

General Dynamics/ Lockheed F-16 in the Middle East PART 1: **Bahrain A.F.**

For 1/32 scale (other scales possible)

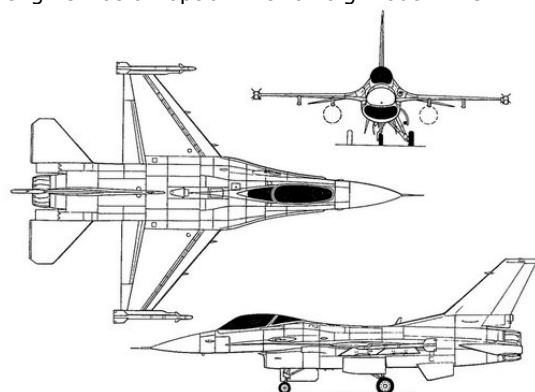


F-16 Fighting Falcon



HISTORY

The American Light Fighter competition in the 1970s led to the General Dynamics F-16 program and the first YF-16 flew 30 years ago in January 1974. It was selected as winner as opposed to the Northrop YF-17 and the F-16A fighter and F-16B trainer went into series production. Since that time the F-16 has appeared in many sub-variants. For the F-16 the Block number is the main indicator of the type of the F-16 airframe, as several distinct variants of the aircraft are covered by the same model suffix letter. Early F-16As were produced to Block 1, 5 and 10 and 15 standards. Various modification standards within the same block numbers are identified by an added letter e.g. for example Block 15A, 15B etc. The next main variant was the F-16C. Initially the Pratt and Whitney F100 engine was used with a standard air intake but later also General Electric F110 engine was an option with a "big mouth" MCID intake.



Even in the 2000's new F-16 variants were developed fitted with sophisticated avionics capable of firing and dropping advanced weaponry. Weights increased and beefed up gear and structures were needed. To increase range on some variants a pair of conformal fuel tanks CFT could be fitted on the mid fuselage section and to accommodate systems a thicker long spine fairing.

MODEL KITS

In 1/32 scale several F-16 kits have appeared over the years:

- F-16A by Revell and Hasegawa (old kits)
- F-16AM by AFV club based on Academy kit
- F-16B two seater by AFV club based on Academy kit
- F-16C by Tamiya, Academy (and old Revell, Hasegawa)
- F-16D two seater by Hobbytime based on Academy kit
- KF-16D two seater by Academy
- F-16I two seater by Academy (SUFA with long spine)
- F-16N by Revell (old kit)

Depending on the specific variant/ Block number a specific kit may be needed with still some modifications and extra's. Check engine type and intake configuration: P&W F100 with std intake or GE F110 with larger MCID intake.

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. tweezers! They will fold doubled! Decals are EXTREMELY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on a horizontally held GLOSSY model surface.

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.

NOTES:

Only the specific air force decals are provided on the decals sheet. The smaller stencils and service markings are to be obtained from the kit or spares box. Walkway lines may also vary in colour.

There are quite some variations in the RESCUE markings on the cockpit sides, sometimes on the decals sheet a specific style may be provided.

REFERENCES

Many F-16 books have been published.

On internet it is very easy to find photos by searching.

A great source on internet is: <https://www.f-16.net/>

Also on my website a lot of information and models can be found:

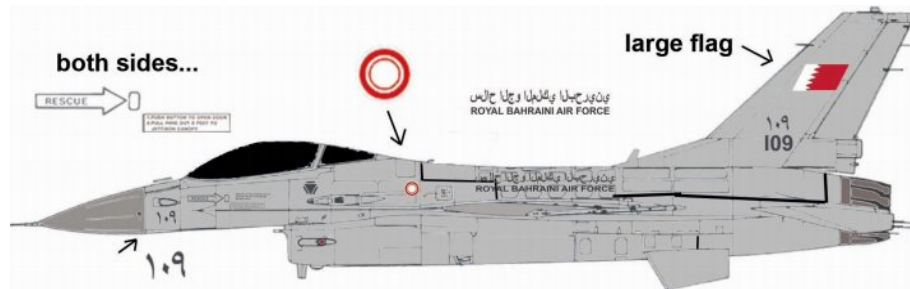
<https://aircraftinplastic.com/models/F16-32/f16-32.htm>



Royal Bahraini Air Force - البحريني الملكي الجو سلاح

The Middle East country of Bahrain of some 785 sq.km became independent in 1971 and soon set up a Defense force starting with Scout and BO-105 helicopters in the Police air arm. In 1987 a separate Amiri Air Force (BAAF) was established. This eventually became the Royal Bahraini Air Force. A dozen Northrop F-5E/F were acquired and meanwhile a large air base was constructed named Shaikh Isa. A few years later Bahrain got permission to acquire eight F-16C Block 40 and four F-16D Block 70 were acquired through the program "Peace Crown I" starting in 1989.

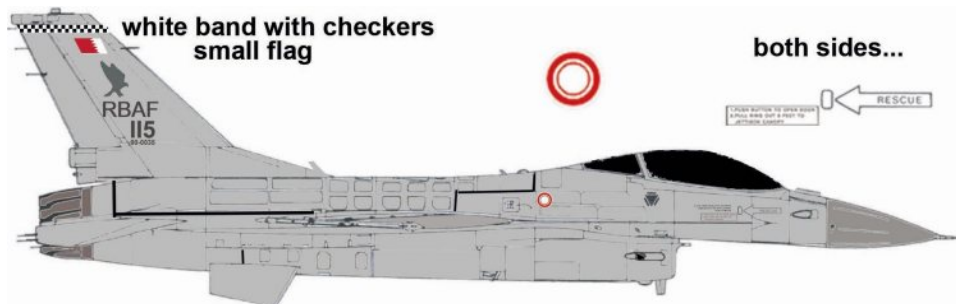
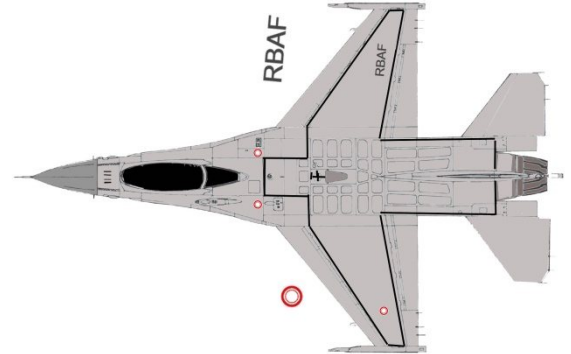
After the first delivery, Iraq invaded Kuwait and the Gulf War emerged and some aircraft flew with the "Coalition" during Desert Storm. LANTIRN pods were also later supplied as well. At end 1990's an additional 10 F-16 Block 40 aircraft were delivered starting in the year 2000 under "Peace Crown II" and these were capable of firing also AIM-120B AMRAAMs and more advanced weaponry. Later from 2022 11 F-16C Block 70 and 5 F-16D Block 70 were acquired. The F-16's are flown by no.1 and no.2 Tactical Fighter Squadrons. The main F-16 base is Shaikh Isa Air Base.



[A] F-16C Block 40 of the Royal Bahraini Air Force coded 109 serial 90-0032 was delivered from 1990. It has the Pratt and Whitney F100 engine with standard intake. IFF antennas on nose and capable to fire AMRAAM missiles. It is probable that structural stiffeners were mounted on the upper mid fuselage.

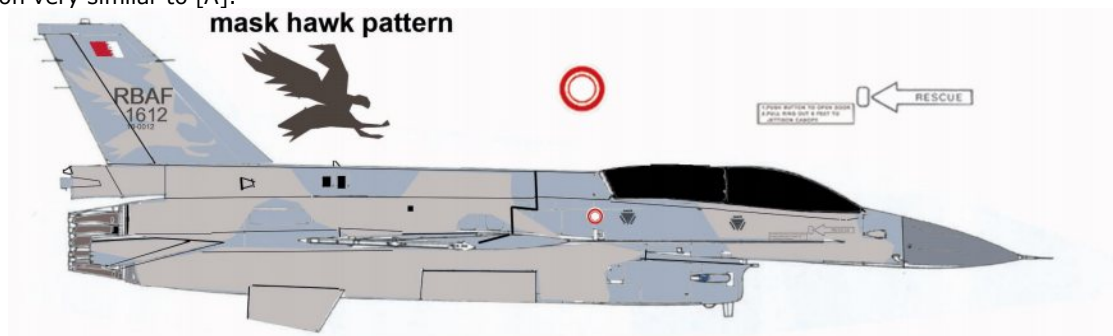
The overall gray FS colour is unknown *(about RLM 65). The radar cone is a bit darker gray. It has dark walk way lines. Note that different flag styles were seen on these F-16's. Add white base flag decal and than red portion. Two roundels on fuselage and one on upper port and lower starboard wing with RBAF markings.

Typical upper view (lower national markings similar):



[B] F-16C Block 40 of the Royal Bahraini Air Force coded 115 serial 90-0035 was delivered from 1990. Scheme and configuration very similar to [A].

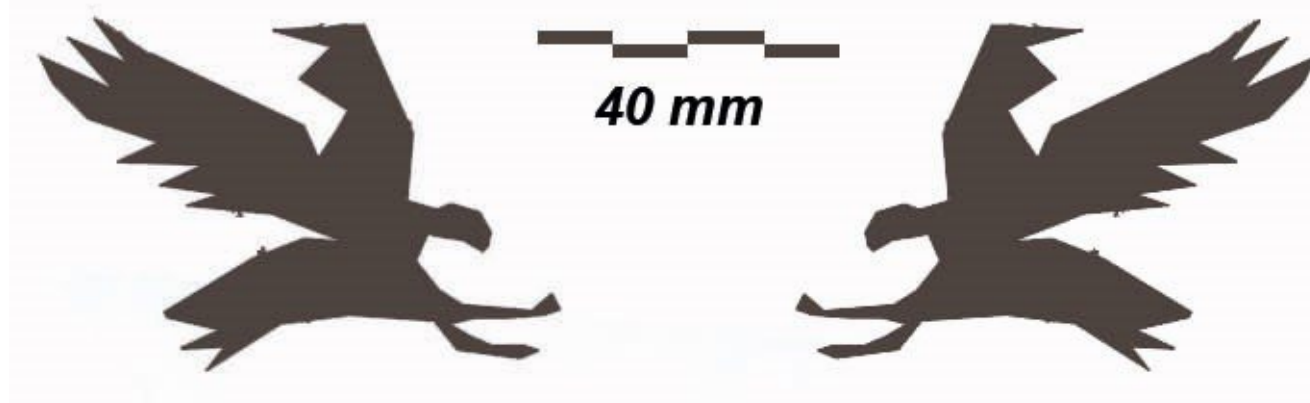
Falcon badge on tail. Note small flag. Add the white base stripe before setting the "checkers".



[C] F-16D Block 70 two seater of the Royal Bahraini Air Force coded 1612 serial 18-0012. It has the GE F110 engine with bigger MCID intake. It has advanced systems and thick long spine. Long tail base housing with extra ECM fairings.

It has a new in 2014 introduced two gray camouflage scheme, the FS colours are unknown. *(about RLM75 + ??). Note that the tail has a gray outlined falcon; mask using the black shown pattern and paint.

patterns for masking the tail scheme



In 1/32 the ruler is $4 \times 10 \text{ mm} = 40 \text{ mm}$

This hawk pattern in grey is seen on several Bahrain F-16 and has the same grey camouflage colour.

Use the pattern to mask with masking tape.