

## Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander / Defender (Europe)

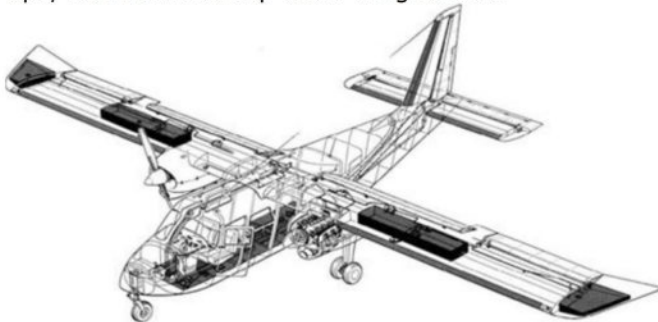
### Cyprus, Danmark, Malta

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. This includes the -T turbine engined version. The -T is recognized easily as having air intake scoops on the top of modified nacelles. -T has 3-bladed propellers and 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_BN-2_Islander)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britten-Norman\\_Defender](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>

## CYPRUS

Cyprus is an island Republic in the East Mediterranean Sea that became independent in 1960. It is closely connected with European cultures. On the island are still small British territories including the Akrotiri military base.

It is now a divided country with the North occupied by Turkey and local administration.

The Cyprus National Guard and the Cyprus Police provide protection over the Southern areas.

A BN-2T turbine Defender, c/n 2007R, coded CP-1, is flown by the Police from probably 2000 from Larnaca airport. Turbine versions have two Allison 250-B17c engines in a different engine nacelle with on top of each nacelle also an air scoop. It is fitted with 3-bladed propellers.

This aircraft has the wing with 49 ft span with "rectangular" curved wing tips and wing fences for the -T.

It has a radar nose and can be armed with unguided rocket pods.

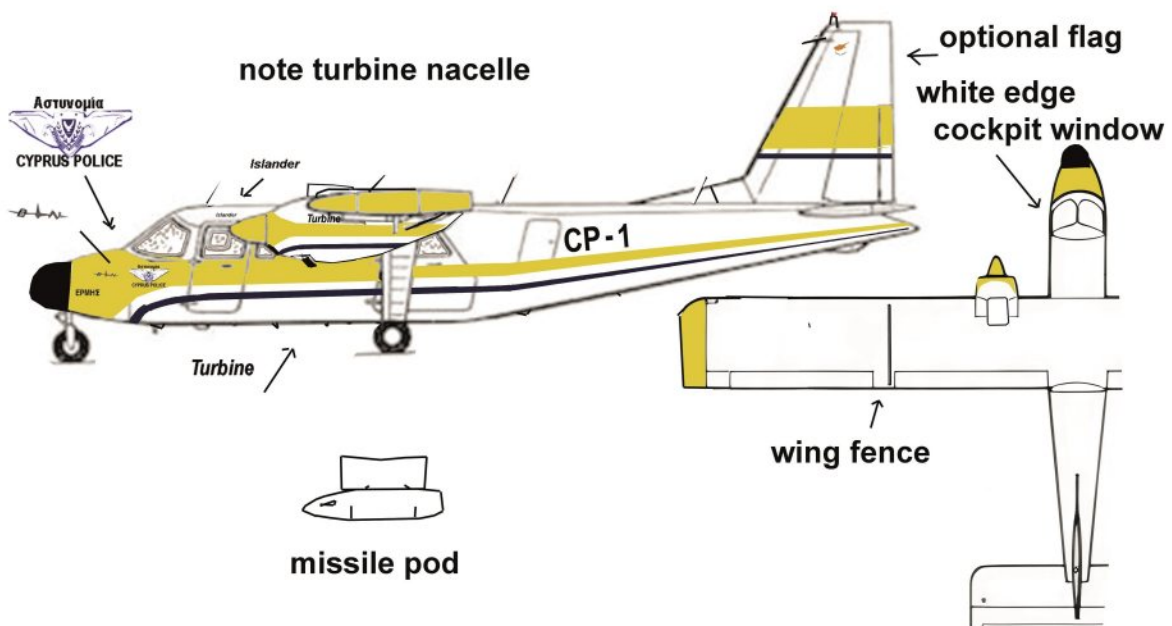
## AIRCRAFT IN PLASTIC



The colour is a gloss white with yellow and black cheatlines and yellow trim and yellow wing tips.

The yellow color is approx. FS13538 trainer yellow (Humbrol 188).

Sometimes, a small Cyprus badge was seen on the vertical tail top.



## AIRCRAFT IN PLASTIC

## DENMARK (DANMARK)

Denmark is a small European country and founding member of NATO. There are several armed services and the Home Guard defends the territories.

The small Danish Air Force Home Guard uses a few BN-2B-21 Defenders for patrol duties. The first arrived probably in 2015 and manufactured in 1976 so second hand. The aircraft first flew with the Belgian Army and were upgraded. The engine type is Lycoming IO-540-K1B5.

Danish registration codes are for the OY-FHA c/n 523 or OY-FHB c/n 531.

## AIRCRAFT IN PLASTIC

These aircraft have the wing with extra fuel capacity of 53 ft span with "triangular" wing tips.

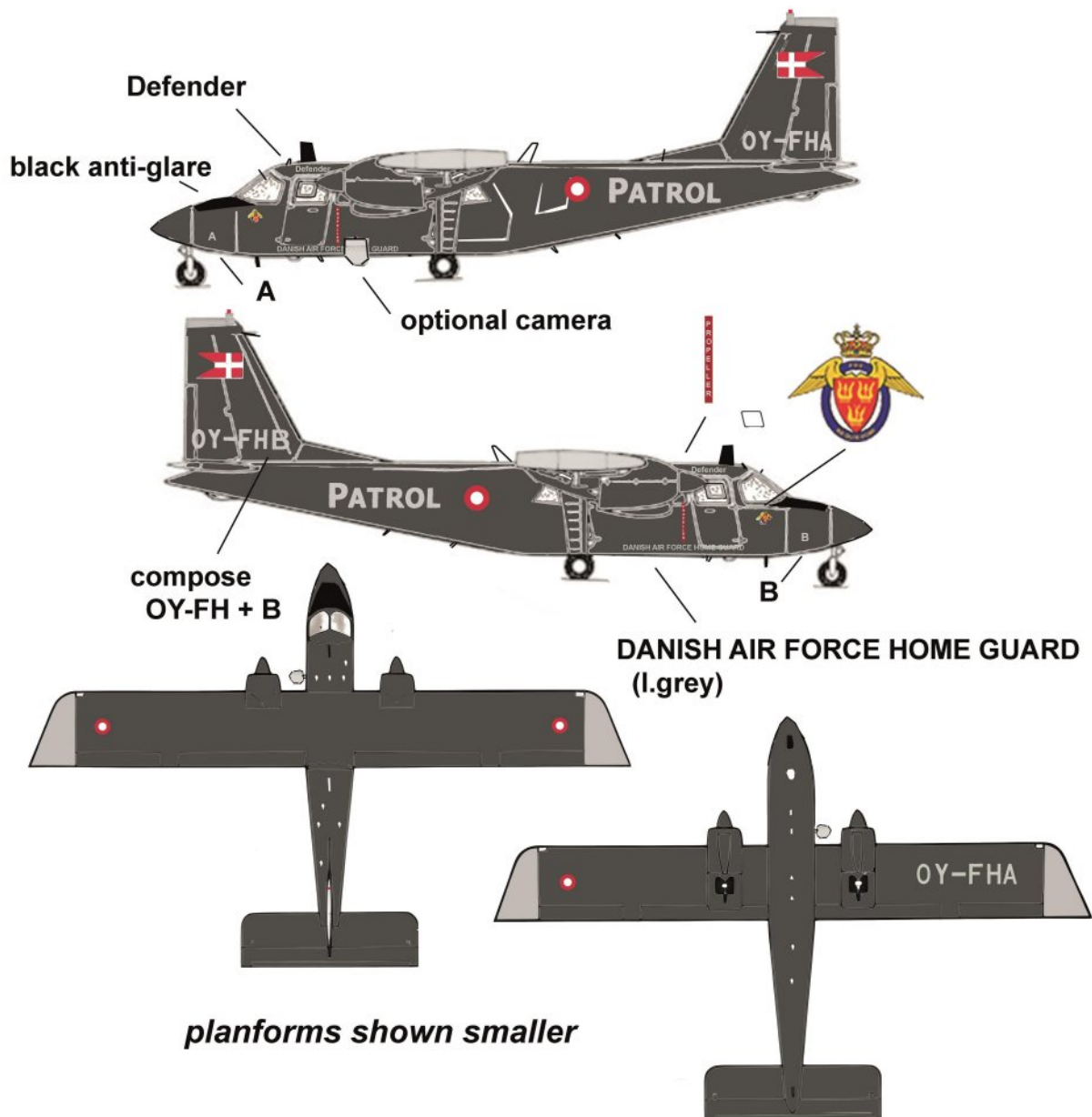


The fuselage has a pointy nose so modify as needed.

It has a few blade antennas. Optional is a camera dome at port aft of the entry door on a stub.

The main colour is very dark grey *about* RLM66/ FS36081/ RAL 7021. The triangular shaped wing tips are light grey (*about* FS16440).

**IMPORTANT:** because of the dark colour, apply the white "base" decals first and on top the other decals.





### MALTA

Malta is a small island country amidst the Mediterranean Sea. It was a British territory and became independent in September 1964. The air wing flew some helicopters and from 1991 operated a few fixed wing aircraft including Islanders and Defenders were acquired for the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM). The first Islander 9H-ACU arrived in 1995.

Defender BN-2B-26 c/n 2159 was built in 1982 as G-BKJJ. It was delivered to Malta Air Squadron December 1995 as 9H-ACU and got its military code AS9516 in May 2000.

These aircraft have the wing with span of 49 ft with "rectangular" curved wing tips. It has 2-bladed propellers and radar nose.

The basic scheme is medium grey (about FS16473 / Humbrol 147 or 183) with orange-red panels. The wing, stabilizers and tail have black de-icing leading edges.

Shown is a livery with a special "35 years" AFM Air Wing tail finish as carried from 2007.

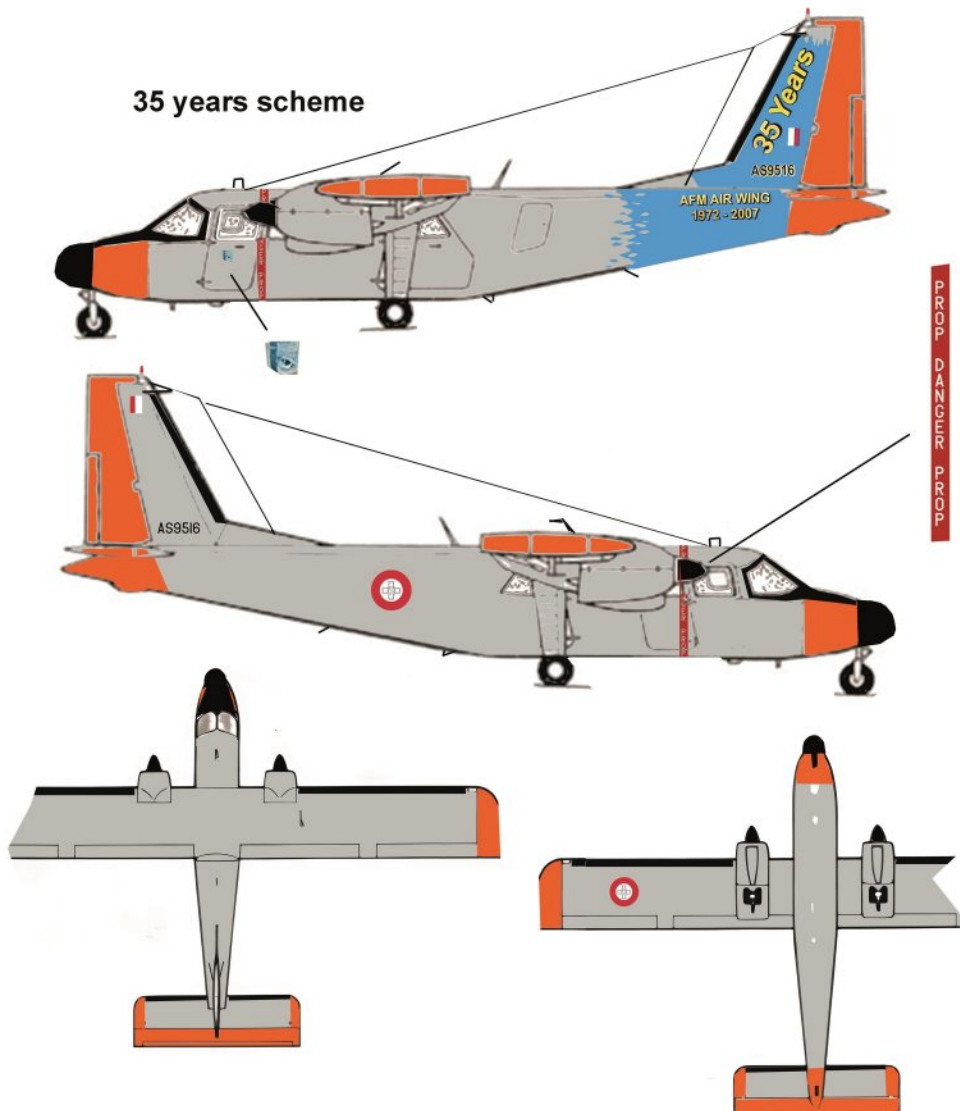
(NOTE: standard code decals are also provided for AS9516 in the standard scheme without blue tail).

Mat black anti-glare panel with radar nose gloss black. Fitted with long wire antennas and a small antenna on the cockpit roof.

Propellers have black spinner, black blades with black-white-black-white tips. Note the red propeller warning stripe (decal).

Roundel on lower starboard wing. Small badge on door (unknown if also set at starboard).

35 years scheme



The second Maltese scheme is for a *turbine* BN-2T Defender c/n 2156 that arrived in 2000 and got code AS9819. It has a modern avionics suite with semi-glass cockpit. Turbine version has Rolls Royce M250-B17C engines in a reshaped engine nacelle with on top of each nacelle an air scoop. Fitted with 3-bladed propellers. Fuselage with radar nose.

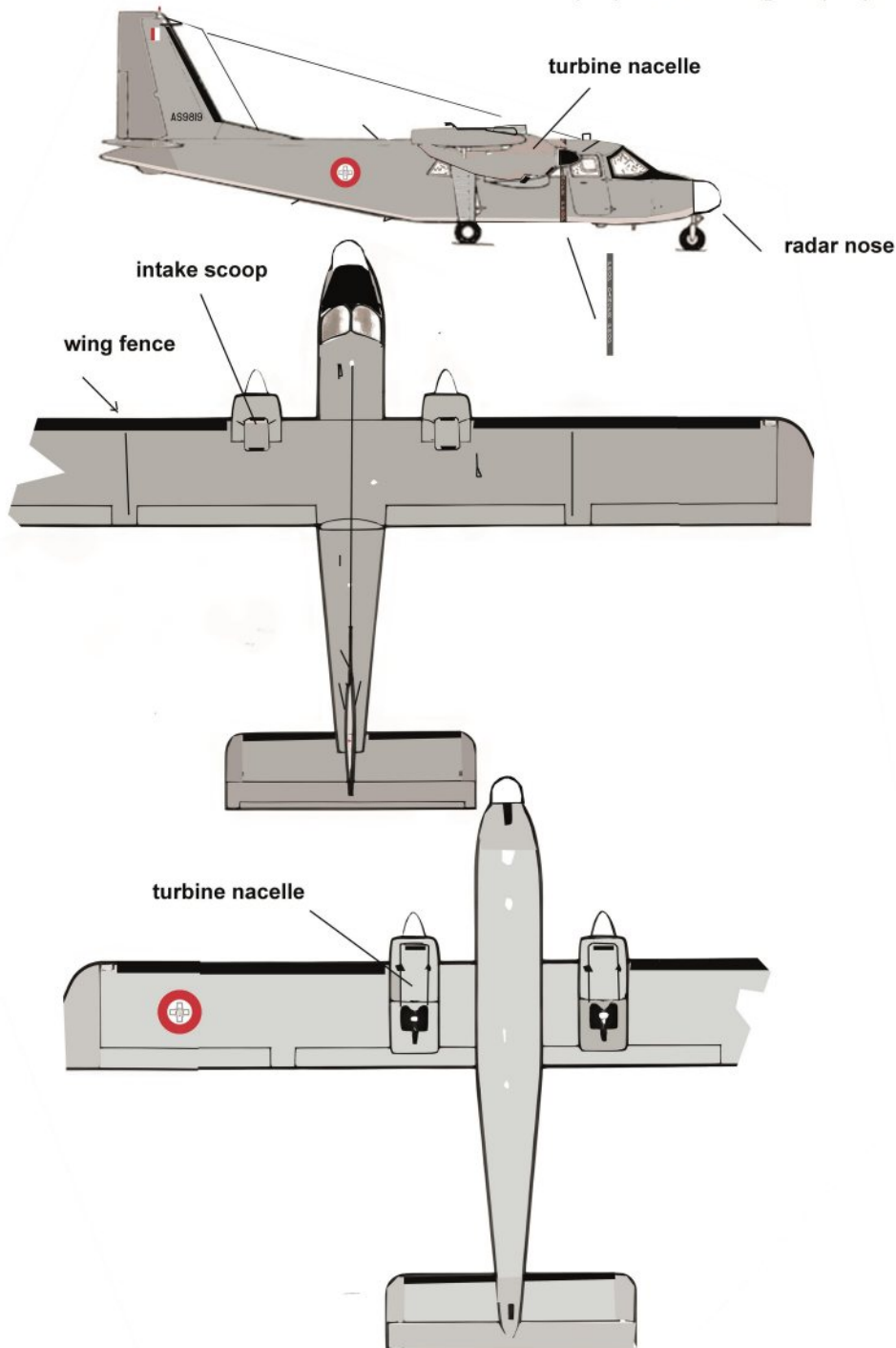
It has the wing with span of 49 ft with "rectangular" curved wing tips. The wing has also the 2 wing fences of the -T.

The basic scheme is grey (about FS16375) with light grey undersurfaces (about FS16440 / BSC: 627).

The wing, stabilizers and tail have black de-icing leading edges. The anti-glare panel is black but radar nose has "off white" colour.

Long wire antennas and small antenna on cockpit roof.

The 3-bladed propellers have chrome spinners and dark grey blades with black-white-black-white tips. Note black propeller warning stripe (decal).



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