

Short Skyvan SC.7 NEPAL ARMY AIR WING

For 1/72 scale but others scales like 1/144 possible

HISTORY

The Short SC.7 Skyvan is a British 19-seat twin-turboprop aircraft first flown in 1963. It was manufactured by Short Brothers in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It had a box like fuselage with rear ramp to load cargo. It has a basic rugged design and STOL capabilities. The Skyvan was used by small local airlines, and also by many smaller air forces across the Globe. Some 149 Skyvans were manufactured. The 3M is a military version with higher take-off weights.

Antenna configurations may vary. Some Skyvans had a rear passenger door and extra cabin windows retaining the same basic fuselage.

MODEL KITS

In 1/72 scale Airfix released a Skyvan 3M injection moulded kit in 1974 as kit 04018 and until 2002 with a few re-releases.

In 1/144 scale Eastern Express has a few kits as well as Welsh.

NEPAL SKYVAN

This Asian land locked country between India and China is in the Himalayas (including the highest World Mount Everest). The Nepal Army has a small air wing that was established in early 1960s. Its main function is transport and no armed fighters are operated. Short Skyvans were acquired and delivered from 1970 with some 5 aircraft used as transports. All aircraft are based at Kathmandu-Tribhuvan airport flying to dozens of air strips in Nepal. The aircraft flew a few decades.

Most Skyvans were fitted with a large sliding cargo door in the rear port fuselage.

The 1/72 Airfix kit has the appropriate window layout and front doors. But it needs suggesting the large sliding cargo door at port with a guiding rail.



[A] Shorts Skyvan SC7-3A-100, c/n SH1884, Nepal Army Air Wing, coded RAN-19.

It is overall green with red tips at vertical tails and wing tips. Forward section of nacelles metal. Propeller spinner metal with metal blades with white-red-white tips.

The small Nepalese star has a white border, set white base decal first. Probably also 2 stars on the wing lower surfaces and 2 on the wing upper surfaces.

Fitted with large sliding cargo door at port.

A single long antenna wire runs from starboard tail leading edge tot mast above cockpit. Between the tails on the rear fuselage are 2 antenna masts with 2 wires running to another 2 masts on the top mid fuselage-wing area.

DECAL APPLICATION

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.

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 a horizontally held GLOSSY model surface. Do not use tweezers! They will fold doubled!

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.



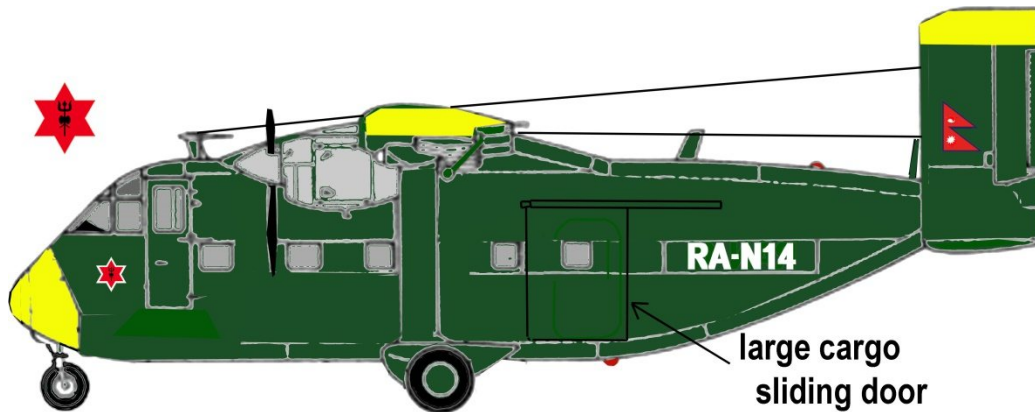
[B] Shorts Skyvan SC7-3M-4009, c/n SH1894, Nepal Army Air Wing, coded RAN-14.

Fitted with large sliding cargo door at port.

It is overall green with red tips at vertical tails and wing tips. Forward section of nacelles metal. Propeller spinner metal with metal blades with white-red-white tips.

A single long antenna wire runs from starboard tail leading edge tot mast above cockpit. Between the tails on the rear fuselage are 2 antenna masts with 2 wires running to another 2 masts on the top mid fuselage-wing area.

The small Nepalese star has a white border, set white base decal first. Probably also 2 stars on the wing lower surfaces and 2 on the wing upper surfaces.



[C] Shorts Skyvan SC7-3M-4009, c/n SH1894, Nepal Army Air Wing, coded RA-N14. Same aircraft as scheme [B] but it has the white code in another style.

Fitted with large sliding cargo door at port.

It is overall green with yellow tips at vertical tails and wing tips. Yellow nose section.

A single long antenna wire runs from starboard tail leading edge tot mast above cockpit. Between the tails on the rear fuselage are 2 antenna masts with 2 wires running to another 2 masts on the top mid fuselage-wing area.

This aircraft seems to be preserved at the Kathmandu Nationals museum.