

Korea KAI KF-21 Boramae "indigeous fighter" (designed for 1/72 scale)

To replace the South Korea Air Force F-4 and F-5, Korean Aircraft Industries (KAI) has developed an advanced indigeous fighter designated KF-21 called the "Boramae". It is a new generation fighter for which the first prototypes have been completed with the first flight made July 19, 2022. It is under full scale development. The jet has 2 GE F414 engines and the KF-21 should reach a maximum speed of 2,200 km/hr. It can carry various external loads though no internal weapons bay is fitted. Wing span 11,2 m and length 16,9 m (without pitot).

MODEL KITS

In 1/72 scale only Academy has released a KF-21 kit #12585. It is nice model but it was released with stickers, hence this decals sheet to replace the stickers. The model itself is a bit simplified in detail but can be made without any issue.

On the internet many photos can be found of the KAI KF-21 test aircraft.

DECAL APPLICATION

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 EXTREMELY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on a horizontally held GLOSSY model surface. Do not use tweezers! They will fold doubled!

Note that a decal that contains a white section is often split in two parts. To apply the full decal marking, first set the white decal section at correct position and on top of that the coloured section. 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.

KF-21 DECALS

The decals are intended as replacement of the Academy kit decals. Please see the separate Academy kit colour instruction schemes drawings for Ver 1, 2, 3, 4.

NOTES:

Ver.1 : KF-21 001; this is the first prototype and the modeller may add the special test pitot tube. The colours are probably for the overall airframe FS36170 (~RAL 7012) with the nose being FS36320. It is recommended to paint the vertical tails outside surfaces medium grey and apply the large outside tail decals. Optional are the photo yellow-black calibration circles for which decals are provided. These vary in size and location.

Ver.2 : KF-21 002 has colours of probably for the overall airframe FS36170 (~RAL 7012) with the nose being FS36320. As the vertical tails have yellow patterns, the markings have a white base decals on top of which are applied the yellow decals. Paint the vertical tails, their colour is not clear but may be dark grey. Than apply the decals. Note that the KF-21 002 tail markings are white.

Ver. 3 : KF-21 003 has darker camouflage patterns but unknown are the colours. It may be FS36375 with FS36118 patterns. Also it appears to have darker vertical tail surfaces on the outside. But is recommended to paint the tail outside surfaces medium grey first and than apply the complete large tail decals. Apply than the white fighter decal pattern and the white KF-21 003 markings over each tail decal.

Ver. 4 : KF-21 005 has a probable the intended operational grey pattern Air Force paint scheme. The camouflage colours are unknown but may be FS36320. Use the grey KF-21 005 markings for the tails.

General notes: the South Korea flags are in 2 parts: apply first the base white decal and on top of that the coloured (flag) pattern. The South Korea Air Force national markings are medium grey. On the spine often a white in flight refuelling marking is seen. The nose markings like RESCUE and stencils also vary a bit. Get some smaller stencils from the spares decals box if desired.

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