

Short Skyvan SC.7 Ghana Defence Force

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 and some have an extended bubbled nose with weather radar. 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.

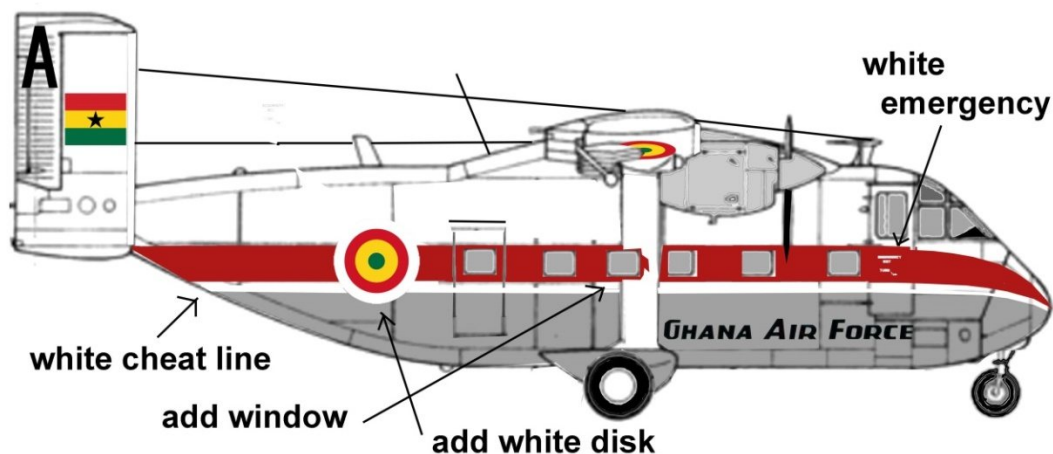
DECAL APPLICATION

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.



SKYVAN GHANA AIR FORCE

The Ghana Air Force in West Africa operated some 6 Skyvans from Takoradi airfield.

[A] Skyvan code G450, c/n SH1930 with Code "black" A was delivered October 1974. It had large black Ghana Air Force markings on both sides. No air force serials were seen. Probably flown for over 35 years.

It has a scheme of gloss white upper surfaces (including the wing) and a lower grey fuselage. Engine nacelles a glossy metal.

Carefully mask the areas to include a white line below the cheatlines' decals and trim to fit the nose and the rear fuselage.

NOTE: The 1/72 Airfix kit window layout needs an extra window on both port and starboard. The cabin has rear passenger door at starboard situated forward of the cabin roundels but this is hardly visible. On port there may be a large cargo cabin door but that is not confirmed. The modeller can add the 2 extra windows, use the cheatlines as pattern and these have been tweaked to fit the kit after the extra windows are made.

Ghana flags and codes only on outsides' of vertical tails.

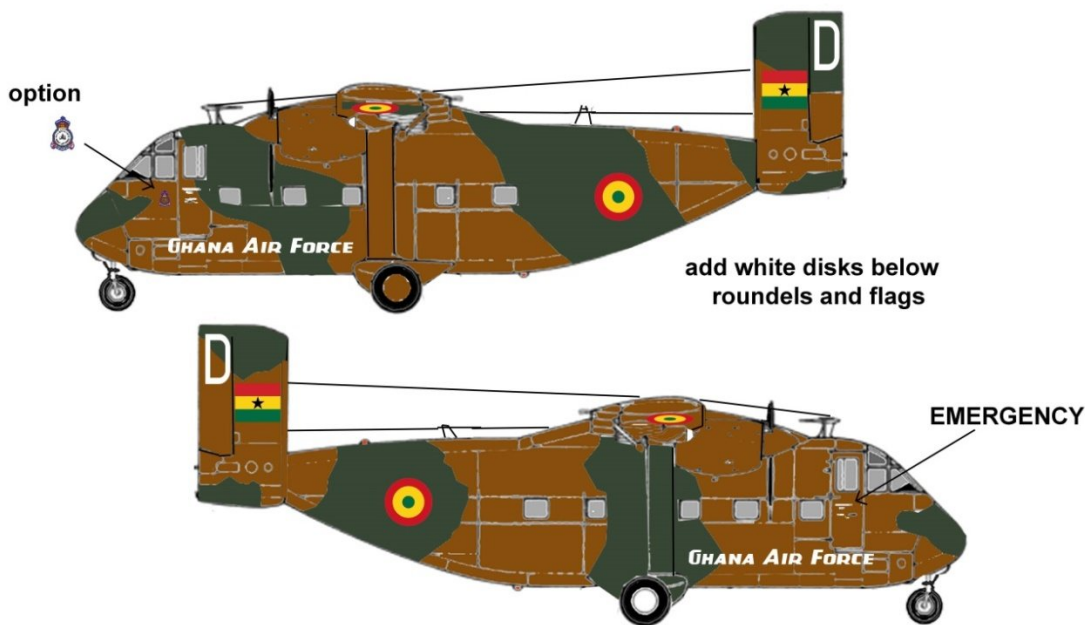
The propellers have probably light grey blades with yellow tips. Prop spinners are glossy metal.

Roundels on lower and upper wing. It is unclear if registrations or codes are situated on upper starboard wing tip and lower port wing tip (but decals are provided). Also the layout of the walkways on the cabin roof is unclear but probably has black panels (decals are provided).

Add the white emergency (pilot) exit markings on both sides. (no propeller warnings stripes were seen).

Badges were often seen below cockpit windows on both port and starboard (see scheme B for positions); set the base white badge decals first and then the badges.

A single long antenna wire runs from starboard tail leading edge to 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.



SKYVAN GHANA AIR FORCE

[B] Skyvan SC7-3M-400 of the Ghana Air Force in West Africa. Serial G453 c/n SH1931. Code "white" D and large white Ghana Air Force markings on both sides. No air force serials were seen. Flown from Oct 1974 until 1998.

(G454 c/n SH19 code "White" E is also on the decals sheet and this aircraft has a pointy radar nose).

It has a camouflaged wrap around scheme of olive drab and olive brown. The exact patterns on the upper and lower areas are unclear.

Ghana flags and white codes only on outsides' of vertical tails. Add lower base white decals (also for the roundels).

Add the white emergency (pilot) exit markings on both sides. Red outlined rear emergency markings on both sides. (no propeller warning stripes were seen).

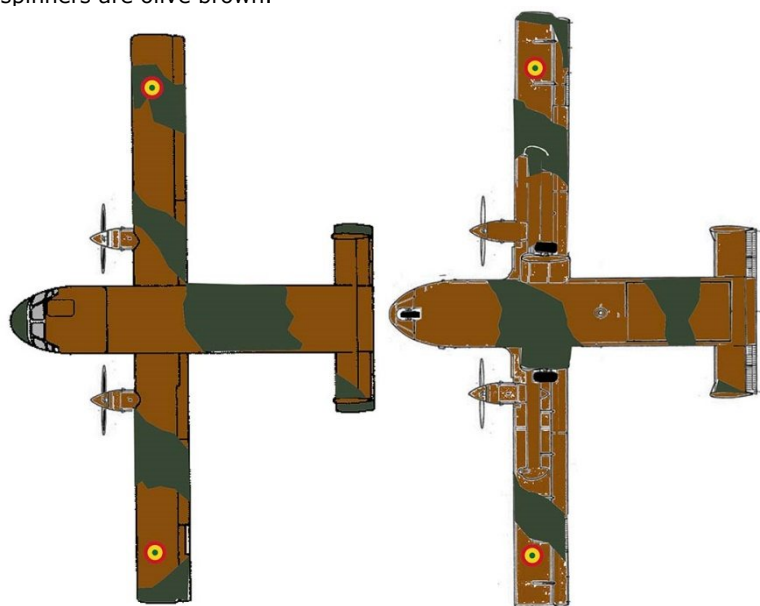
The propellers have probably light grey blades with yellow tips. Prop spinners are olive brown.

Roundels on lower and upper wing. It is unclear if registrations or codes are situated on upper starboard wing tip and lower port wing tip (but decals are provided). Also the layout of the walkways on the cabin roof is unclear but probably has black panels (decals are provided).

Badges were often seen below cockpit windows on both port and starboard (but not always); set the base white badge decals first and then the badges.

A single long antenna wire runs from starboard tail leading edge to 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 1/72 Airfix kit has for this particular aircraft the appropriate window layout and doors. On some Skyvans the rear windows were bulbous.



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upper and lower scheme patterns unclear