

General Dynamics/ Lockheed F-16 in Asia PART 4: Pakistan A.F.

For 1/32 scale (other scales possible)

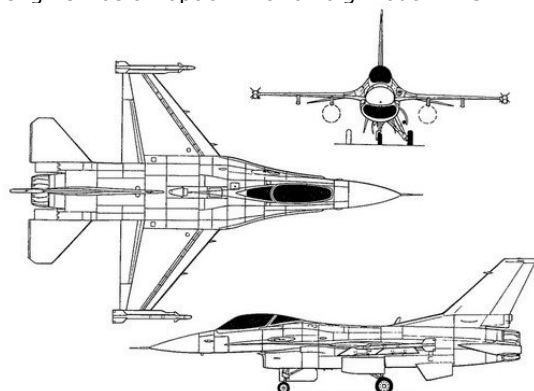


F-16 Fighting Falcon



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
- 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
- F-16N by Revell

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>



Pakistan Air Force

Pakistan became independent in 1947.

The Pakistan air force "Pak Fiza'ya" has operated a wide variety of aircraft since the 1950s, mostly from British origin. Followed were U.S. supplied F-86 Sabres and F-104 Starfighters and from France Mirage III/V in the 1970s. A military aircraft production and cooperation with China was started. Chinese MiG-21 like Shenyang / Chengdu J-7 like aircraft were co-developed. Relations with the West improved because of the Afghanistan war.

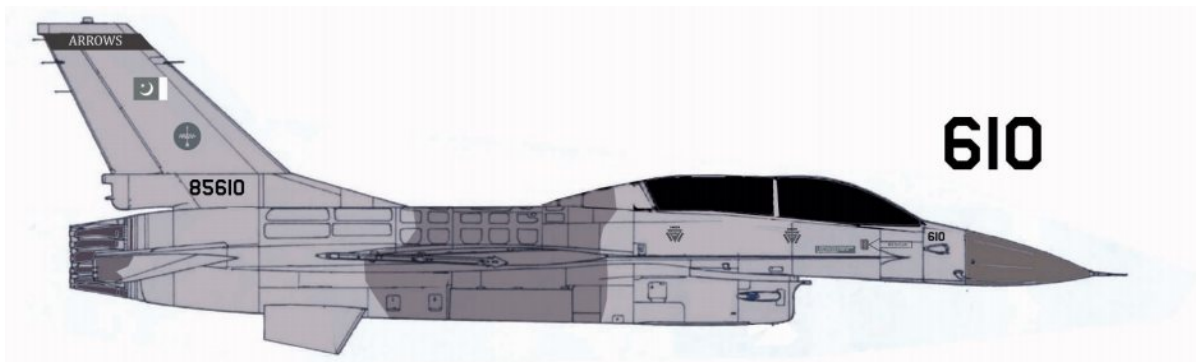
After some problems due to a boycott due to nuclear arms development, eventually under U.S. program "Peace Gate I" 2 F-16A Block 15 and 4 F-16B Block 15 were delivered from 1982. Under "Peace Gate II" the rest of 26 F-16A and 8 F-16B followed. "Peace Gate III" from 1988 for 6 F-16A Block 15 OCU and 5 F-16B Block 15 OCU was cancelled due to nuclear proliferation.

"Peace Gate IV" was also delayed for over decade. After the terrorist attacks on 9/11, new initiatives led in 2005 to program "Peace Drive" for acquisition of 12 new F-16C Block 52 and 6 F-16D. The old orders were also fulfilled with some 9 F-16A Block 15 ADF and 4 F-16B Block 15 ADF delivered. Many older F-16's were also modernized with MLU characteristics. ATLIS designator pods were also acquired.

Pakistan F-16's have a wrap around camouflage scheme. The main overall colour is FS36370 with a pattern of FS36118 across mid fuselage, large areas of wing and stabilizers.

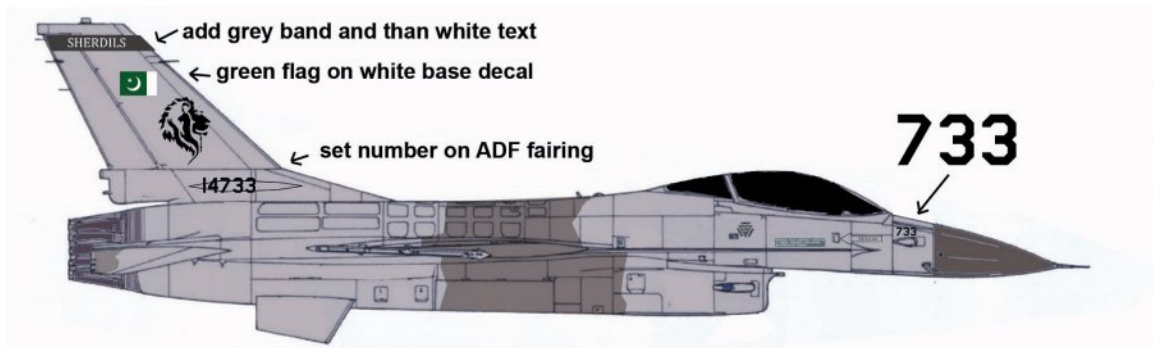
Most have RESCUE and ejection seat triangles in dark grey. Walk way lines in light grey.

Two roundels on upper wing and two on lower wing.



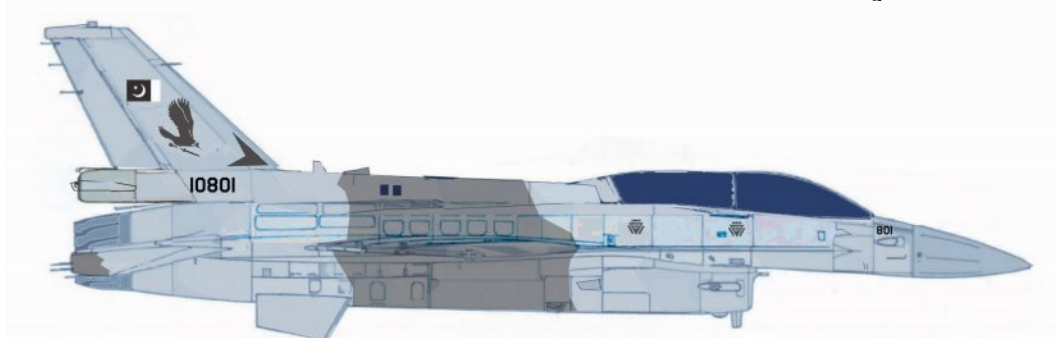
[A] F-16B Block 15 of the Pakistan Air Force coded 85610 flown by no.11 squadron "Arrows" based at Shahbaz. Early aircraft.

Toned down flag and badge on tail. Add the white base of the flag decal and than the grey portion. Grey tail band, add the white ARROWS lettering on it. Small code on nose.



[B] F-16A Block 15 ADF of the Pakistan Air Force coded 14733 of no.19 OCU "Sherdils" based at Bholari. It was one of the later deliveries. It has the Pratt and Whitney F100 engine with standard intake.

Special tail livery on both sides with 2 flags, add the white base of the flag decal and than the coloured portion. Grey tail band, add white SHERDILS lettering on it. Small code on nose. Note the ADF tail base fairing with the code on it.



[C] F-16D Block 52 of the Pakistan Air Force coded 10801 of no.5 Multi Role Squadron "Falcons" based on Shahbaz. It has the Pratt and Whitney F100 engine with standard intake.

It has tail markings with Falcon and arrow and toned down grey flag (both sides). Small code on nose.



[D] F-16D Block 52 of the Pakistan Air Force coded 10801 of no.5 Multi Role Squadron "Falcons" but now in a simpler scheme with only coloured flags on tail.

EXTRA codes and badges are on the decals sheet to make other coded Pakistani F-16's of the various squadrons

Typical camouflage scheme with FS36370 and pattern of FS36118 across mid fuselage, large areas of wing and stabilizers.

Two roundels on upper wing and two on lower wing. (can also be toned down/ grey)

