

Douglas DC-6B ALM ("Antilliaanse Luchtvaart Maatschappij")

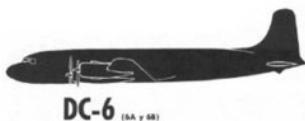
(1/72 / various scales possible)

INTRODUCTION

The American Douglas DC-6 was a four piston engined airliner that first flew on July 10, 1946. The USAF military designation was C-118 and the US Navy designation R6D. The DC-6 could be fitted with various cabins. The DC-6A was a freighter and got a fuselage stretch of 60 inch in front of the wing, stronger floor, large cargo doors and beefed up main gear structure. The DC-6B also had the longer fuselage but now more capacity passenger cabin and additional fuel capacity for more range. In total some 706 DC-6 / C-188 / R6D were manufactured until 1958.

Decals are for a Douglas DC-6B as flown by the Antilliaanse Luchtvaart Maatschappij (ALM) in The Netherlands Antilles in the 1970s. The aircraft was DC-6B c/n 44056 and was first operated by American Airlines from August 1953 as N90771. It switched ownership and was operated by several smaller companies.

On August 1972 this DC-6B was registered in The Netherlands Antilles to be flown by the ALM as PJ-DSA. It was named Saba, the Dutch Antillean volcano island. ALM used the aircraft extensively as freighter, particularly on the Curacao – Miami route (ironically, the aircraft could not fly from the tiny Saba airfield). On November 23, 1973 the PJ- registration was cancelled and TAMPA Colombia acquired the aircraft.



MODEL KITS

In **1/72** scale Heller has a (long) DC-6B kit that appeared in 1984 with later several releases.

In **1/144** scale Minicraft has a (long) DC-6B kit.

For the cargo aircraft, of these kits some of the cabin windows need to be closed and inscribe the large cargo door at port. Change also the rear door at port as it has a more squared shape. Large circular style door at starboard behind cockpit. Various emergency exits.

DECAL SYSTEM and APPLICATION

The laser printed 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. 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!

Note that a decal that contains a white or light section has often an extra accompanying white decal to put underneath on dark surfaces. On the decal sheet you will often see an "arrow" to indicate this way of application (on white under surfaces, the white section is optional).

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.

PAINTING AND DECALS

This ALM DC-6B PJ-DSA had a white upper fuselage. A blue horizontal cheat line runs all over the fuselage at the windows row. The height is slightly bigger than the window height. The vertical tail is also blue with the ALM logo disc.

The blue cheat lines and tail need to be painted after masking. A matching blue colour is about Gunze Sangyo H25.

The lower fuselage appears to be light grey. The main wing and horizontal tail planes are probably dull aluminium.

The engine cowlings are natural metal and it seems that aft of the cowling flaps and exhausts, the nacelles are painted black. Probably on the upper wing there is also a black area at each nacelle position.

The propellers are natural metal with black de-icing boots. Tips are also natural metal.

The nose tip and ant-glare panel in front of the cockpit glazing are mat black. (no black de-icing boots seen).

Name Saba on fuselage nose. No registration on wing.

REFERENCES:

On internet search: DC-6 + PJ-DSA registration

