

Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander

Falklands Government

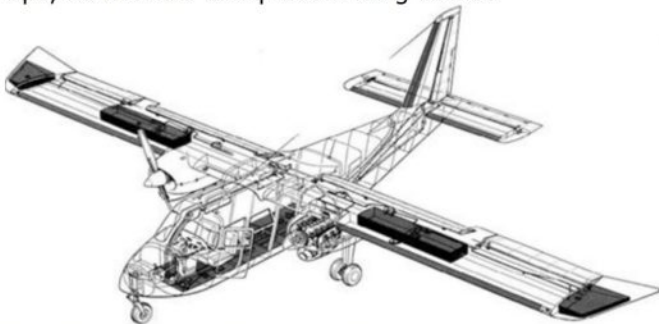


The Britten Norman Islander BN-2 was designed as a light utility transport for 9 passengers and a pilot. It was capable to fly from tiny airfields. It got piston engines and first flight was June 1965. The Defender is the militarised version and has four under wing hard points for pylons for light armament like rocket pods or fuel tanks for extra range.

A turbine engined version was also developed with Lycoming LTP-101 in revised nacelles and a big air scoop on top of nacelle-wing fairing. First flight in 1977. The -T version got Allison 250 engines and later B17F engines. Some planes have a revised longer pointy nose profile.

Initial the BN-2 aircraft were manufactured at Britten-Norman's factory in Bembridge, Isle of Wight, UK. Later Islanders and Trislander aircraft were built in Romania, then shipped to Avions Fairey in Belgium for fitting before being flown to the UK for flight certification. Since end 2023 low rate production has returned to the U.K at the BN facility at the Isle of Wight. The Islander has been in production for over 55 years with over 1,250 planes built.

Different wings were produced over the years. The first wing had a 49 ft span (14,95 m) and "triangular" wing tips and used such as on BN-2A-1 and BN-2A-2. For extra fuel capacity, the 49 ft wing was extended 4 ft to 53 ft (16,15 m) with "triangular" wing tips, such as on BN-2A-3, BN-2A-7, BN-2B-21 and BN-2B-27. Later the 49 ft wing got modified "rectangular" curved wing tips for extra area such as on the BN-2B-20 and BN-2B-26 with also inboard leading edge droop between engine nacelle and fuselage. The BN2T had the 49 ft wing without droop and with 2 wing fences. The BN2T-4S the 53 ft wing with "rectangular" wing tips, no inboard droop but 2 wing fences.



Length 10,86 m with standard nose. Later versions length of 12,20 m with extended radar nose.

KITS

In 1/72 scale there is the good old **Airfix** kit of 1972 with a few newer releases. It has old style nacelles, 2-bladed propellers, larger 53 ft wing span and "triangular" wing tips. Modify for 49 ft wing if needed.

Omega Models has several 1/72 resin kits (including for the -T turbine engined version with air intake scoops on the top of the different nacelles. They have 3-bladed propellers, the 49 ft wing span with "rectangular" curved wing tips).

DECALS SYSTEM

The laser printed 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.

Note that a decal that contains a white section is often split in two sections. 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).

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!

Some tiny white borders may appear at a particular decal. Cut these off with fine scissors or over paint.

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.

REFERENCES:

Books and magazines:

Air international Vol 49/no.1, Vol 64/no.1
Flight international no. 4054, 4247

Internet websites:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britten-Norman_BN-2_Islander

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britten-Norman_Defender

Through an internet search... hundreds of photos.

See for a few Airfix Islander models website:

<https://aircraftinplastic.com/models/islander-defender/islander-1.html>

FALKLANDS GOVERNMENT

The FIGAS (Falkland Islands Government Air Service) was established as early in 1951 at the British territories Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic. After the Falklands War operations were resumed. Some 5 Islanders were/are used as air taxi Islanders and other roles like and for fishery patrol. Their daily flights for inhabitants of the islands are determined by the requirements of those wishing to travel on the day as far as weather permits.

The high visibility colour is red with blue-white-cheatlines. The cheatlines are also on the nacelles (outsides and insides). The colours are unknown but the red seems to be post office red (about BS:538).

It has black de-icing leading edges at tail, wing and stabilizers.

The 2-bladed propellers are medium grey with white-grey-white tips and red spinners.

These aircraft have the long wire antennas.

Decals offer 2 registrations:

[1] BN-2B-26 c/n 2252 with registration VP-FBR started services in March 1992. It has a pointy nose. Wing span is 49 ft with modified "rectangular" wing tips.

[2] BN-2B-26 c/n 2218 with registration VP-FBO that entered service in July 1990 and used for patrol.

It has now a radar nose. (make from scrap if not present in your kit using a bomb bit from the spares box). Wing span is 49 ft with modified "rectangular" wing tips.

The paint scheme is similar to [1].

It was seen also with titles "FISHERY PATROL" and markings on the nose and no cheatlines anymore on the nacelles.

