

F-84G Thunderjet of the USAF Thunderbirds

(1/32)

For the 1/32 Hobby Boss F-84G Thunderjet kit #83208

HISTORY

The United States Air Force Thunderbirds team was officially activated June 1, 1953, as the 3600th Air Demonstration Team at Luke AFB, Arizona, USA. Their first aircraft was the straight-winged Republic F-84G Thunderjet. The first demonstrations were flown in July 1953 with the commanding officer Major Dick Catledge. During the first shows the team was known as the Stardusters but later that was changed to Thunderbirds. Until end 1953 some 50 air demonstrations were flown, including in the Caribbean as seen by the fuselage marking with the many flags. The USAF Thunderbirds team still flies and is well known in the world of aviation and the general public.

A lot of info can be found in various books about the USAF Thunderbirds and also internet has loads of information and photos.

DECAL SYSTEM

The decal sheet has one continuous print film, so each decal needs to be cut out with fine scissors.

No other prior decal preparation is needed.

Each cut out decal can be applied as usual after soaking it a short while in water. Decals are VERY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on a horizontally held GLOSSY model surface. Do not even try to peel them off from the wetted paper with tweezers as they will fold!

Note that a decal that contains a white section is often split in two parts. To get the full decal marking, apply both. On the decals sheet you will often see an "arrow" to indicate this way of application (on white surfaces, the white section is optional).

After all decals have been applied, finish the model with your preferred final gloss, matt or semi-matt varnish coats. This will also protect all the decals.

KIT AND PAINT SCHEMES

The 1/32 scale Hobby Boss F-84G kit #83208 is a good kit. Probably the Thunderbird jets had no nose guns fitted inside and no wing tip tank probes. Use the "seat I" as indicated in the kit instructions. It is recommended to install the wing tip tanks of the kit at a very late stage after these have received their colours.

s/n 116720 of show season 1953: use decal 28 on both sides. Flown as Thunderbird 3 right wing piloted by Capt "Buck" Patillo, use decal 23 and 24.

The pilot placard with corresponding name is situated on the left side canopy frame.

The decal sheet has some unmarked white curved decals, these are for the wing tip tanks. Also it contains spare "stars" and extra red, white and blue decals. For a Thunderbird pilot helmet, some tiny decals are also provided.

The Thunderbirds F-84G jets had red-white-blue patterns but otherwise a natural metal scheme with some different metal sheens seen on various airframe panels. Airbrush metal paints.

Following the Federal Standard Ref.system, the red colour is "insignia red" (FS11136) and the blue is "insignia blue" (FS15044) which is a very very dark blue. White is "insignia white". Colours are glossy.

The ambitious modeller may airbrush the red-white-blue colours but the pattern requires a lot of masking effort. Therefore, the set has complex curved decal stripes.

It is needed to airbrush first the gloss white areas on the model on the tail and horizontal stabilizer (both sides). Airbrushing the white sections at the fuselage nose and centers of the wing tip tanks is also recommended.

The nose intake ring should be airbrushed/ painted red in all cases, also slightly inside the nose ring edge. (no decal will ever conform the curves).

The remainder of the nose markings can be done with decals. If no white paint was airbrushed on the nose, first apply the white decals (6,7) and then the red and blue nose decals (9,10,11,12). These overlap the white to avoid gaps on the edges.

The nose wheel doors also has decals (5,6).

Paint the anti-glare panel on the upper nose olive green after the nose colours have been applied, take caution when masking over any decals.

The red and blue areas on the wing tip tanks need to be painted as no decal will ever conform to the curved areas. The mid white pattern on the wing tip tanks can be airbrushed after complex masking. Alternative white decals (17,18 and others) are provided for the curved patterns on the mid tip tanks.

At the wing tip tank - wing junctions, decals (15,16) can be used at both lower and upper areas.

Decals are provided for 2 different USAF THUNDERBIRDS F-84G jets:

s/n 116714 of show season 1954: use decals 26 and 29; decal 27 was also sometimes seen. Probably flown by Maj. Catledge, use decal 21 and 22.

The black USAF wing markings and USA "stars-and-bars" insignia can be applied as per kit instructions and are also seen at the lower wing. Probably many stencils were also applied on the Thunderbird jets, use these decals from the kit.

116714 : show season 1954 with decals 26 and 29
 116720 : show season 1953 with decal 28 both sides
 pilot name Maj. Catledge 21 / 22 or Capt. Patillo 23 / 24

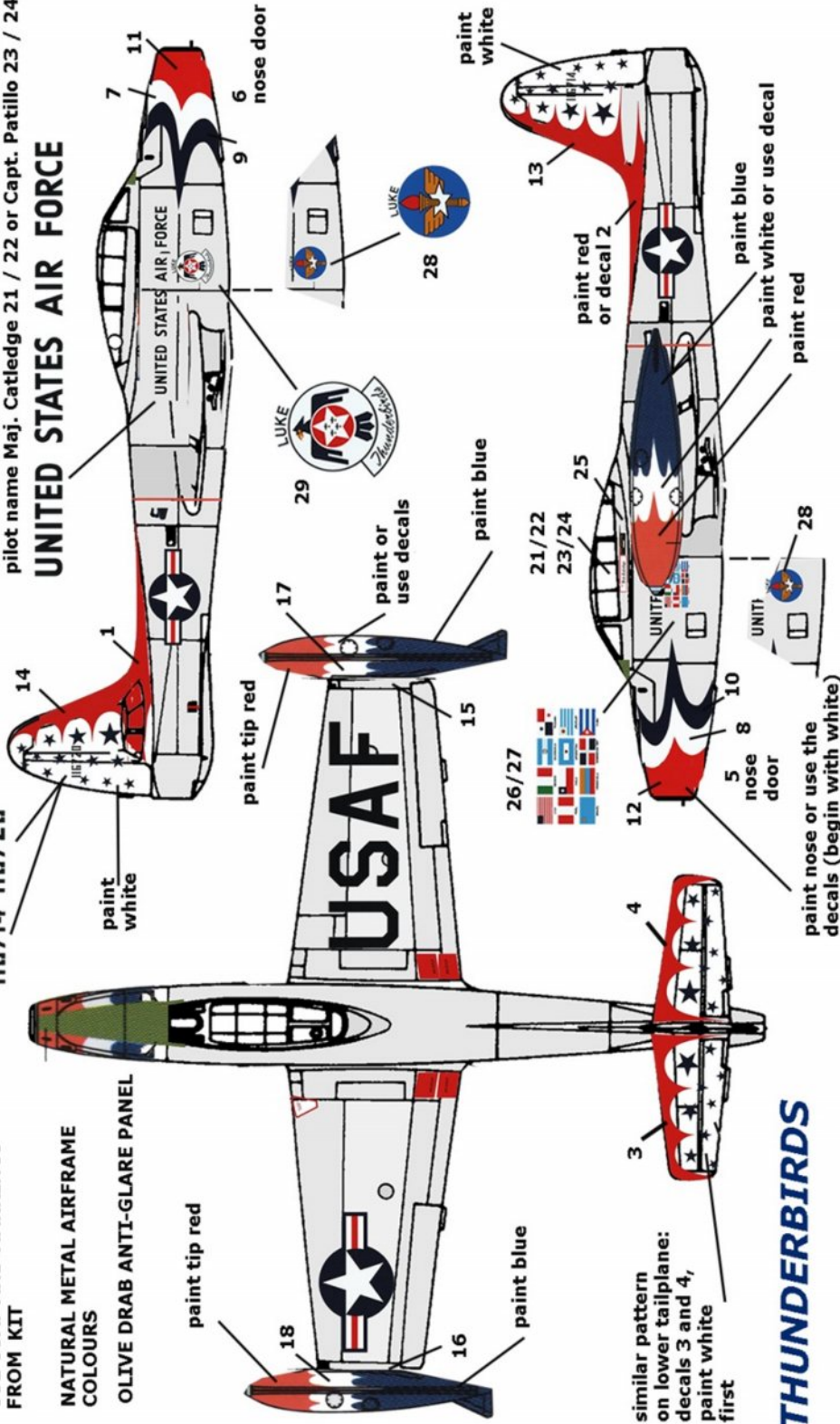
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116714 116720

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