

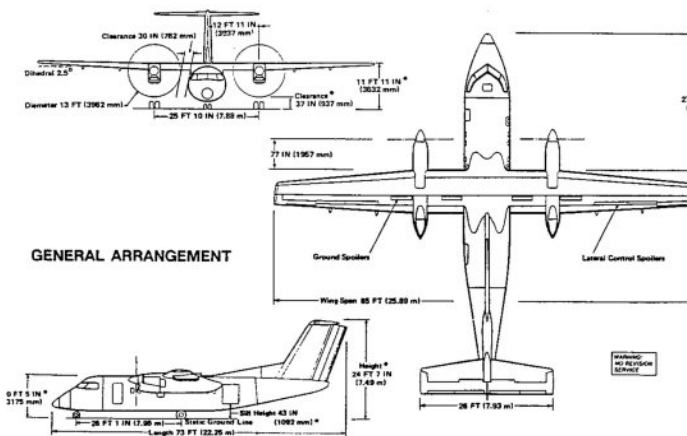
De Havilland Canada DASH 8 "Netherlands Antilles Coast Guard"

INTRODUCTION

The De Havilland Canada company developed a passenger aircraft for about 40 passengers in the 1970s. The type designation was DHC-8 but it soon became known as the DASH 8. The first aircraft flew Summer of 1983. The DHC 8-100 from 1984 has a fuselage cabin for about 38 passengers and first had 2 Pratt & Whitney PW120 engines but later the PW121. The DHC-8-200 series has the same fuselage as the -100 series but more powerful PW123 engines. The -300 series had a 3.43-metre longer fuselage and could carry more passengers. An even longer fuselage had the -400 series. More than 1200 DHC-8 aircraft have been built in different variants, including military or patrol variants.

After retirement of a pair of Royal Netherlands Air Force Fokker 60 aircraft assigned for Coast Guard duties in The Netherlands Antilles, a pair of DASH 8-106 arrived. From 2007 the aircraft were leased from the Canadian "Provincial Aerospace" (PAL). Commercial parties provide pilots and technical support. The DASH 8's are based at Hato Airport, Curaçao, The Netherlands Antilles.

Registration were first Canadian C-GPAB, later from 2019 Dutch registration PH-CGA and the C-GRNN, from 2019 PH-CGB.



MODEL KITS

In 1/144 scale DASH 8-100 kits are Eastern Express #144132 and Sasquatch SQ-60 resin.

In 1/72 scale there is just an old and rare Hobbycraft Canada DASH 8 kit (also an old Platz release). It is a basic kit but the general dimensions are OK for the -100 series.

The kit window rows are inaccurate, the modeller can fill the gaps and use the decals. Other improvements can

also be done by the specialist modeller like shaping a pronounced wing-fuselage root fairing. The wing span near the tips can be expanded 3 millimetre at each side.

The main gear leg points can be moved 7 millimetre more forward. Check out the open gear doors configuration: forward main gear doors hinge at port on both nacelles. Front nose doors are often closed.

The 2 radar bulges below the fuselage must be made from scratch. A way to make these is to glue several layers of plastic card in a rough bulge shape and than sand smooth.

A camera pod is also seen below the cockpit nose and smaller fairings below the tail. Plane C-GRNN was also seen with fuselage nose with camera fairing for a short period. (No SLAR was fitted on the sides on the Antillean planes).

At both port and starboard sides each emergency exit has a bulbous dome window. The airframe has also a few blade antennas.

DECAL SYSTEM and APPLICATION

The decal sheet has ONE continuous print film, so EACH decal needs to be cut out with fine scissors. No other prior laser printed 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 the model surface. Do not use tweezers! They will fold doubled!

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

PAINTING AND DETAILS

The paint scheme is basically gloss white.

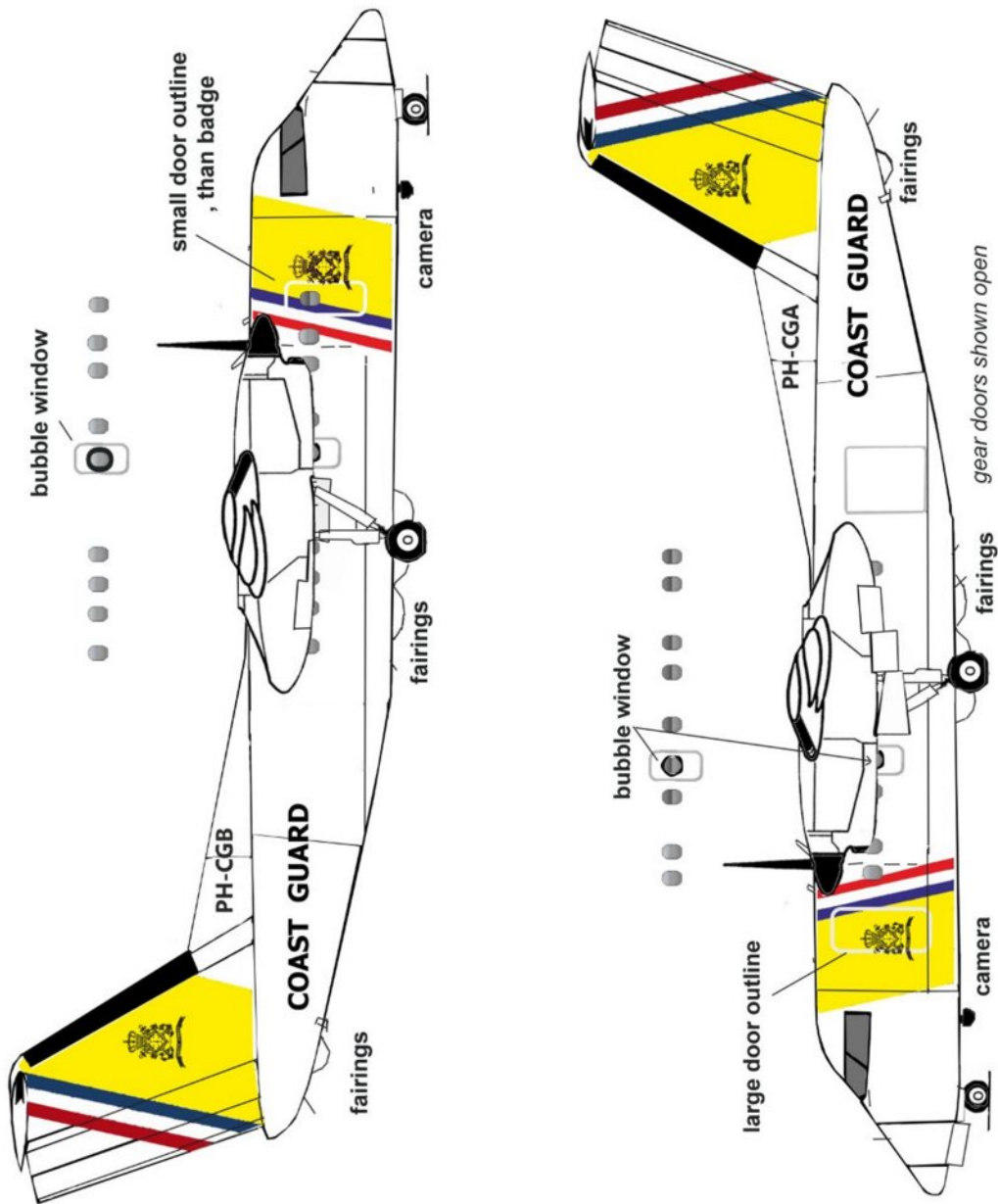
Though colourful bands are supplied, it may be better to airbrush the bright yellow bands and tail panels. Use decal as pattern for masking. The red-blue "flag" decals can be used. Approximate colours are bright yellow (Vallejo 952), the red FS11350 (Humbrol 19 or 209) and the blue FS15056 (Humbrol 25).

The Dutch Antilles Coast Guard badges and door outlines are separate decals. Apply first any door decals, than the badges. No registration seen on wing (but decal is provided just in case).

Leading edges of wing inboard the nacelles, outboard wing, tail and horizontal tail plane: flat black.

The propeller spinners are black. Propeller blades are black with yellow tips.

Exhausts are burned metal.

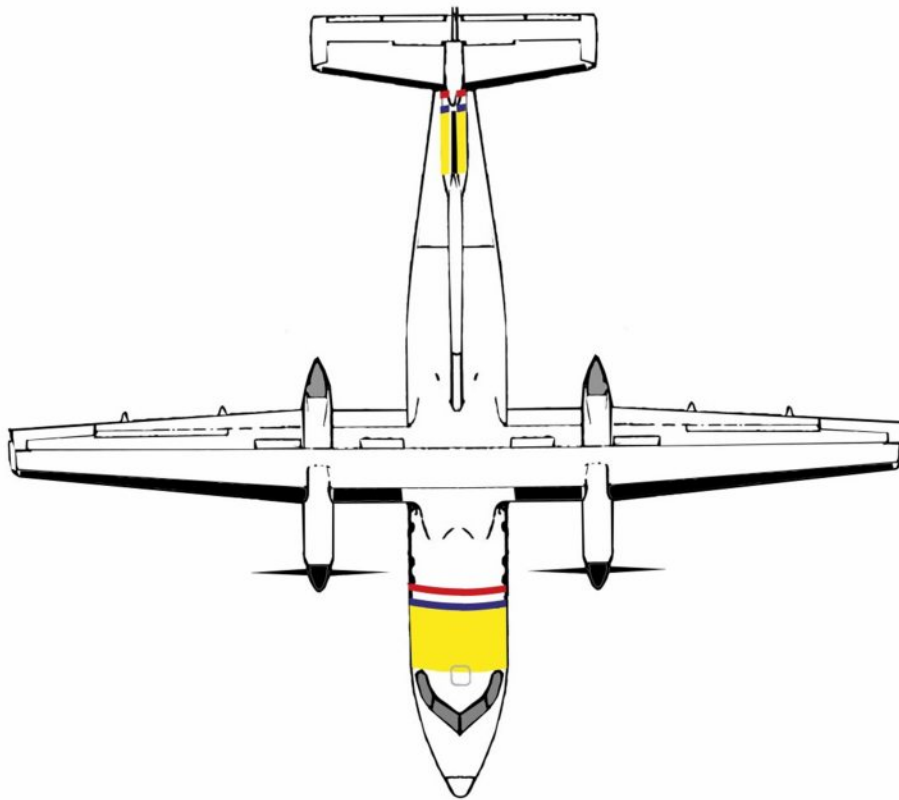


TIP: on internet it is easy to find photos of these planes, search the "code / registration".

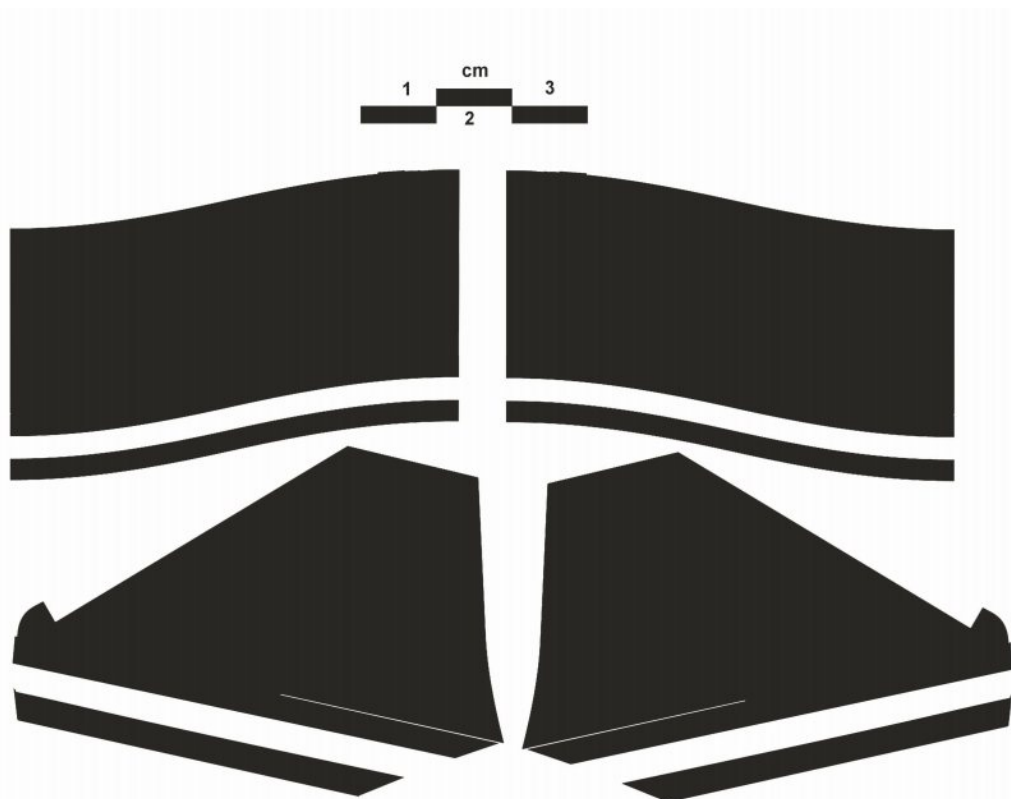
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Upper view. Note emergency exit cockpit roof (decal). No registration seen on wing. Black de-icing boots.



TEMPLATE 1/72 TO MAKE MASKS

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