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1/48 Scale Plastic Model Kit



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The MiG-21 was the most-produced supersonic fighter in the world serving with more than fifty Air Forces over four continents. The continuous development lasted for nearly three decades and massive production made it the most numerous supersonic jet fighter of the world.

The MiG-21 was one of many aircraft of the Mikoyan-Gurevich design bureau which were integrated not only into the Soviet Air Force (VVS – Voyenno-vozhdushnye sily), but also into the Air Forces of all members of the Warsaw Pact and also of many allied client states. Its predecessors included such notable types as the MiG-15, MiG-17 and the supersonic MiG-19.

The roots of MiG-21 project reach back to the first half of the fifties. In 1954, the preliminary design study Ye-1 came to its end and was quickly replaced by the heavily reworked Ye-2 prototype. Both had a swept wing and the first MiG design to feature the delta wing was the Ye-4 prototype, which took to the air for the first time on June 16, 1955. It was also demonstrated a year later at the Moscow airfield Tushino.

The new aircraft with the MiG-21 designation was the first successful Soviet design integrating fighter and interceptor characteristics. It was also quite light Mach 2 aircraft, although the long-lasting development was adding weight gradually. The design featured sleek fuselage with the front air intake and shock cone. This feature later limited future development due to the very small space available for the radar.

Cold War warrior

The first of the new line to enter production was the MiG-21F, which together with the MiG-21P and MiG-21F-13 represented the first generation of this line. These versions were in production through the end of the fifties and at the beginning of the sixties. Subsequent versions included the PF, FL, PFM and R with production of these peaking at the end of the sixties. The production of third generation started in 1968 and included the most advanced versions of MiG-21 like the M, SM, MF, SMT or bis among others. Simultaneously, two-seat training versions were also produced and designated as MiG-21U, UM and US.

Production of the MiG-21 ended in 1985. The new aircraft came off Soviet production lines in Moscow, Gorky and Tbilisi, the MiG-21F-13 was also built under the license in Czechoslovakia and the MiG-21FL, M and bis were built in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. The Soviet Union produced 10,645 examples of all versions, 194 were built in Czechoslovakia and 657 in India. That counts 11,496 aircraft produced. NATO assigned it the reporting name "Fishbed", while the Soviet pilots called it "Balalaika" due to the shape resembling it with the popular Russian musical instrument.

Aces from Asia, Middle East or Africa

Outside of the Soviet Union, the type flew with a long list of nations on four continents (Europe, Asia, Africa and South America) and participated in many conflicts and wars. The most remarkable combat use includes the Vietnam war, the Indo-Pakistan wars, the

Cuban participation in Angola and in the Arab world's attempts to eliminate Israel. It is no wonder there were many pilots achieving their ace status flying one or more variants of MiG-21.

Thanks to the high volume of use and intensive combat actions, the Vietnamese pilots are topping the list of aces of MiG-21 with Nguyen Van Coc with 9 kills as the most successful among them followed by three eight-victory aces Mai Van Cuong, Nguyen Hong Nhi and Pham Thanh Ngan. From the other nations the Syrian pilots Bassam Hamshun and Majid Zugbi both achieved seven kills flying MiG-21MF, while Adeeb Al-Jarf had the same score with MiG-21FL. Egyptian pilots Ali Vajai, Sami Marei and Sami Marei scored five times

In the interceptor role the MiG-21 served with the Soviet Union and other nations of the Warsaw Pact into the eighties when it began to be replaced by the MiG-23 in seventies and MiG-29 in eighties.

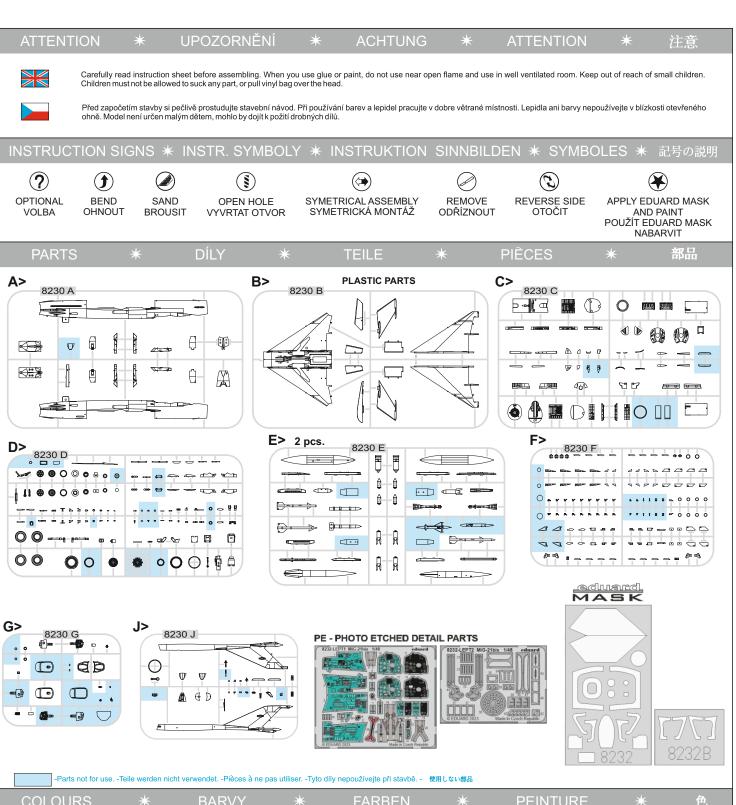
This kit: MiG-21bis

The MiG-21bis had designation "Izdelye 75" in factory documentation. As opposed to the MF and SMT versions, it was intended to be a fighter with ground attack capability as only the secondary role. It was powered by a Tumanskiy R-25-300 engine which was more powerful than unit used with MiG-21SM and it also offered better economy. The maximum thrust rose from 6,490 kp of the R-13-300 to 9,900 kp of the R-25-300.

Because of the change of the engine, the diameter of the frontal air inlet had to enlarged from 870 mm to 900 mm. The regulation cone was taken over from SM version, but the radar inside was changed from the RP-22SM unit to the RP-22M (Jay Bird) one. It was capable to follow the air targets also when they were detected against the ground surface background. The bigger No. 7 fuel tank was installed (600 l instead of 510 l) in the fuselage and the change necessitated bigger, more spacious fuselage ridge. But it was not as massive as with the MiG-21SMT version, where the huge 900 l tank affected the general performance of the aircraft negatively. The BIS solution was a compromise between the endurance and the performance.

The MiG-21bis was armed with a twin barreled GS-23-2L 23 mm cannon with 200 rounds of ammo. Hardpoints could be loaded with R-13M, R-55, R-60 and R-60M missiles, UB-16-57 or UB32A rocket pods, S-24 unguided rockets, bombs up to 500 kg caliber and also ZB-360 napalm bombs.

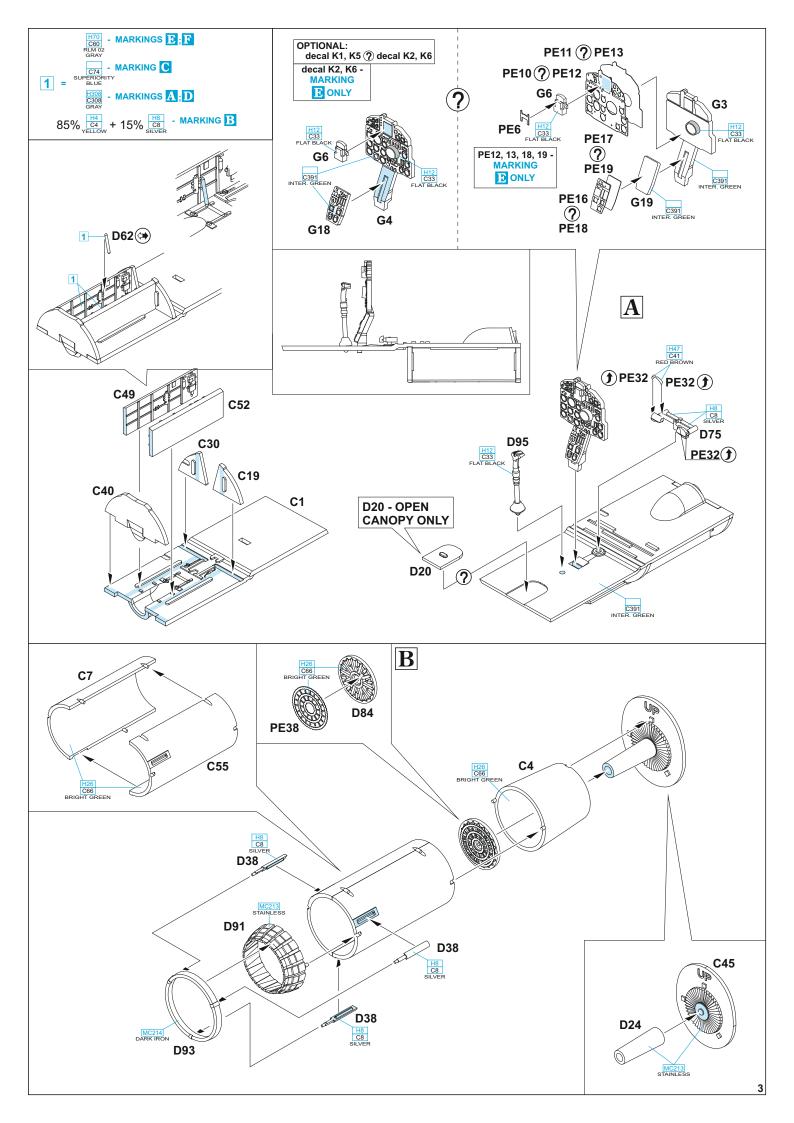
The aircraft was delivered to nations of the former Warsaw Pact and the Third World either as the model "Izdelye 75A" with the Lazur ground control intercept system, or as the "Izdelye 75B" with the Polyot OI ILS (Instrument Landing System). The former carried the NATO code "Fishbed N", and the latter "Fishbed K". Both versions served as "Izdelye 75" with Soviet VVS and PVO units.

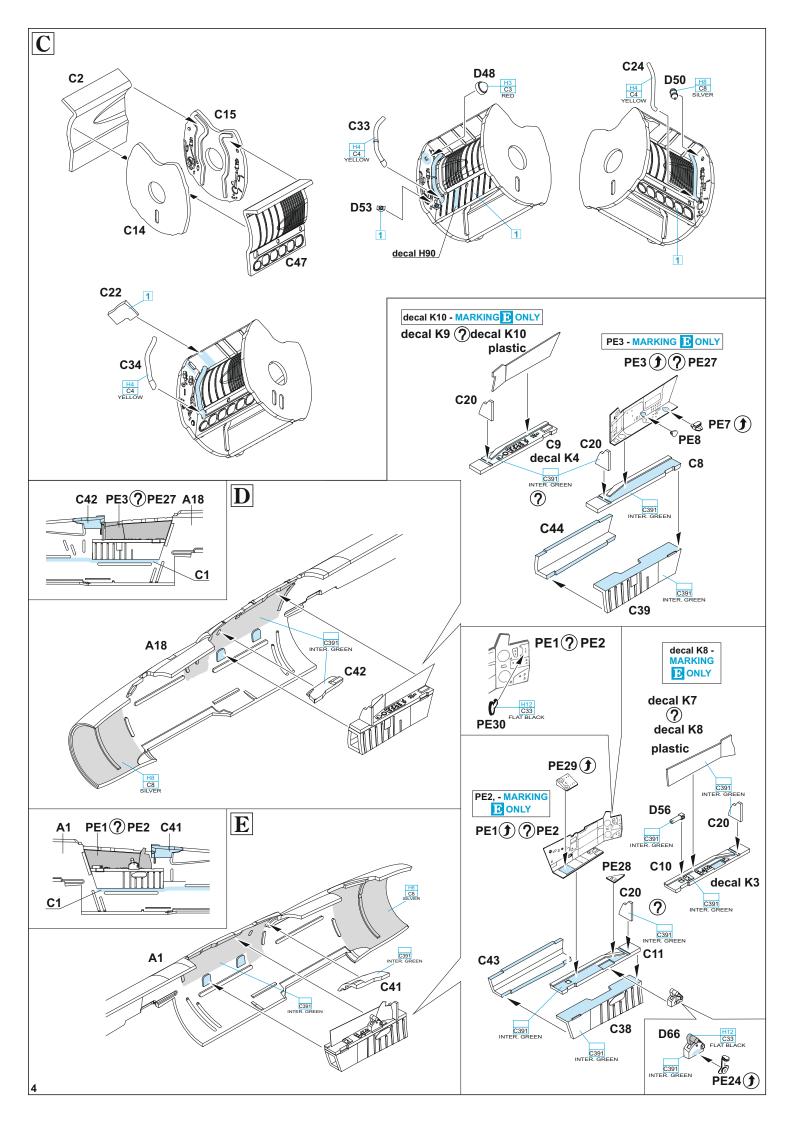


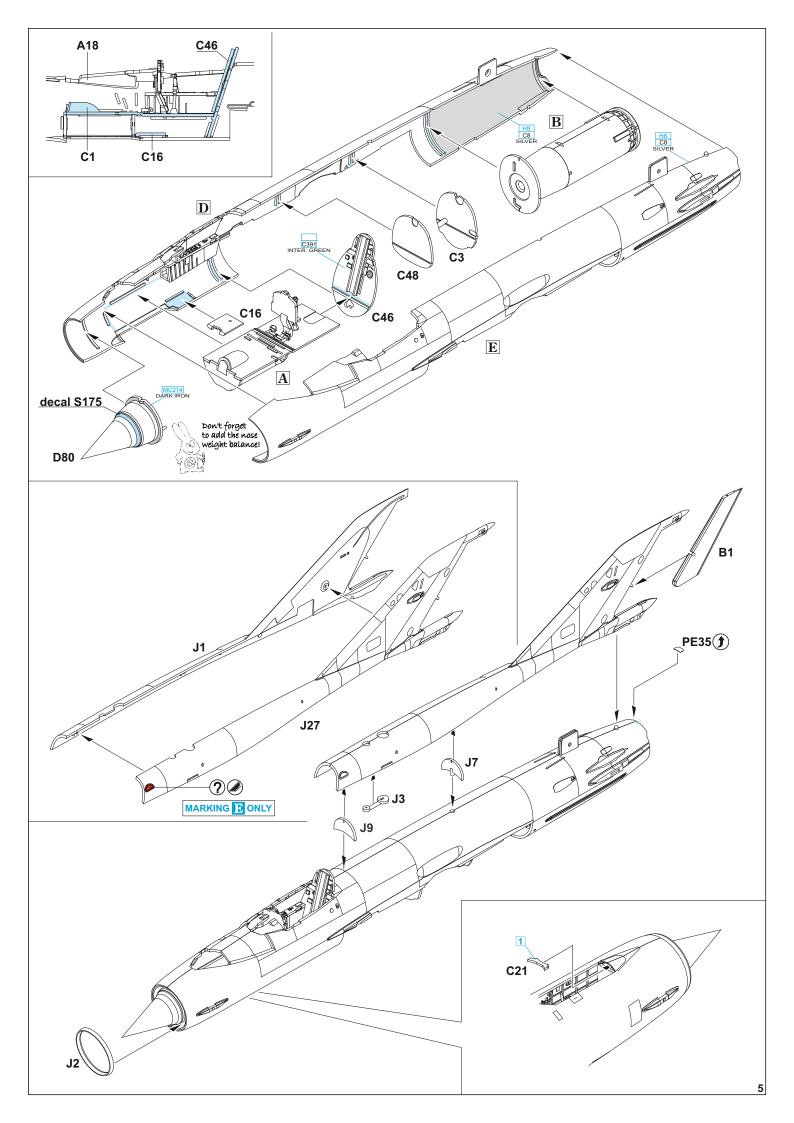
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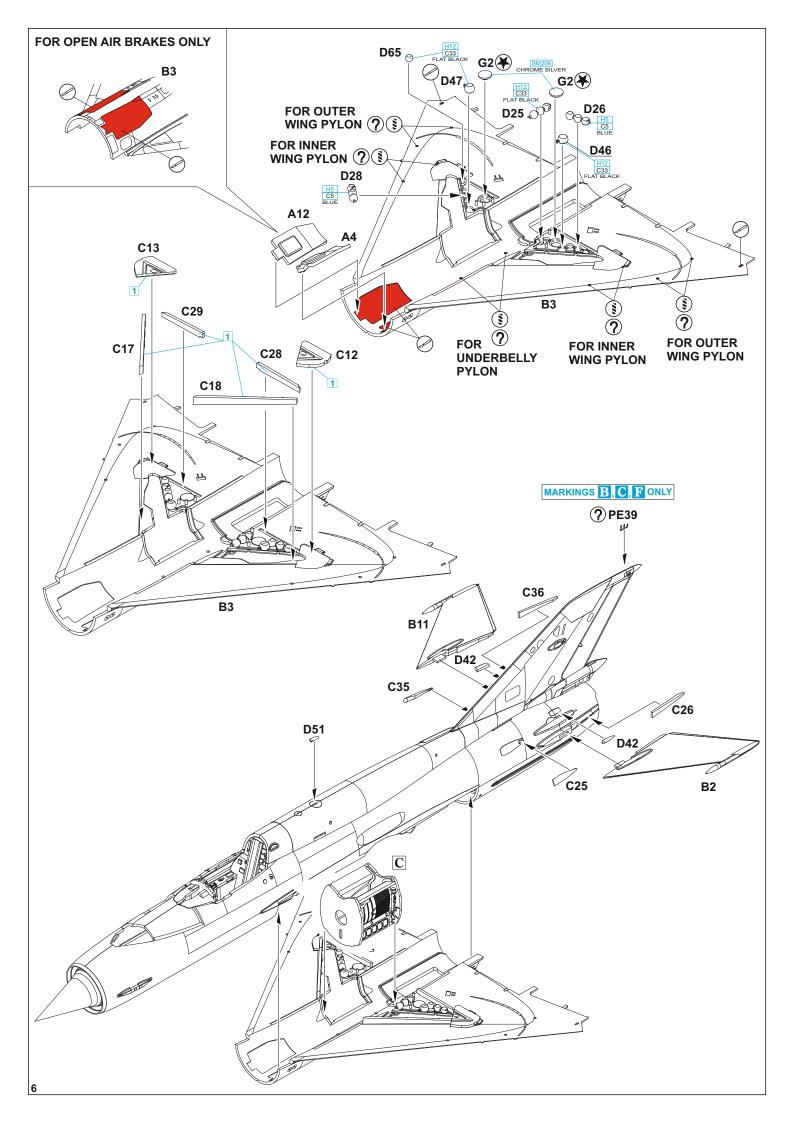
GSi Creos (GUNZE)		1
AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR	
H1	C1	WHITE
H3	C3	RED
H4	C4	YELLOW
H5	C5	BLUE
H7	C7	BROWN
H8	C8	SILVER
H11	C62	FLAT WHITE
H12	C33	FLAT BLACK
H14	C59	ORANGE
H26	C66	BRIGHT GREEN
H37	C43	WOOD BROWN
H47	C41	RED BROWN
H51	C11	LIGHT GULL GRAY
H53	C13	NEUTRAL GRAY
H67	C115	LIGHT BLUE
H70	C60	RLM02 GRAY
H77	C137	TIRE BLACK
H81	C55	KHAKI
H82	C31	DARK GRAY
H84	C42	MAHOGANY
H90	C47	CLEAR RED
H94	C138	CLEAR GREEN

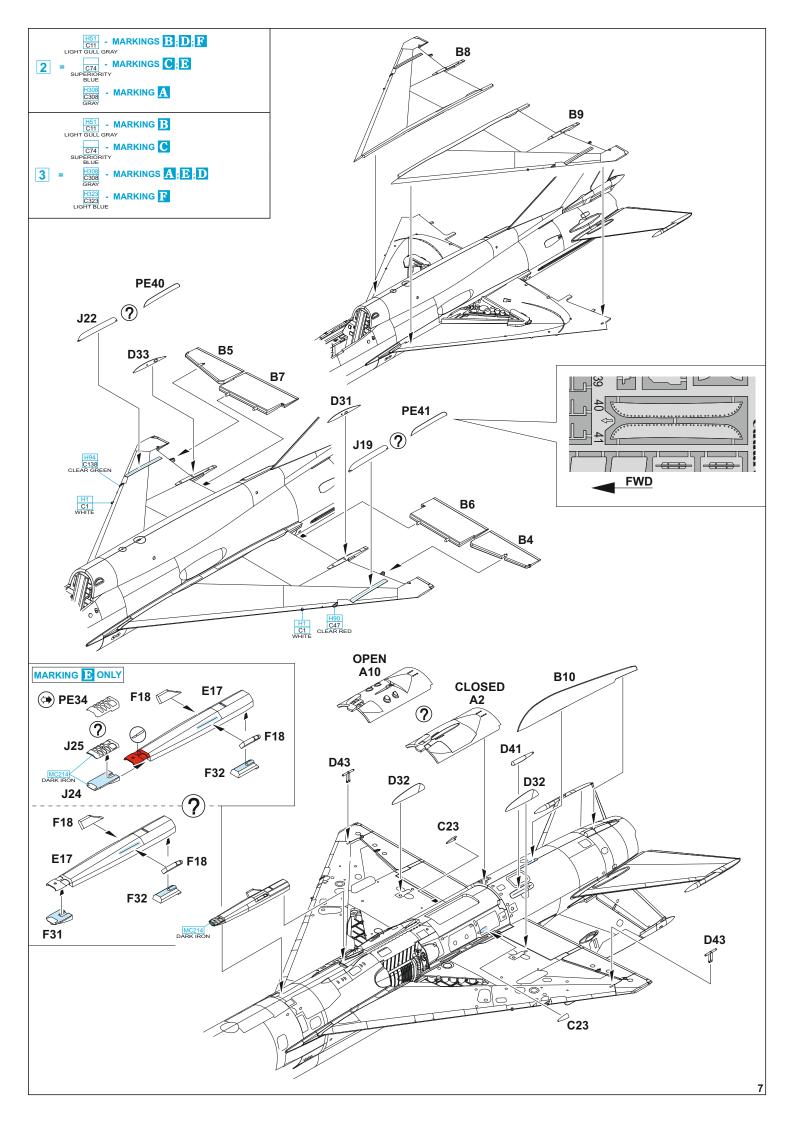
GSi Creos (GUNZE) AQUEOUS Mr.COLOR H308 C308 GRAY H312 C312 GREEN H318 C318 RADOME H323 C323 LIGHT BLUE H330 C361 DARK GREEN H332 C332 GRAYISH BLUE H333 C333 EXTRA DARK SEAGRAY H340 C340 FIELD GREEN H422 C122 RLM82 LIGHT GREEN C74 AIR SUPERIORITY BLUE C129 LIGHT GREEN C131 RED BROWN C136 RUSSIAN GREEN C391 INTERIOR TURQUISE GREEN MC213 STEEL MC214 DARK IRON MC218 Mr.COLOR SUPER METALLIC	不	PEI	NIURE *
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H323 C323	H312	C312	GREEN
H330	H318	C318	RADOME
H352 C332 GRAYISH BLUE H333 C333 EXTRA DARK SEAGRAY H340 C340 FIELD GREEN H422 C122 RLM82 LIGHT GREEN C74 AIR SUPERIORITY BLUE C129 LIGHT GREEN C131 RED BROWN C136 RUSSIAN GREEN C391 INTERIOR TURQUISE GREEN C511 GREEN Mr.METAL COLOR MC213 STEEL MC214 DARK IRON MC218 ALUMINIUM	H323	C323	LIGHT BLUE
H333	H330	C361	DARK GREEN
H340	H332	C332	GRAYISH BLUE
H422 C122 RLM82 LIGHT GREEN C74 AIR SUPERIORITY BLUE C129 LIGHT GREEN C131 RED BROWN C136 RUSSIAN GREEN C391 INTERIOR TURQUISE GREEN C511 GREEN Mr.METAL COLOR MC213 STEEL MC214 DARK IRON MC218 ALUMINIUM	H333	C333	EXTRA DARK SEAGRAY
C74	H340	C340	FIELD GREEN
C129	H422	C122	RLM82 LIGHT GREEN
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C136 RUSSIAN GREEN C391 INTERIOR TURQUISE GREEN C511 GREEN Mr.METAL COLOR MC213 STEEL MC214 DARK IRON MC218 ALUMINIUM		C129	LIGHT GREEN
C391 INTERIOR TURQUISE GREEN C511 GREEN Mr.METAL COLOR MG213 STEEL MC214 DARK IRON MC218 ALUMINIUM		C131	RED BROWN
C511 GREEN		C136	RUSSIAN GREEN
Mr.METAL COLOR MC213 STEEL MC214 DARK IRON MC218 ALUMINIUM		C391	INTERIOR TURQUISE GREEN
MC213 STEEL MC214 DARK IRON MC218 ALUMINIUM		C511	GREEN
MC214 DARK IRON MC218 ALUMINIUM	Mr.METAL COLOR		
MC218 ALUMINIUM	MC213		STEEL
	MC214		DARK IRON
Mr.COLOR SUPER METALLIC	MC218		ALUMINIUM
	Mr.COLOR SUPER METALLIC		
SM201 SUPER FINE SILVER	SM201		SUPER FINE SILVER
SM206 CHROME SILVER	SM206		CHROME SILVER

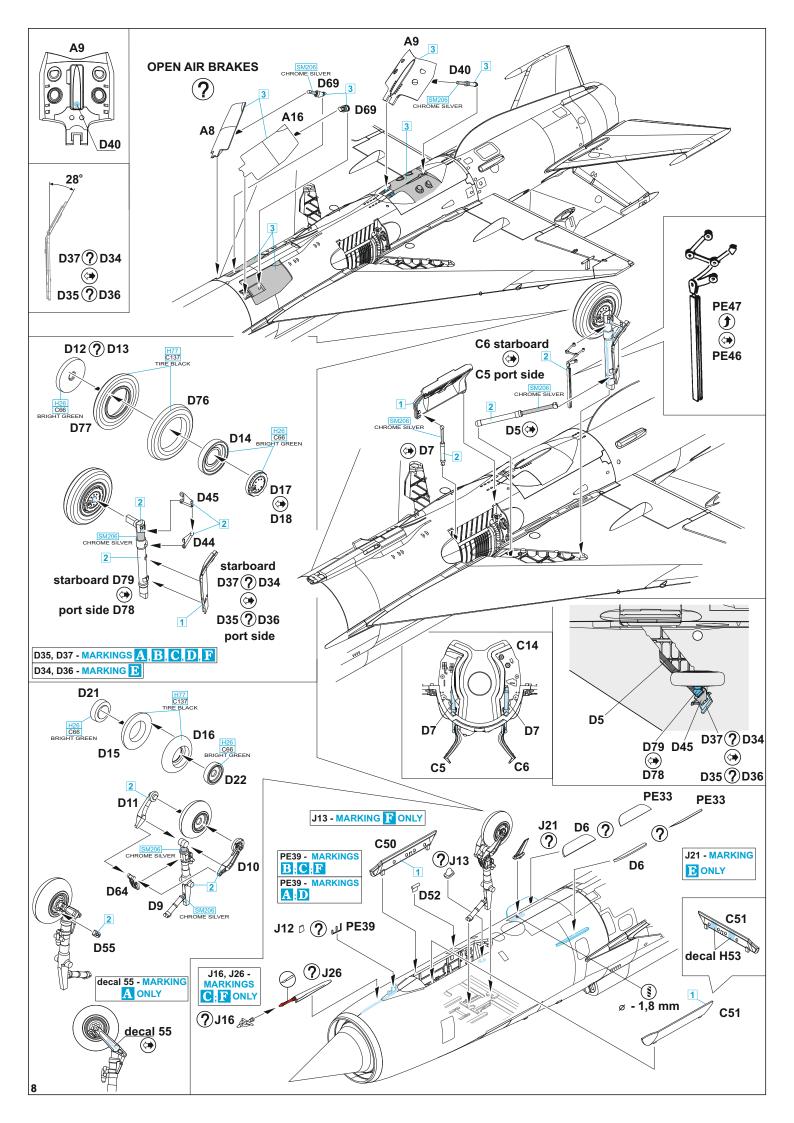


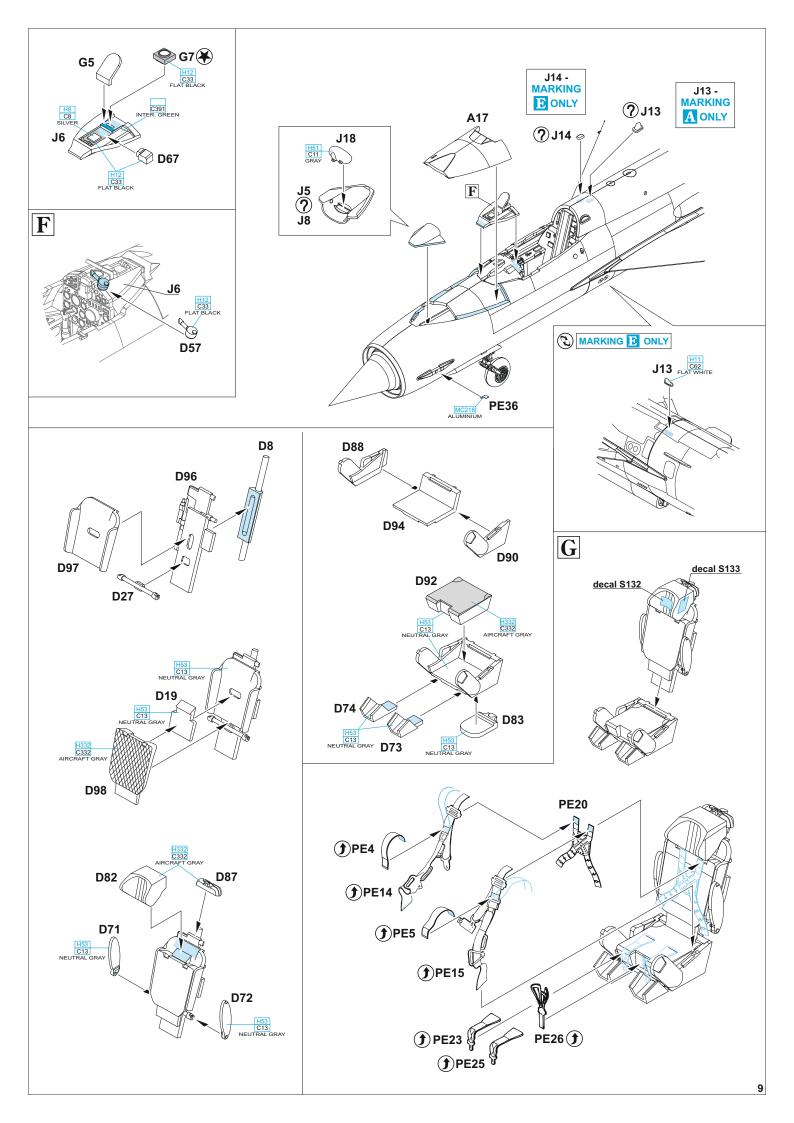


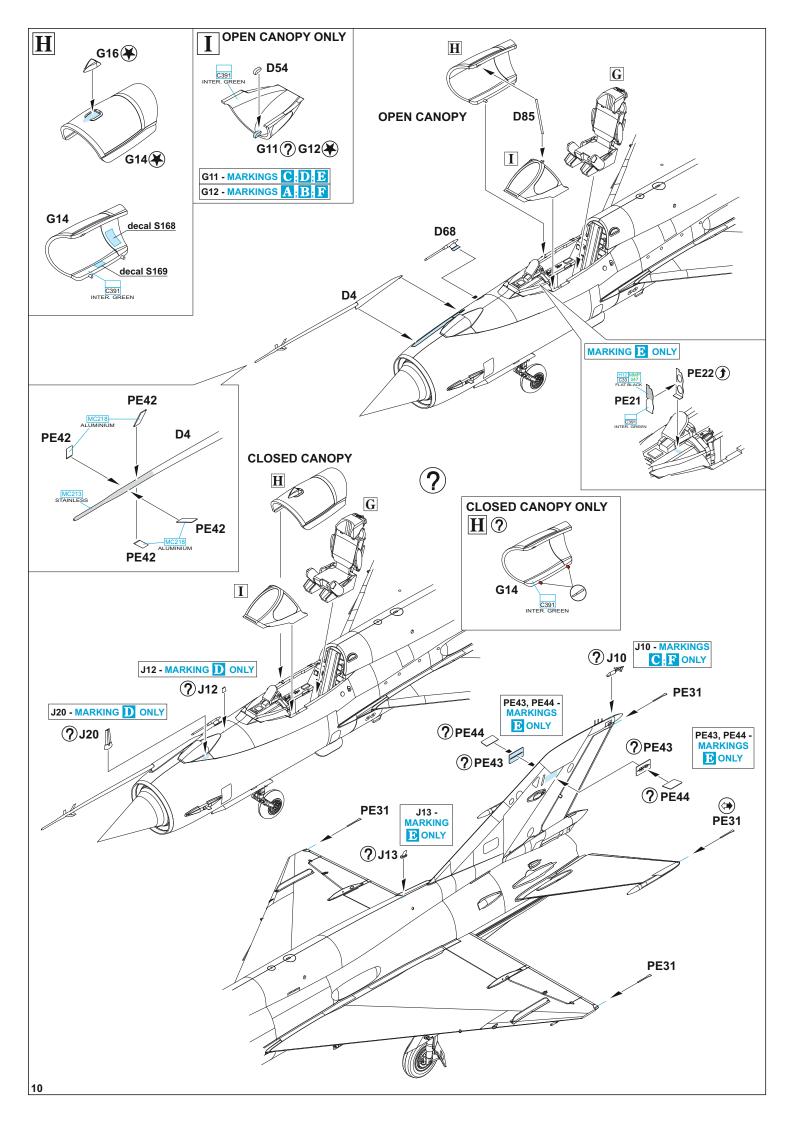


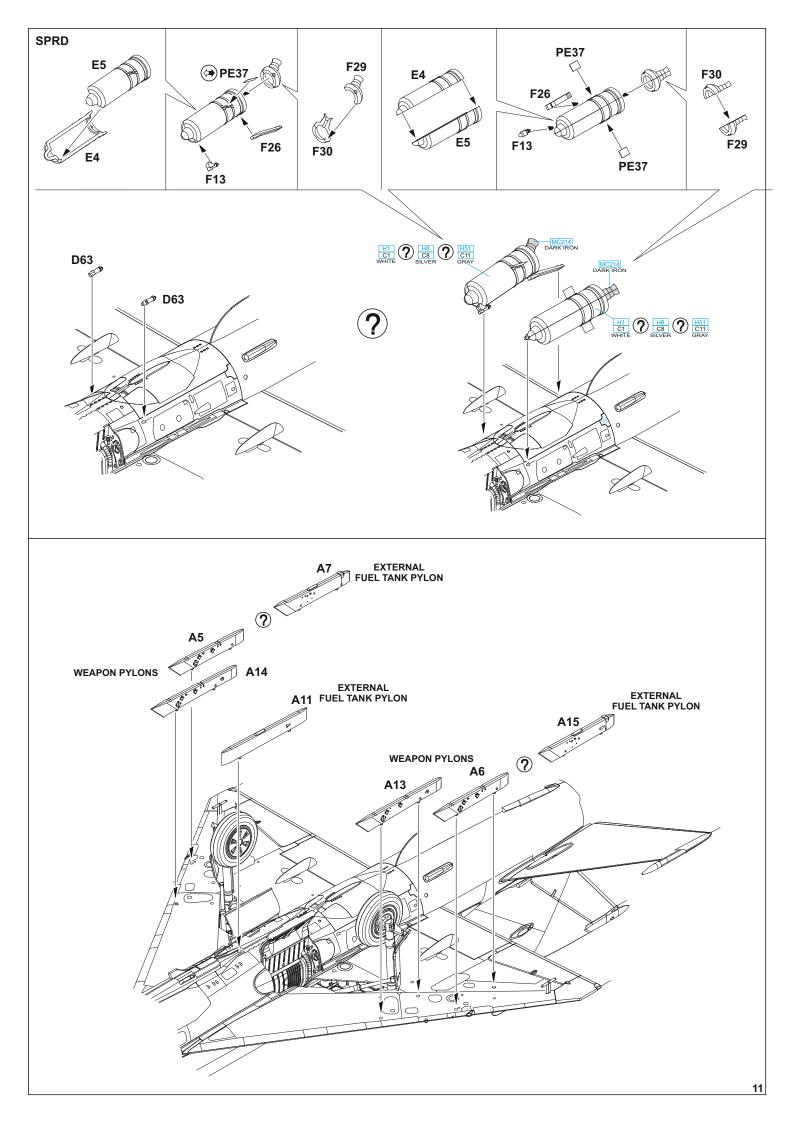


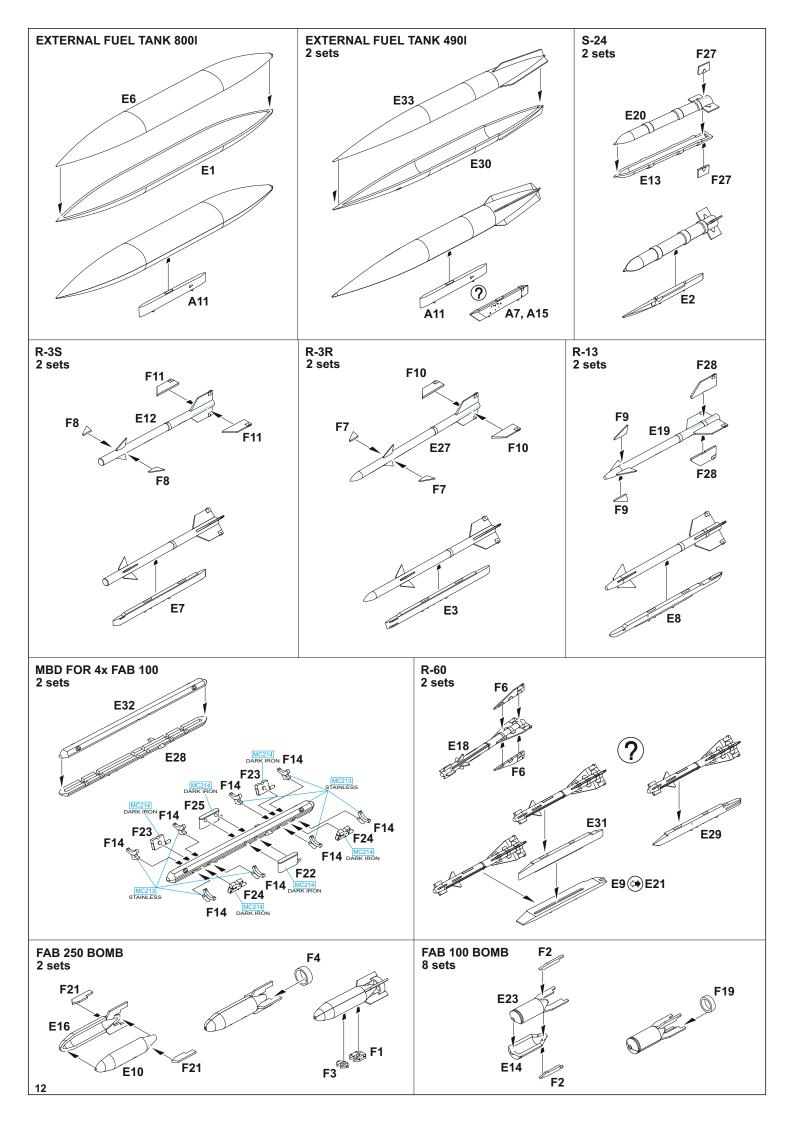


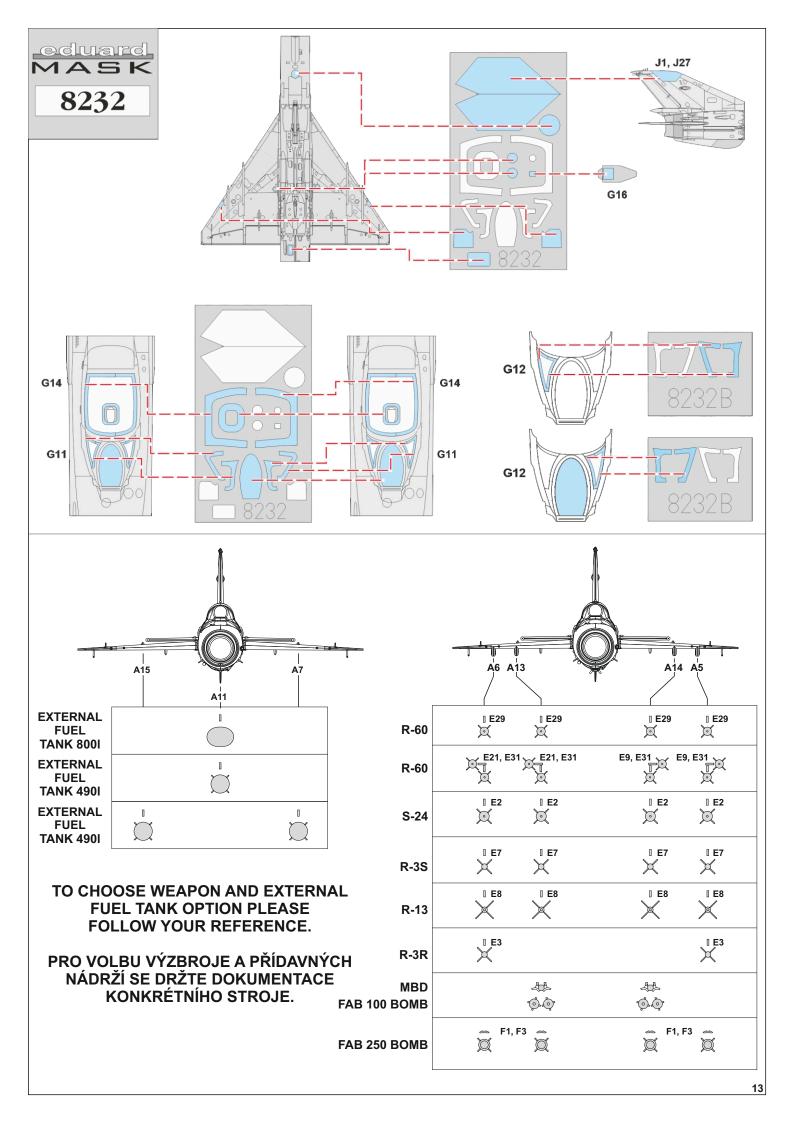


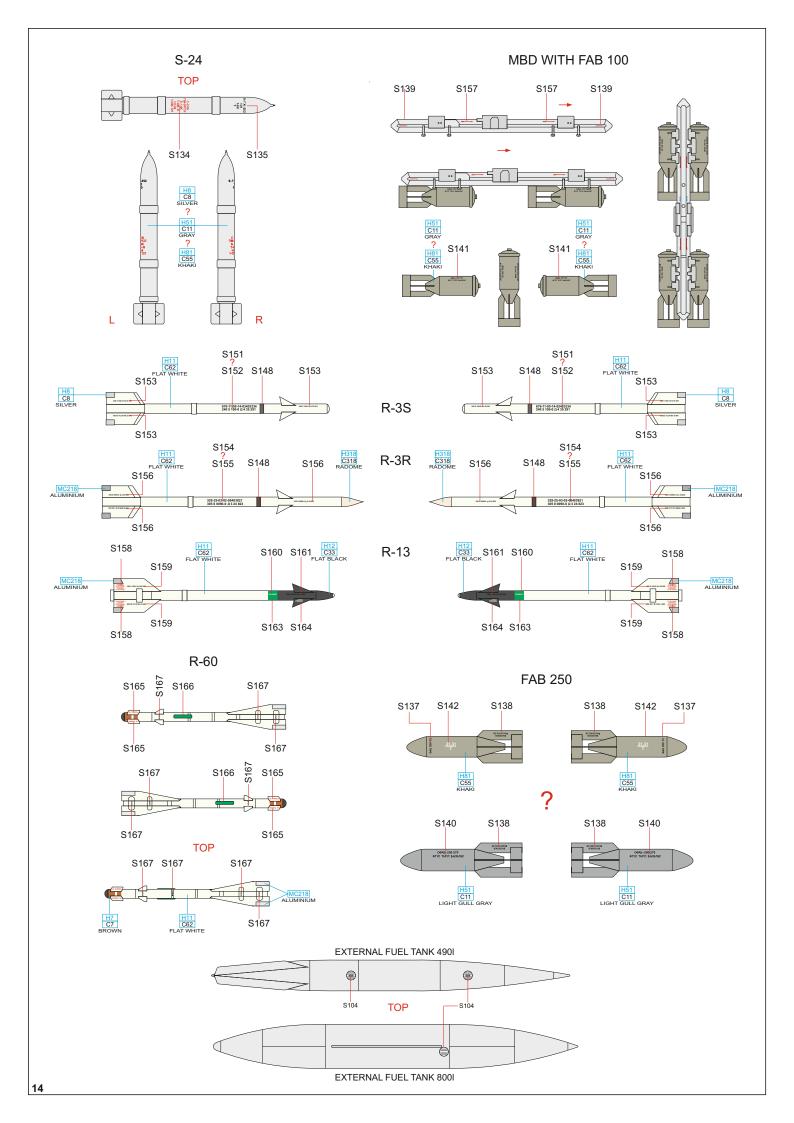


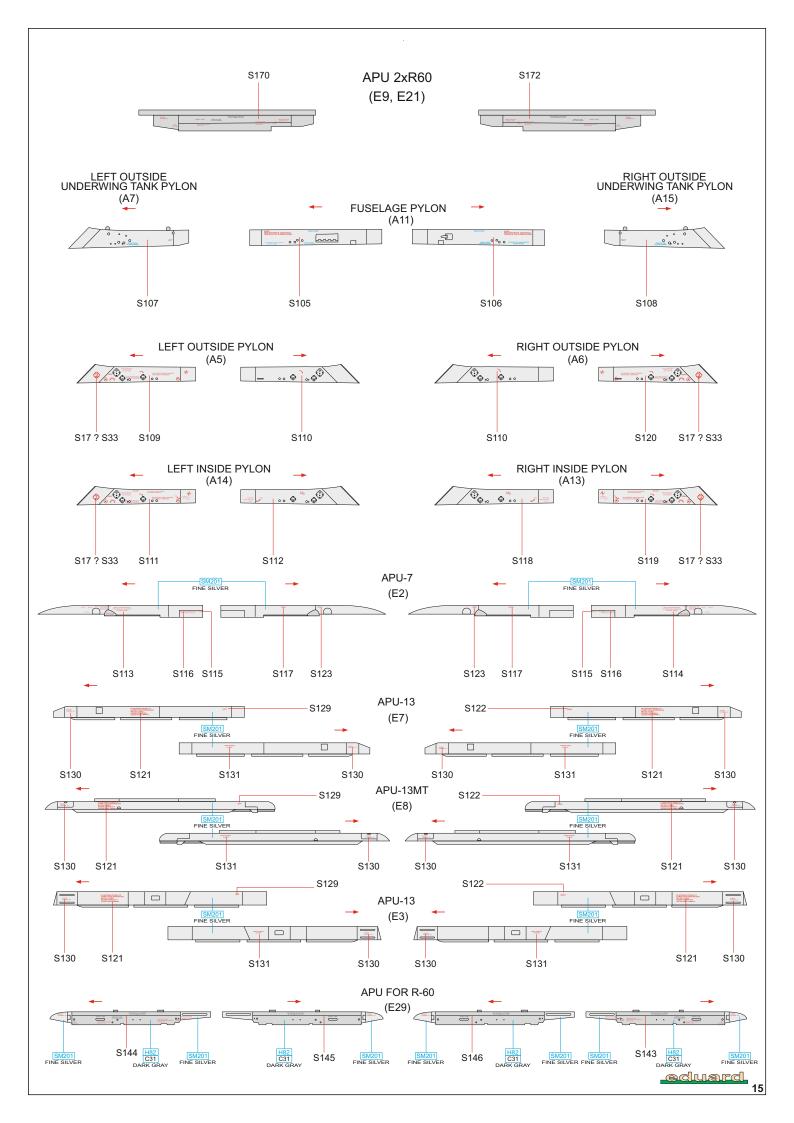








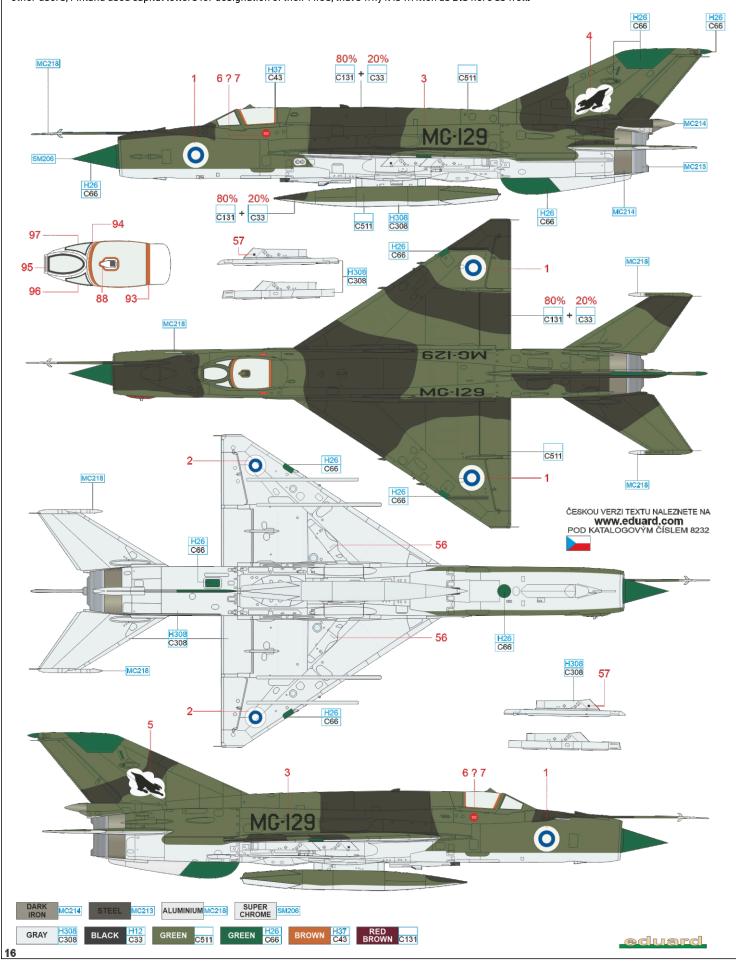




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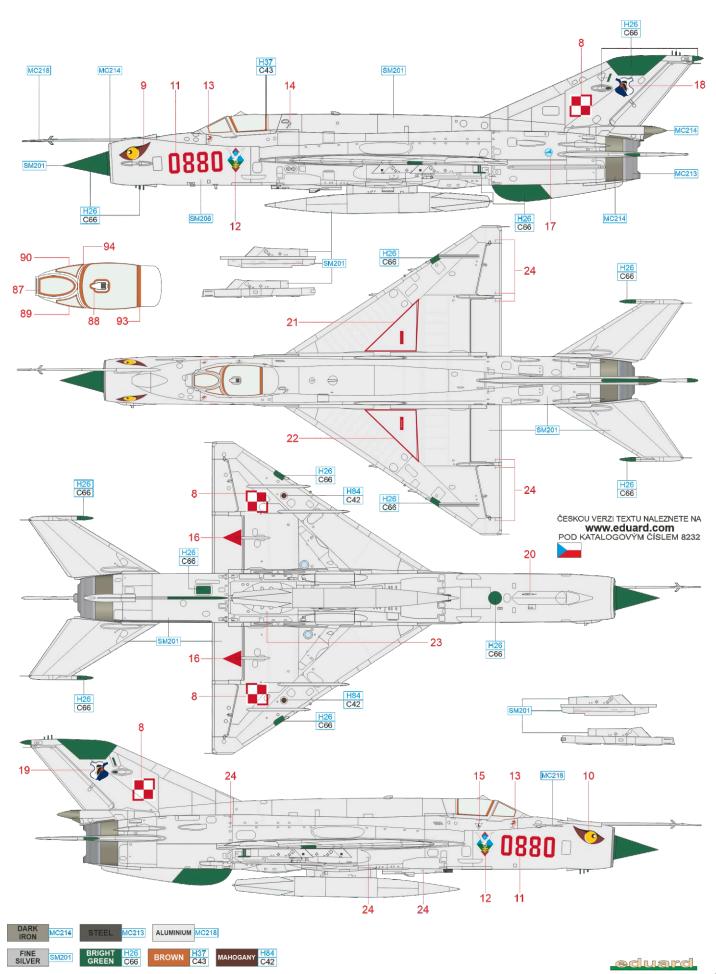
MiG-21BIS, c/n 75084300, HävLLv 31, Kuopio airbase, Finland, 1980 – 1981

This aircraft was accepted for service on July 17, 1980 and assigned to 31 Fighter Squadron (Hävittäjälentolaivue 31, abbreviated HävLLv 31). It became the last of six Finnish MiG-21BIS fighters to be modified for reconnaissance tasks. After the modification, the aircraft was assigned to TiedLLv (Reconnaissance Squadron) and following its end of service it was used as a teaching aid at the Technical School located at the Kuopio Air Base. The aircraft is shown as it appeared between 1980 and 1981 before being upgraded by western avionics, which included cockpit instrumentation. Unlike other users, Finland used capital letters for designation of their MiGs, that's why it is written as BIS here as well.



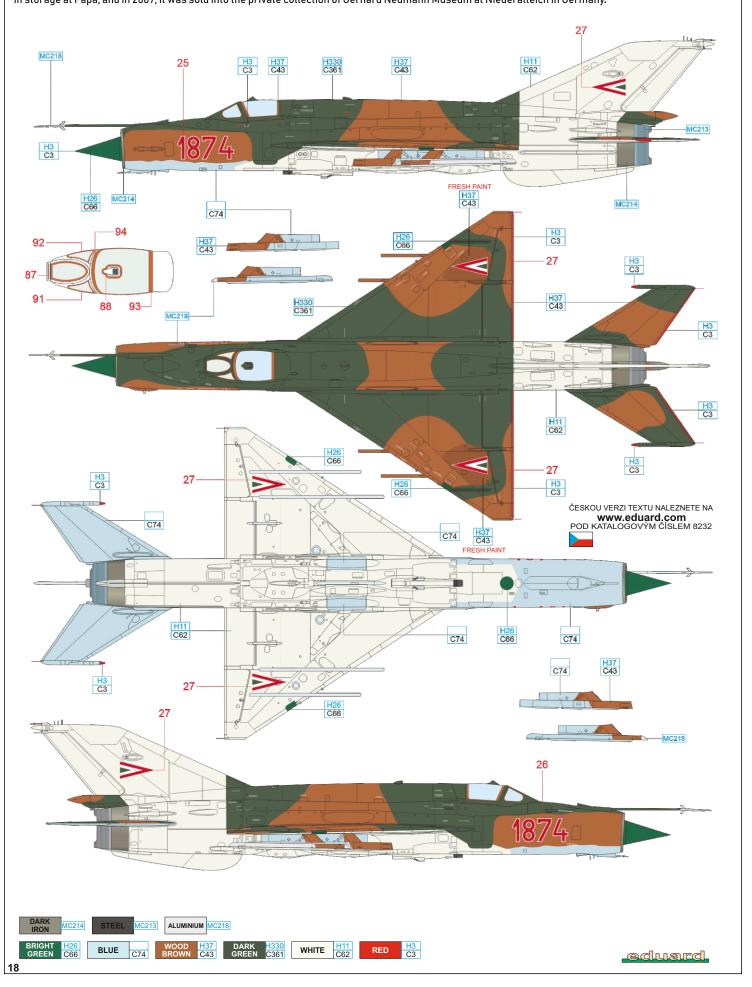
B MiG-21bis, c/n 75080880, 1 Pucki DLMW, Lotnictwo Marynarki Wojennej, Gdynia-Babie Doły, Poland, late 1997

This aircraft was delivered to Poland on March 22, 1980 and was assigned to the 1 Pucki Dywizjon Lotniczy (Air Division) of the Polish Naval Forces. The emblem on the tail surface indicates service with the 2^{nd} Eskadra (Squadron) of the Division. The look of the plane evolved over time, and in 2001 it flew with a sharkmouth and a tiger motif on the brake chute housing.



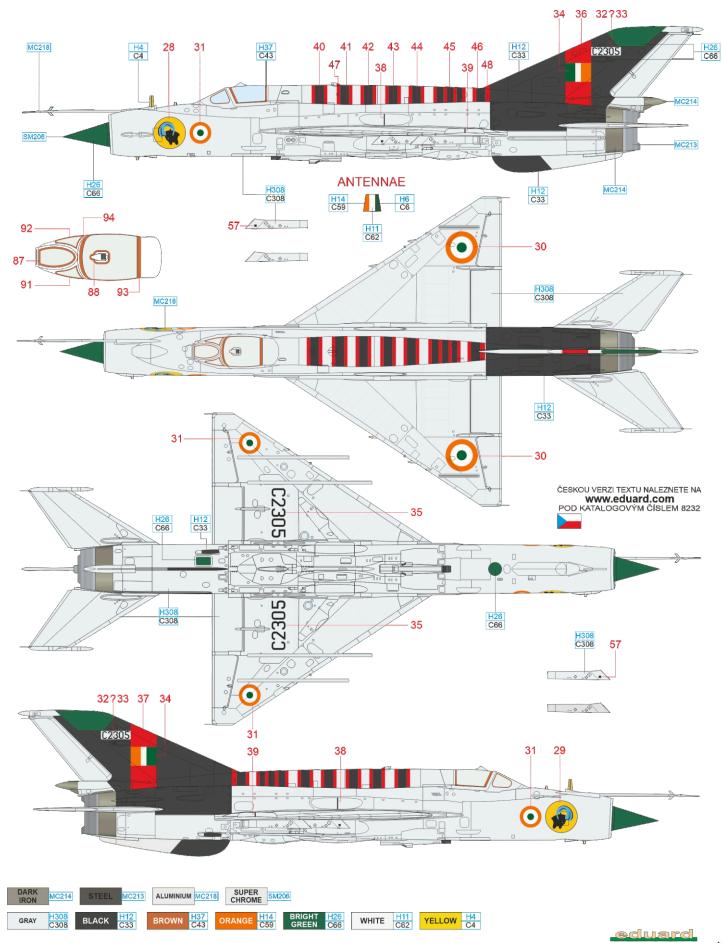
MiG-21bis, c/n 75061874, 47 Pápa Harcászati Repülő Ezred, Pápa airbase, Hungary, 1991

MiG-21bis, serial number 75061874, served with the 47 Combat Regiment (Harcászati Repülőezred). In 1991, it received a temporary white coloring on the rear of the fuselage and a portion of the bottom. In this guise, it took part in DACT (Dissimilar Air Combat Training) exercises, in which the opposing aircraft pitted againt each other were of differing types. Later, it was assigned to the "Sky Hussars" demonstration team. In 2006, it was mothballed and put in storage at Papa, and in 2007, it was sold into the private collection of Gerhard Neumann Museum at Niederalteich in Germany.



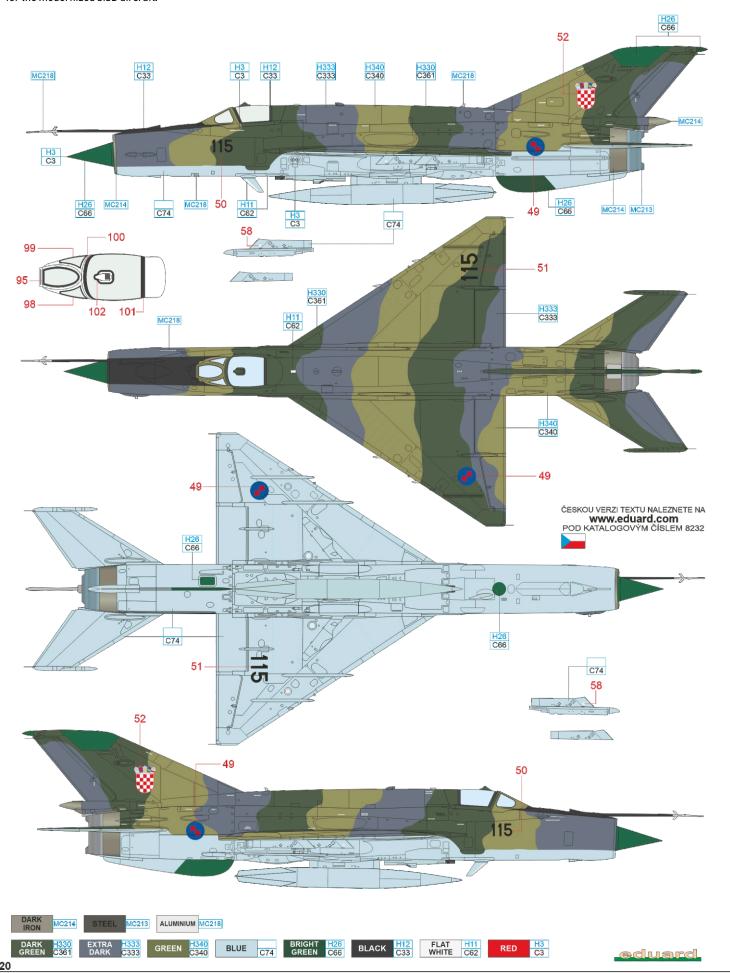
MiG-21bis, Tactics & Air Combat Development Establishment, Jamnagar airbase, India, September 1986

The aircraft coded C2305 was assigned to the Center for the development of tactics for aerial combat and served there during September 1986. The front of the aircraft referred to its former user, No. 4 Squadron of the IAF. This unit was dubbed "Oorials" after the local type of mountain sheep. Together with the unit's motto, "Honor over Death" this symbolizes stamina, strength, and a fighting spirit. The colorful paint scheme of Indian MiGs was used during one of the military exercises.



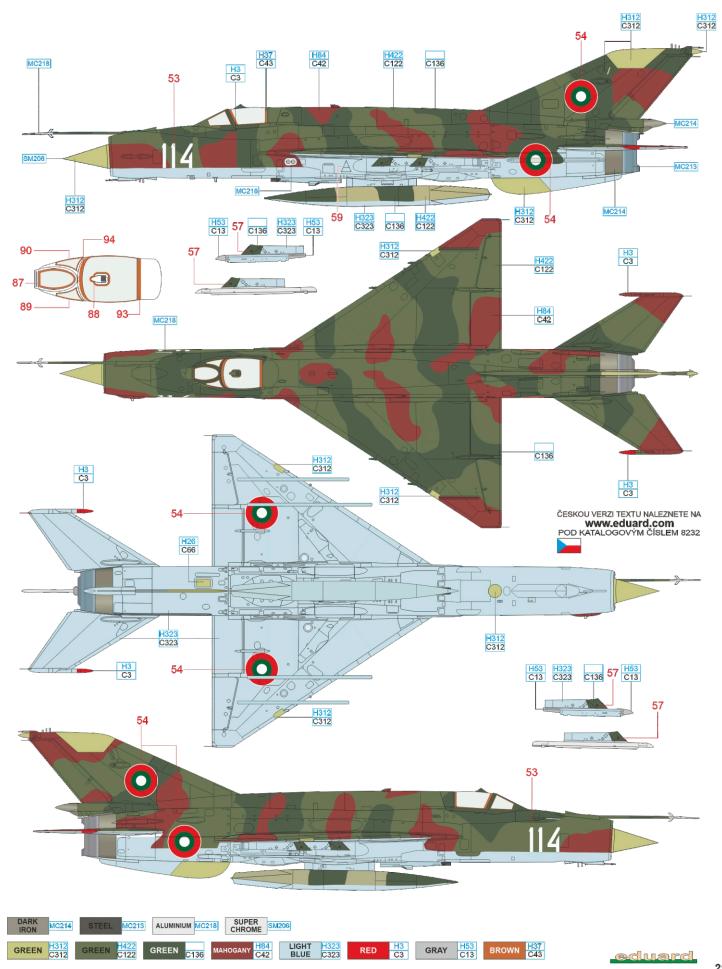
MiG-21bisD, c/n 75002075, 22 eskadrila lovačkih zrakoplova, Pula airbase, Croatia, 2008

This aircraft was one of a number of MiG-21s purchased in the first half of the nineties despite a UN embargo from the Ukraine. The first unit to use the aircraft was the 22 eskadrila lovačkih zrakoplova (Fighter Squadron) based at Pula. In 2003, this was one of eight MiG-21bis aircraft to be modernized in Romania by Aerostar to MiG-21bisD standard. Later, the plane was observed at Zagreb, Tchakovec and Zadar. It carries a typical camouflage scheme for the modernized bisD aircraft.

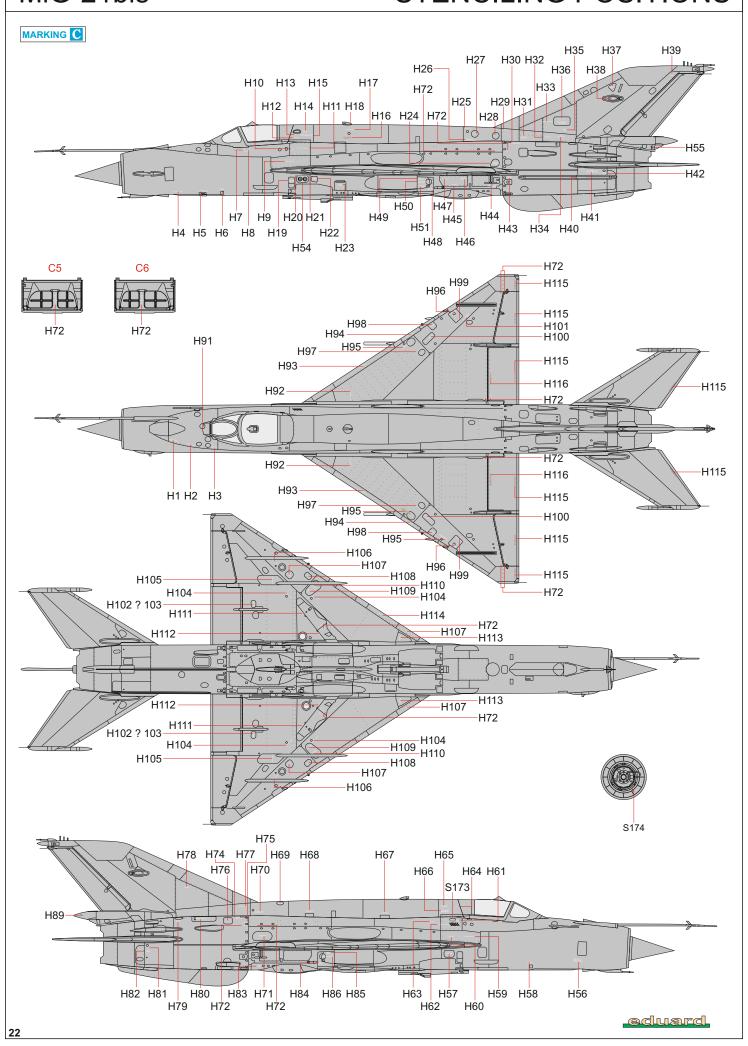


MiG-21bis, No. 3 Air Base, Graf Ignatevo, Bulgaria, from 2002

MiG-21bis serial number 75094114 was delivered to Bulgaria in 1983. The first user of the aircraft was the 19 Fighter Regiment. From 2002, it served at Air Base No. 3 based at Graf Ignatevo, where the MiG-21s shared the base with the more modern MiG-29s. The last MiG-21bis delivered directly from the factory was retired from the Bulgarian Air Force in 2015, while the second-hand aircraft from the Soviet Air Force delivered in 1990 were retired in 2000.

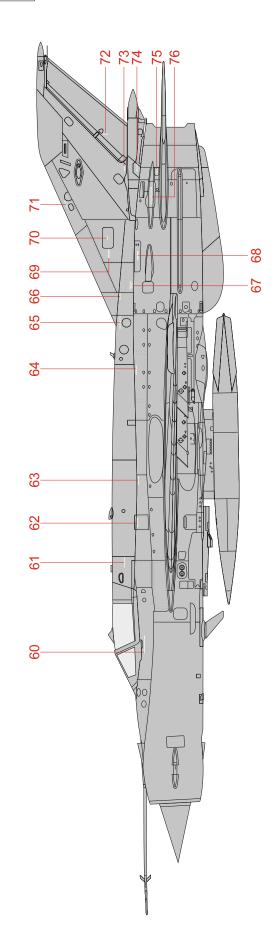


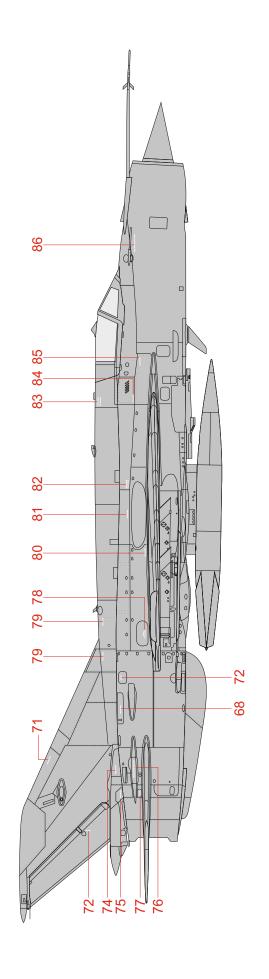
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