

General Dynamics / Lockheed F-16 Royal Netherlands Air Force (KLu)

KONINKLIJKE LUCHTMACHT: 313 Squadron "J-063" kill and "J-003" Tiger

In the desired custom sized scale



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. Since then the F-16 has appeared in many sub-variants and the Block number is the main indicator of the variant of the aircraft are covered by the same model suffix letter -A/B/C/D/E. Many different variants followed even well into the current Century.



ROYAL NETHERLANDS AIR FORCE (KLu) F-16A (AM)

May 1975 the Dutch Government ordered the first 84 F-16A and F-16B for the Royal Netherlands Air Force "Koninklijke Luchtmacht" (KLu). This was done in a large European NATO program and also involved license production. The first deliveries were in mid 1979 and were of early BLOCK 1, quickly followed by modifications to newer BLOCKs. Eventually extra jets were ordered growing to 177 F-16A multi-role and 36 F-16B trainers. In the mid 1990s the first Mid Life Update program to upgrade system and weapon capabilities was started and various MLU upgrades followed until 2012. Type was designated F-16AM (and F-16BM).

MODEL KITS F-16 A (AM)

All RNLAf F-16 jets had the P&W F100 with standard intake.

In 1/32 scale recommended F-16 A (AM) single seat kits: F-16A by Revell and Hasegawa (old kits). F-16AM by AFV club based on Academy kit.

In 1/48 scale Kinetic #48100, Hasegawa, Revell/Italeri.

In 1/72 scale Revell later had a good F-16AM MLU kit (releases after 2000 like 03980 with KLu decals/ 04612/ 04691/ 03905). Other 1/72 F-16AM kits are from Hasegawa.

In 1/144 scale Academy and DML/ Dragon/ Italeri.

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 double! 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 RNLAf "special scheme" of the particular F-16AM and squadron decals are provided on the decals sheet.

There were some variations in the RESCUE markings on the cockpit sides and on the decals sheet the typical RNLAf ones are provided.

Walkway lines may also vary in colour but most were light ghost grey. Some stripes are provided.

The smaller stencils and service markings are to be obtained from the kit or spares box.

REFERENCES

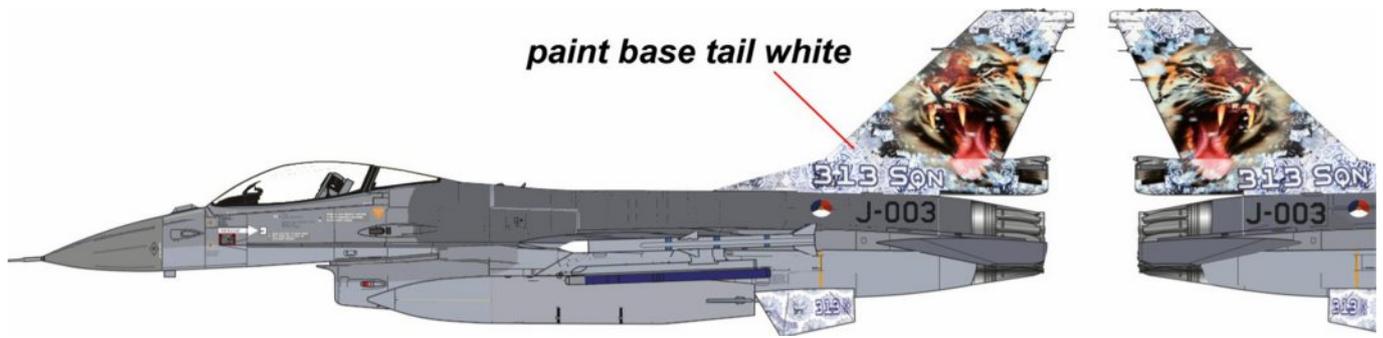
Many books about RNLAf F-16 have been published (often in Dutch language).

On internet it is very easy to find photos by searching. A great source about RNLAf (KLu) F-16 on internet are the Dutch IPMS Nederland Nedmil webpages:

<https://ipms.nl/artikelen/nedmil-luchtvaart/vliegtuigen-g/vliegtuigen-g-qendyn-f16>

Also on my website information and models can be found: <https://aircraftinplastic.com/models/models.htm>

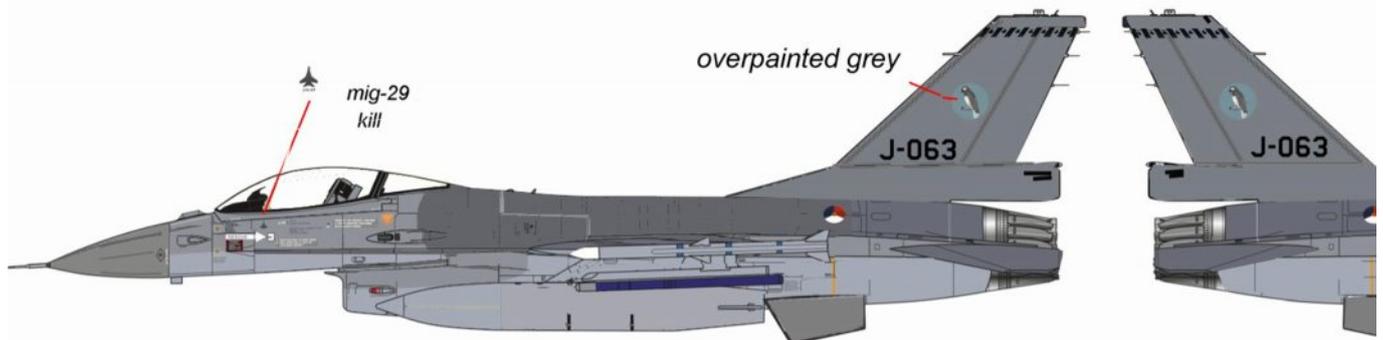




[A] F-16 AM coded J-003 of KLu no. 313 squadron. Serial 32203 / 6D-159 and entered KLu service in September 1990 and later upgraded to MLU standard.

Paint the vertical tail first white before setting the large Tiger decals, trim to fit. Note the ventral fin markings, trim to fit. The J-003 code is relocated on the rear fuselage.

Tiger scheme as carried in 2014 for the NATO Tiger meet held June 2014 at the German Schleswig-Jagel airbase.



[B] F-16 AM coded J-063 of KLu no. 322 squadron. Serial 86-0063 / 6D-146 entered service May 1989. Later upgraded MLU standard.

A small kill marking was set at port above the RESCUE marking (decal provided). The squadron badge light grey portions were over painted grey but still visible. Below the standard unpainted white badge is seen...

Scheme as flown during NATO operations in the Yugoslavia crisis. During the Kosovo crises pilot Tankink shot down with an AMRAAM missile a Serbian MiG-29 on 24 March 1999. The Serbian pilot Milutinovic survived using this ejection seat. (J-063 is now on display at the Dutch National Military Museum NMM at Soesterberg).



KLu F-16's have the rather standard camouflage pattern with grey colours: on upper surfaces FS36270 grey and FS36118 dark grey at rear. Lower surfaces are FS36375.

KLu style RESCUE markings on the cockpit sides are provided on the decals sheet.

