

Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander / Defender (Asia)

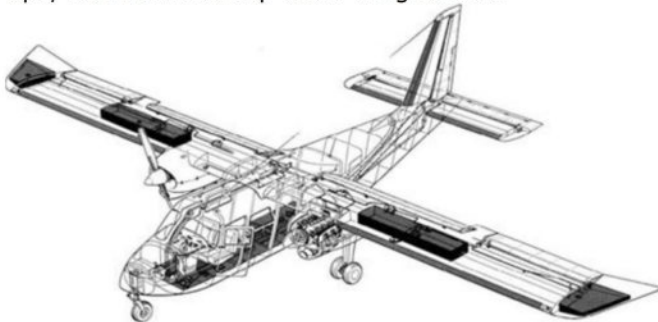
Hong Kong, Oman, Pakistan

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 recognized easily with air intake scoops on the top of modified nacelles. They have 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 cutting 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>

Hong Kong Royal Auxiliary Air Force

In British Hong Kong, a Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force was set up from 1949. A few small aircraft and helicopters were used.

This included Islander BN-2A msn 615, registration HKG-7 and it was manufactured in 1970.

It had the early wing with just a span of 49 ft with "triangular" wing tips. So modify kit wing accordingly.

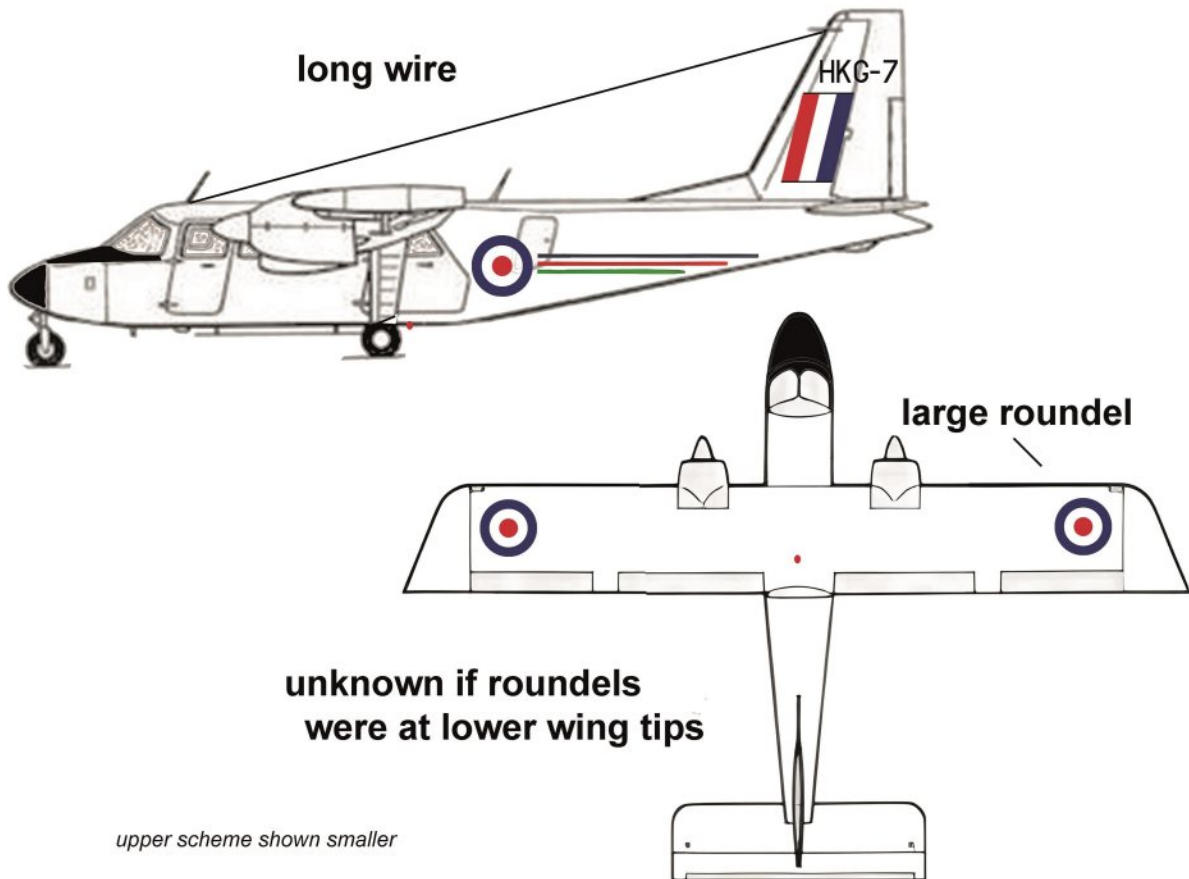
The colour is a gloss white with black nose tip and mat black anti-glare panel.

There are some cheatlines on the rear fuselage.

The 2-bladed propellers have white spinners, black blades with *probably* yellow tips.

It has a single long antenna wire.

(unknown if roundels were set on the lower wing tips but it is probable).



This second Hong Kong scheme is for the same Islander msn 615, registration HKG-7 in a different scheme.

The colour is now gloss white with "post office red" (approx BSC381c: 538 / FS31140) trim and a rear fuselage band.

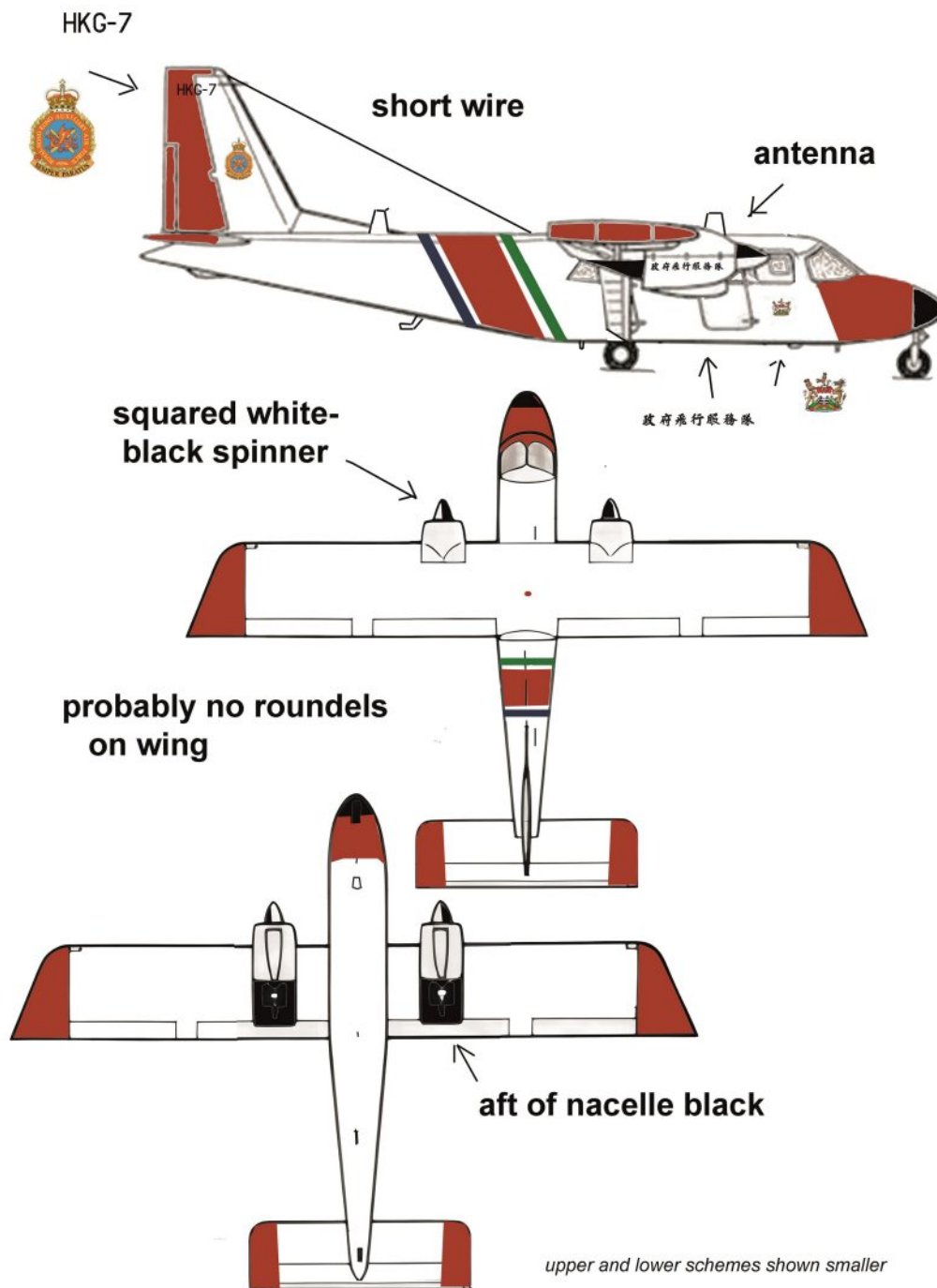
The red needs to be airbrushed but the fuselage stripes are provided as decals.

Again with black nose tip and it was seen with or without black anti-glare panel.

The antenna wire is now also shorter and runs to the mid fuselage.

Chinese texts on nacelles and badges on tail and forward fuselage.

Propeller spinners have a white and black split section. Propeller blades are black with white-black-white tip stripes.



OMAN ROYAL AIR FORCE

Oman is a Sultanate on the Arabian Peninsula. It had strong relations with Great Britain also after independence in 1959. Some 8 BN-2A-21 Defenders were acquired for the Royal Oman Air Force in the seventies, coded 301 – 308.

These aircraft have a wing with extra fuel capacity with span of 53 ft (16,15 m) with "triangular" wing tips.

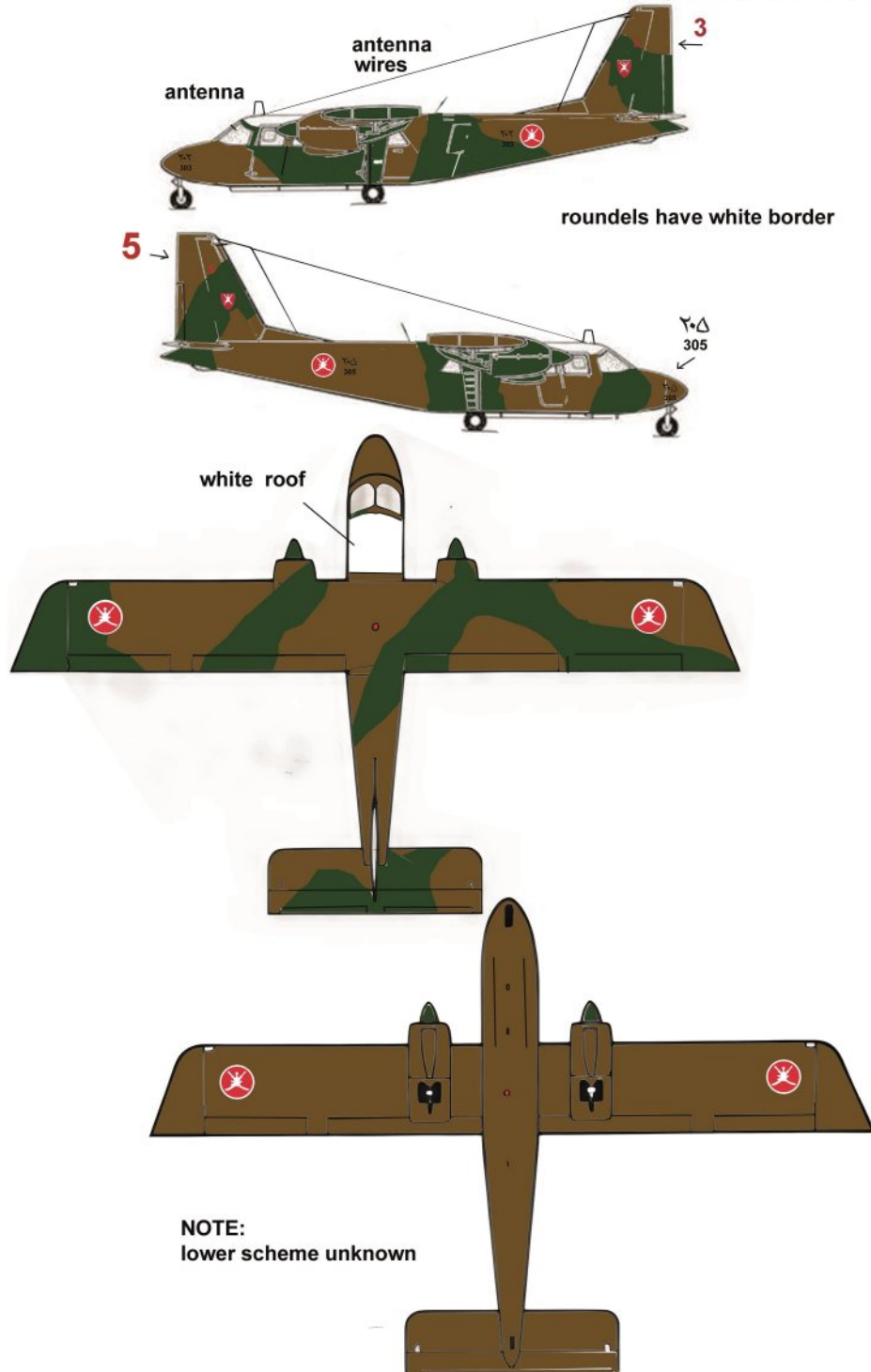
The 2-bladed propellers have dark green spinners, black blades with red-white-red tips.

The camouflage scheme is dark green (approx BSC381c: 241 / FS34079) and dark brown/ earth. (approx BSC381c: 450 / FS30219) (the lower scheme pattern is *unknown*).



The cockpit roof is gloss white and has a big blade antenna. Long wire antennas are also fitted as well as long antennas below the fuselage. The cabin windows have white outlined frames.

Choices of codes 303 c/n 402 "red 3"
or 305 c/n 414 "red 5".



PAKISTAN (PMSA)

Pakistan is a big Islamic country in Asia and has large armed forces of not only army, navy, air force but also has a nuclear arsenal.



The Pakistan Maritime Security Agency no.93 squadron flies from Mehran Naval Air Station with 3 turbine BN-2T Defenders delivered from 1993.

The Turbine version has Rolls Royce M250-B17C engines in a different engine nacelle with on top of each nacelle also an air scoop. The turbine engined aircraft are fitted with 3-bladed propellers.

These aircraft have a wing span of 49 ft with "rectangular" curved wing tips and 2 wing fences for the -T.

Fitted with radar nose. The aircraft are often flying with underwing fuel tanks for extra patrol range.

Decals for the 3 registrations are provided:
 AR-NYD coded 08, c/n 2308
 AR-NYB coded 42, c/n 2242
 AR-NYC coded 46, c/n 2246

The aircraft have a basic scheme of overall gloss white with colourful red-white-blue stripes (decals). Note that the band does not run under the fuselage.

Radar nose is gloss black.

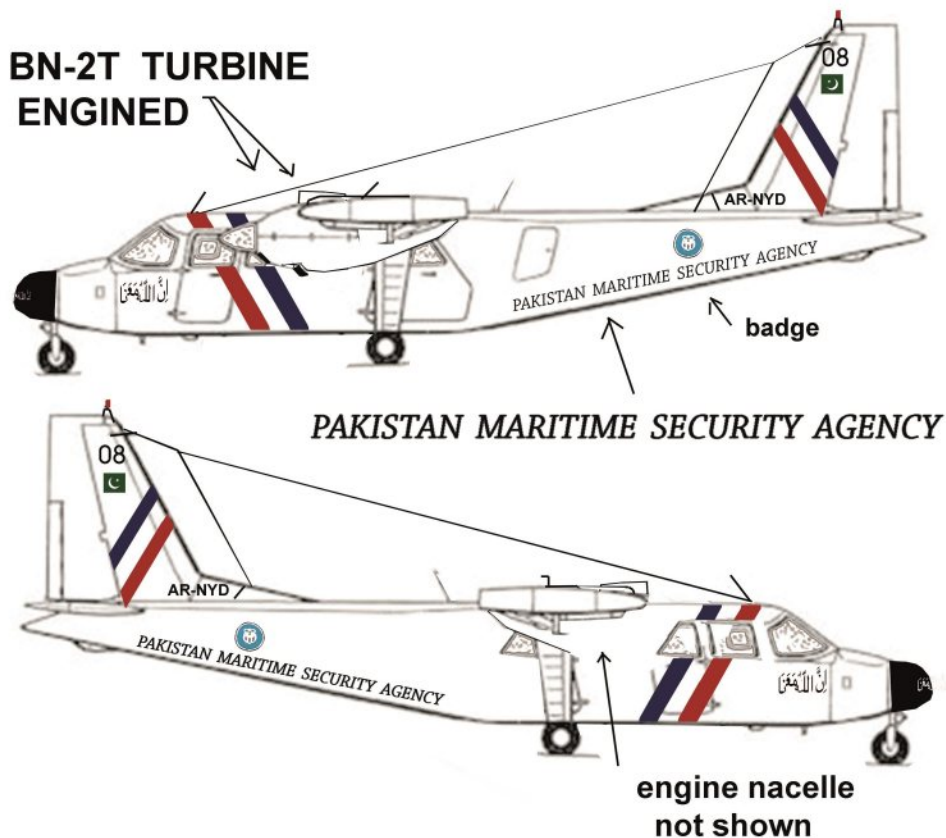
Fitted with long wire antennas and a small antenna on the cockpit roof.

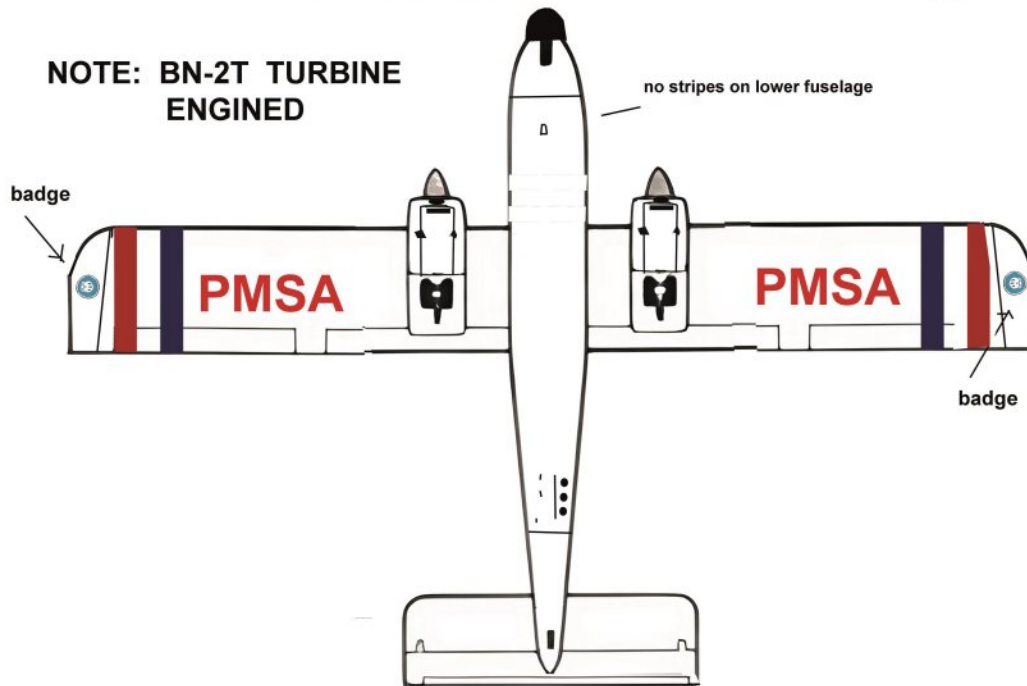
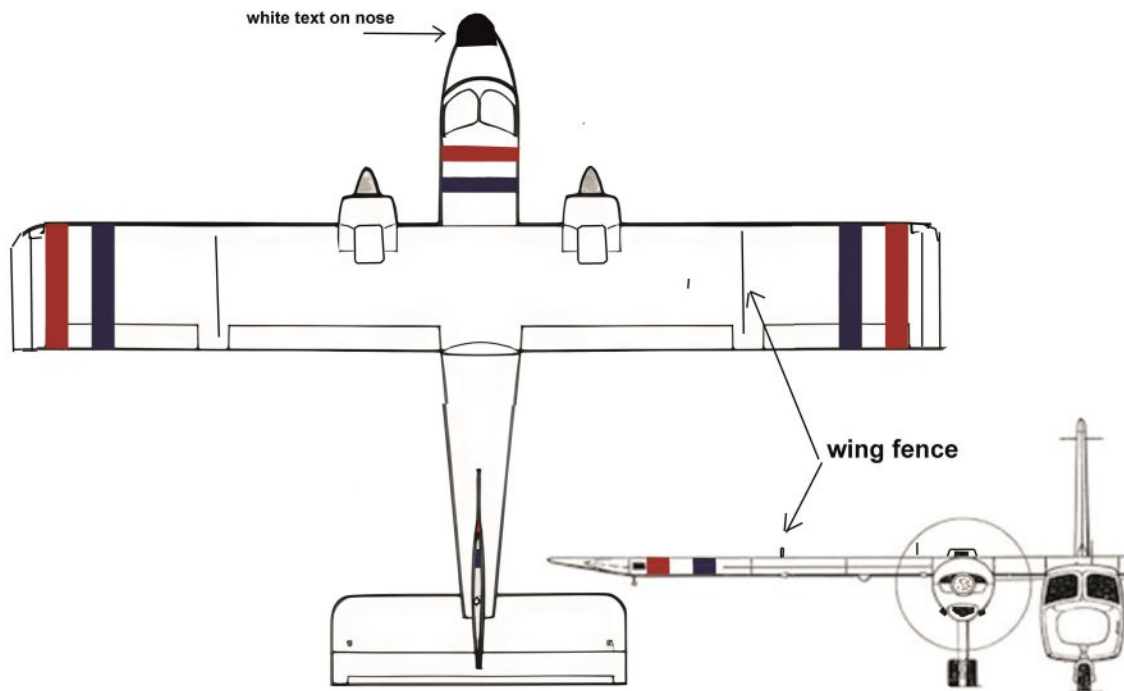
The 3-bladed propellers have chrome spinners and dark grey blades with white- dark grey-white tips.

Peculiar are the badges not only on rear fuselage but also below the wing tips.

On the nose are texts in Urdu.

At the front of the gloss black radar nose a white text is situated (decal).





(note: shown in a smaller scale)

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