

## **E.E. / BAC Lightning F.53 (F6 mk.53 ) Saudi-Arabia Air Force**

*For 1/32 designed: recommended kit Trumpeter F2A / F6 kit #02281 (or even better: the rare Echelon Lightning vacuform kit).*

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### **HISTORY**

In 1966 Saudi Arabia acquired for its air force E.E. Lightnings. These had like most Royal Air Force aircraft a natural metal scheme with various metal shades. Some 35 mk.53 were acquired which was a F.6 derivative (with thus a larger wing with kinked leading edge and larger belly). The armaments were first the 30mm Aden cannons and Red Top or Firestreak missiles and the typical over wing fuel tanks. Special unique mk.53/ F.53 features were for its ground attack capability: the unguided rocket carrying retractable doors aft of the nose gear bay, rocket pods on top of the wing (e.g. instead of the overwing fuel tank) and Matra rocket pods on outboard wing pylons. Bombs could also be carried on outboard wing pylons.

From 1967 Saudi no. 2 squadron flew from Dharan air base, later from 1982 at Tabuk until 1985 with aircraft codes: 53-666, -671, -674, -683, - 685, -686 and others.

Saudi no. 6 squadron flew from Khamis Mushayt from 1996 till 1982 with aircraft coded 53-655, - 658, -688, -692, -695, -699 and others. (Two F.52 were coded 609 and 610).

Saudi no. 13 squadron flew from Dharan until 1984 with aircraft numbered 1301, 1302, 1305. There was also a conversion unit at Dharan using single seat Lightnings F.53 coded 53-687, -693, - 694, -696, -698. 2 T.54 and 7 T.55 two seat trainers were also used at Dharan.

### **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.

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.

### **SAUDI DECALS SCHEMES**

[1] Saudi Arabia Air Force, F.53, conversion unit, 53-693, code "L"

[2] Saudi Arabia Air Force, F.53, no. 13 squadron, "1305"

[3] Saudi Arabia Air Force, F.53, no. 2 squadron, "227"

NOTE: extra numbers and codes are provided for other Saudi Lightnings.

### **DETAILS**

Natural metal scheme with various metal shades. These Lightnings had old style roundels and swords. Use stencilling and walk way stripes from the kit and possibly arabic walk way texts (marked w).

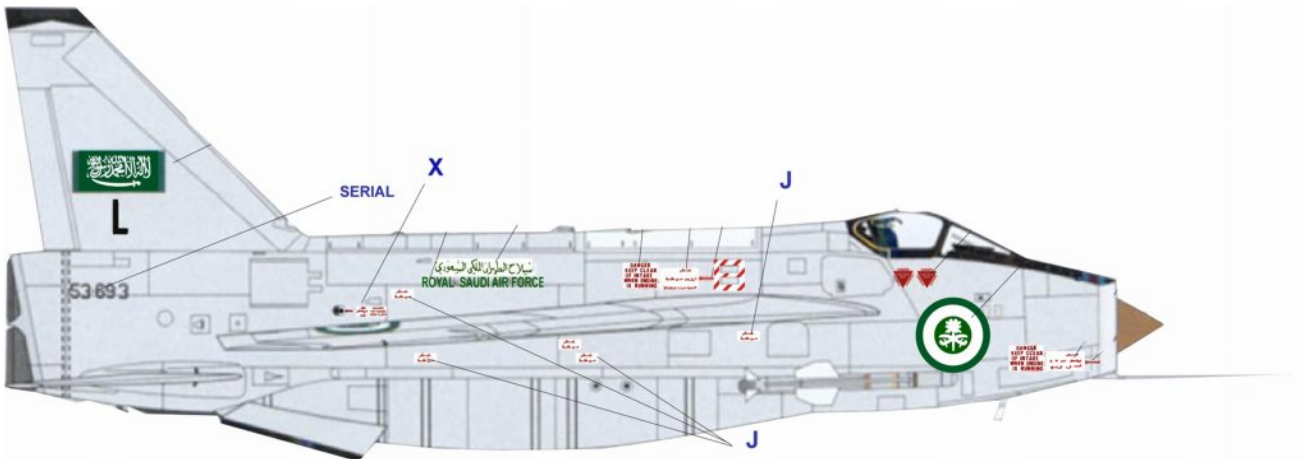
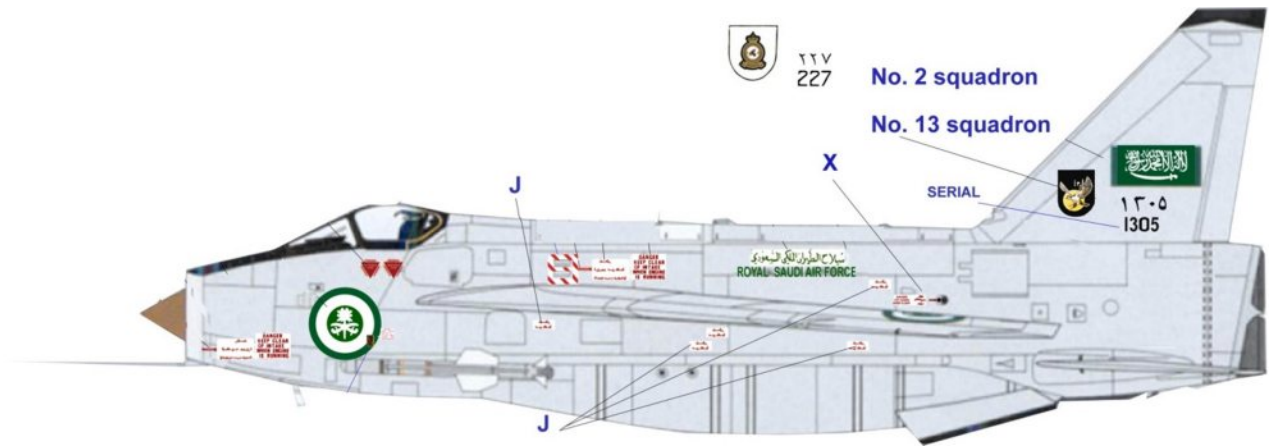
Many aircraft had a white background behind some of the stencillings, these are on the decal sheet as option to the kit decals. On the sheet are a few stencillings with arabic texts. No details are known, photos may reveal these.

Studying photos is recommended, using books and internet.

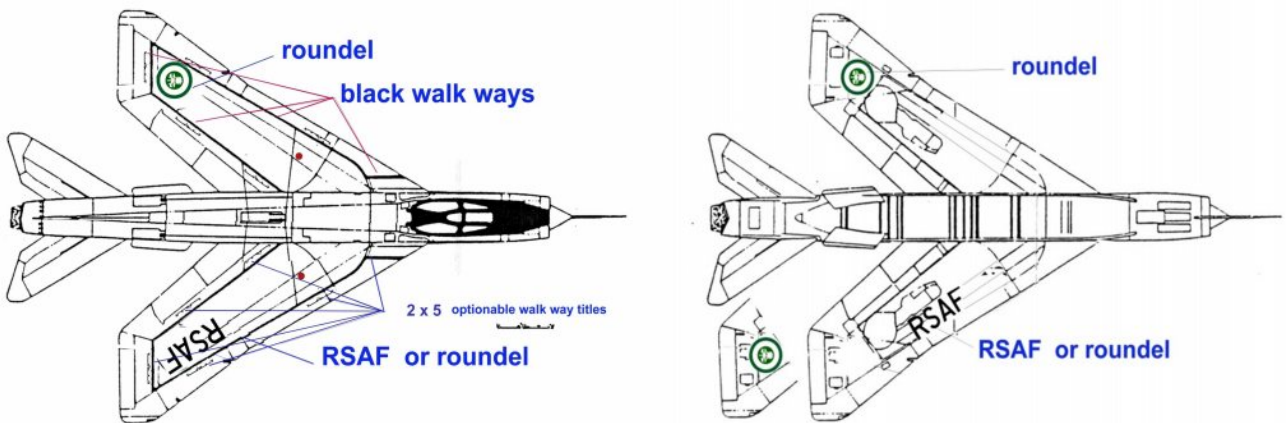
It is unclear if the red-white striped panel striped decal on the fuselage is applicable.

Apply black walk way stripes as per kit. 2x5 black arabic texts for the walk ways are provided although it is not clear if these were always applied.

Saudi Lightnings had 2x2 wing roundels but also RSAF titles on the top starboard wing and lower wing with only 2 wing roundels.



Typical lower and upper markings:



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