil paint thinned with turpentine was applied to the model and the excess removed using cotton buds.

Conclusion

This kit has good points and a few bad, such as the lack of detail in the cockpit, although this can easily be rectified with an aftermarket set. The mix of raised and recessed detail may be off-putting to some people. However, I enjoyed building it, and if you put in the work you will end up with a very nice looking model. I would definitely build another.