

## 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 PAINTS

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.

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. Airbrushing the metal paints is recommended.

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.

### DECALS

The decal sheet has several decals like complete ones for the white stabilizers and vertical tail. And the smaller markings like badges, stars and others. For a Thunderbird pilot helmet, some tiny decals are also provided.

The model needs complex airbrushing with masking some curved red-white-blue areas. Patterns are provided to make masks using fine modelling tape.

[1] first airbrush **gloss white** areas:

- on the tail,
- on horizontal stabilizer (both sides and lower and upper),
- on fuselage nose,
- on vertical tail,
- on centers of the wing tip tanks.

[2] then the **gloss red** should be airbrushed after protecting the applied white areas with modelling tape:

- set tape using the pattern 7 at starboard nose and pattern 8 on port nose. (use the red pattern 11 as guide to set at correct position and red is also inside the nose ring edge).
- set tape on both wing tip tanks to protect white areas with pattern 18 to set width; note it wraps around the tanks.
- use tape on the tiny long vertical tail base at the fuselage spine.
- use tape on the leading edges of vertical tail and stabilizers  
(about 1 millimeter to get nice looking edges).

After these tape masks have been set, airbrush gloss red. Do not forget a small red section on nose gear doors.

[3] airbrush the few **gloss blue** areas after protecting the red and white areas with modelling tape:

- use tape to make a mask using pattern 9 at starboard nose and pattern 10 on port nose; use pattern 7 and 8 to get an idea of the width.
- the tape to mask the wing tip tanks white areas is still there, protect the front red tank sections.

After tape masks have been set, airbrush gloss blue. Do not forget a small blue section on nose gear doors.

[4] Paint the anti-glare panel on the upper nose olive green after the nose colours have been applied.

[5] Protect all coloured areas with low tack tape and airbrush the REMAINDER of the model in several shiny metal shades. Thunderbirds look shiny!

### THUNDERBIRDS DECALS

Set the decals as per drawing. The black USAF wing markings and USA "stars-and-bars" insignia can be applied from the kit decals and are also at the lower wing. Probably some stencils were applied, use from the kit.

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

/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.

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 pilot placard with corresponding name is situated on the left / port side lower canopy frame.

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

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

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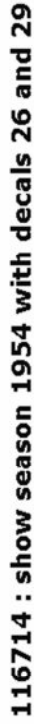
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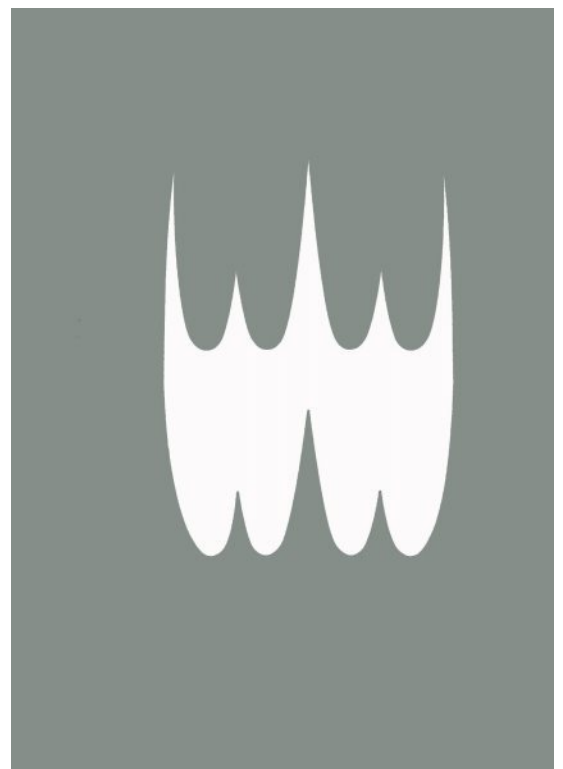
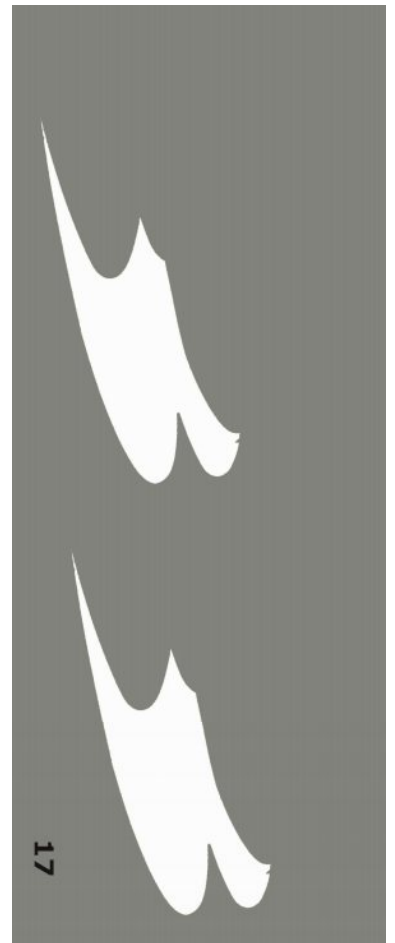
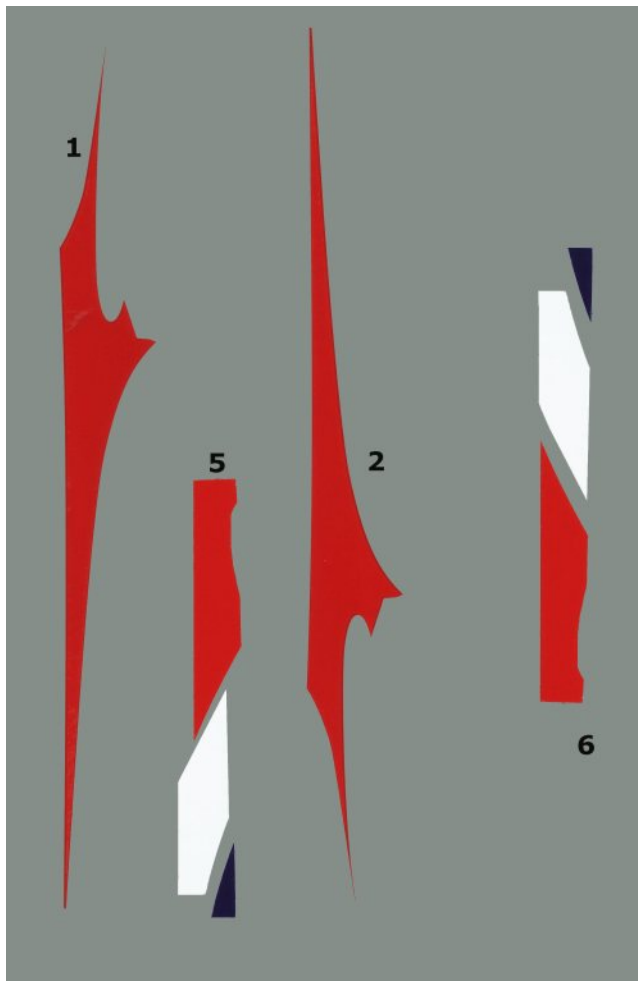
## PATTERNS TO MAKE MASKS WITH MODELLING TAPE

[www.aircraftinplastic.com](http://www.aircraftinplastic.com)

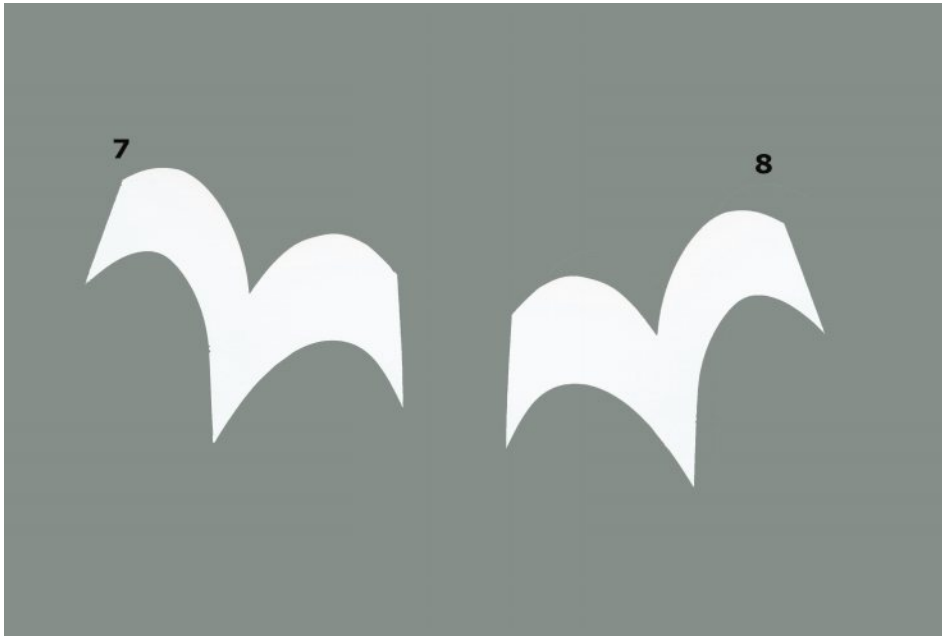
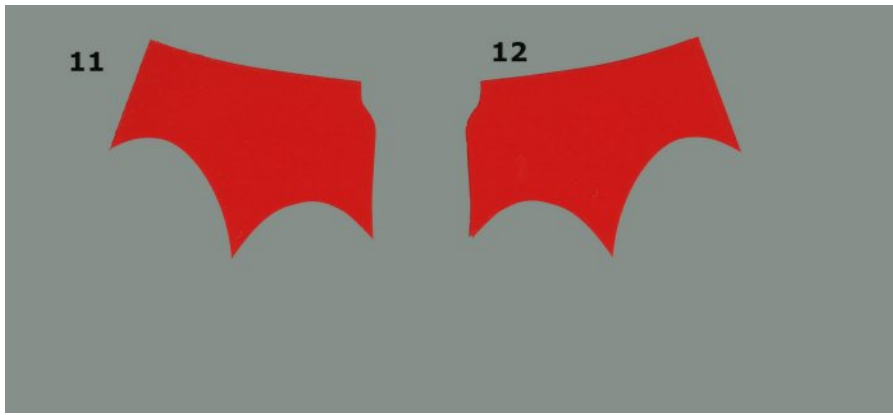
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AIRCRAFT IN PLASTIC  
Meindert de Vreeze

Use the prints to draw and make masks with modelling tape



WING TIP TANKS



NOSE

