



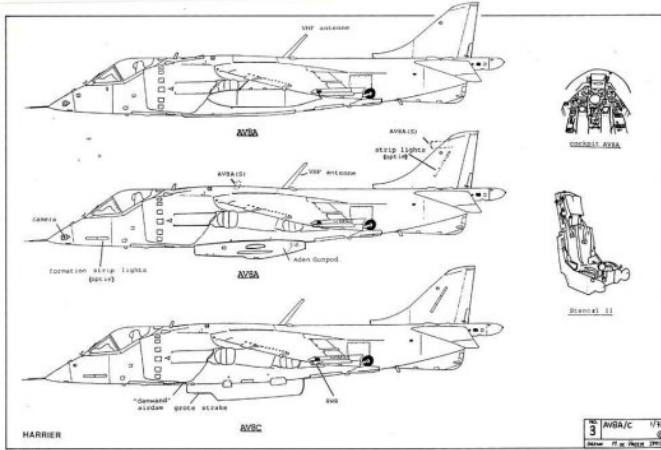
Harrier AV-8A Thailand Navy

Scale 1/32 (but various scales possible for these decals)

HISTORY

The Hawker Siddeley Harrier was developed in the 1960s as the first operational ground attack and reconnaissance aircraft with vertical/short take-off and landing (V/STOL) capabilities. Development started with the Kestrel prototype aircraft and this evolved into the Harrier GR.1 first flown end 1967. The design had a single special Pegasus turbofan engine mounted in the fuselage and four vectoring nozzles. For control at low speed in hovering flight, several small reaction nozzles are also fitted, in the nose, tail and wingtips. The Harrier was first ordered for the British Royal Air Force, with the GR.1.

A version of the GR.1 was exported to the United States as the AV-8A, for use by the US Marine Corps (USMC) in the 1970s. The AV-8A jets were manufactured in the UK by Hawker Siddeley but got fitted by McDonnell Douglas with American systems, another Stencel SEU-3/A ejection seat and Sidewinder capability.



Spain purchased mid 1970s AV-8A and TAV-8A from the USA. Due to the "Gibraltar dispute" with the U.K. the Harriers were manufactured in the U.K as mk.53 and mk.54, sub-assemblies shipped to McDonnell Douglas in the USA and assembled. These had typical American systems and sold to Spain designated AV-8A(S) and TAV-8A(S) with the "S" for Spain.

THAILAND AV-8A

Thailand acquired in 1996 for their Navy from Spain their remaining Matadors. These comprised 7 AV-8A(S) with codes 3103-3109 and 2 TAV-8A(S) two seaters coded 3101 and 3102. These would be flown by the Thai Navy to operate from a Spanish designed carrier called "HTMS Chakri Naruebet". However, due to poor serviceability the Thai AV-8 jets operated mainly from shore and for just a few years.

MODEL KITS

In 1/32 scale only Revell USA released a Harrier way back in 1972 as kit #H194 and in 1982 as kit #4718. The kit has some shapes resembling the Kestrel development aircraft.

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>>> The modeller can modify a bit the 1/32 Revell Harrier kit for a better looking AV-8A with mainly these changes:

- The fairing shape in front of the forward nozzle can be made a bit bulkier and "less pointy" with card and putty.
- The number of blow in doors at the bulkier fairing should be 9 (and not 8 as per Kestrel). Also add a small NACA air intake.
- Add for some AV-8A a radar warning fairing at the vertical tail leading edge from card and blend in with putty.
- Change some upper engine panel exhaust grills.
- If using the underwing fuel tanks, remove their tail fins.
- Improve the various details like the cockpit, ejection seat and smaller airframe bits.

A full modelling report showing the improvement and with further tips can be found at my website at:

<https://aircraftinplastic.com/models/harrier-32/harrier-32-1.html>

<https://aircraftinplastic.com/models/harrier-32/harrier-32-2.html>

My YOUTUBE film with modelling report:

<https://youtu.be/1FEIfk7tkbI>

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.

REFERENCES:

- AV-8 Harrier, Detail & Scale, Part 1 USMC, TAB Books.
- Harrier in action, no. 58, Squadron Signal publications.
- IPMS U.K. "SIG Asian Air Arms newsletter #33" about Thai Harriers.

On internet it is very easy to find photos by searching... AV-8A + Harrier + Thailand

COLOUR SCHEMES THAILAND NAVY AV-8A

The initial Thai AV-8A(S) scheme is similar as the (former) Spanish paint scheme:

-1-Federal Standard FS16440 gull gray with white lower surfaces.

It appears that later the Thailand AV-8A(S) got a darker scheme:

-2- darker grey probably FS16118 gray and FS16440 gull grey lower surfaces. (some sources suggest not FS16440 but FS16270 lower grey, but 16440 is more probable).

The scheme is almost symmetrical. Note the blade antenna on the spine.

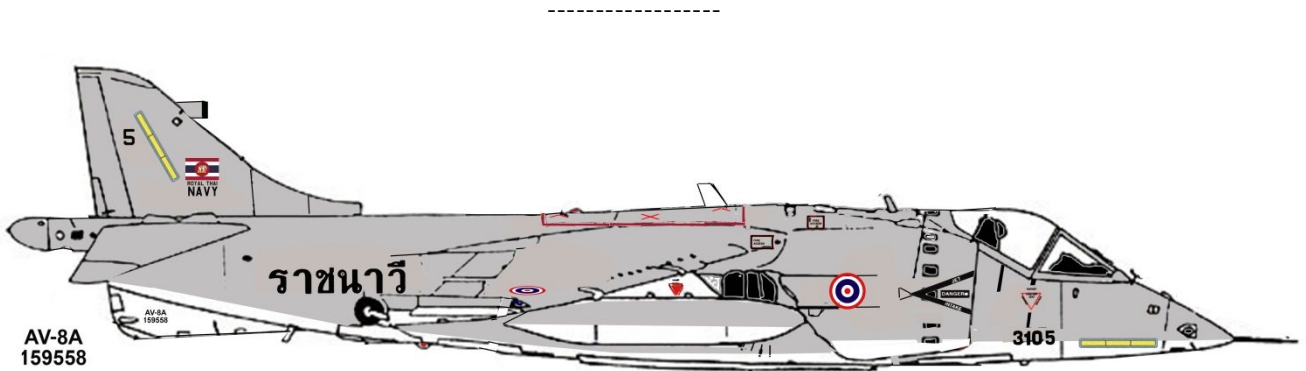
The Thai AV-8A(S) has probably the standard smaller service /maintenance markings, apply from the decals sheet of as per kit. The sheets has several "black codes" so other Thai jets can also be picked.

It is a good idea to study photos as there are small variations in schemes of Thailand AV-8A(S) jets.

Note that many photos show museum jets without the low visibility lights (but probably blanked off on these museum jets).

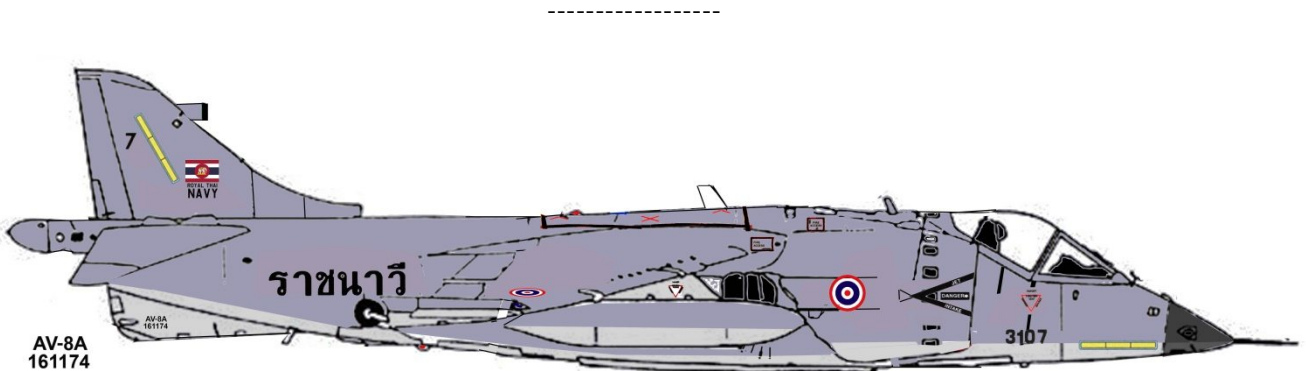
When setting the low visibility lights, first add the white underlying decals and the yellow ones on top.

The jet has 6 Thai roundels: 2 on fuselage engine fairings and 2 on both upper and lower wing tips:



[A] Thailand Navy AV-8A(S), US Bur.no 159558. (ex Spain 008-5). Coded 3105 / 5. It has the first scheme of FS16440 and lower white surfaces. Note the black intake warning markings.

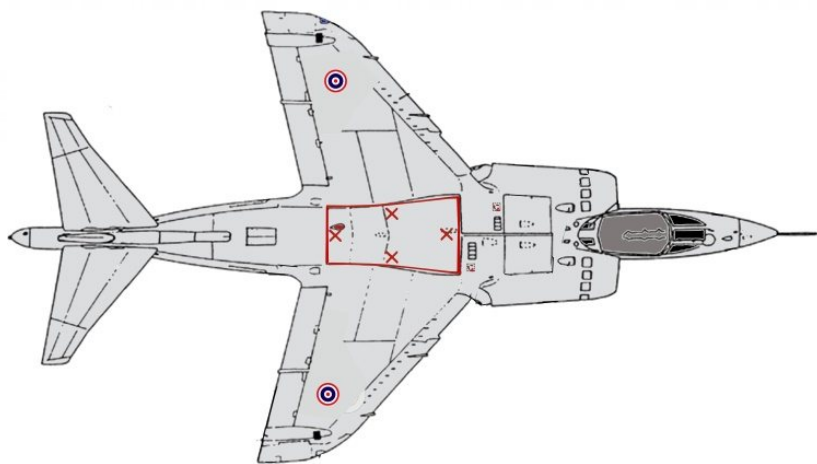
The large access hatch in the upper fuselage spine has red outlines and red crosses. Seen with the low visibility lights panels.



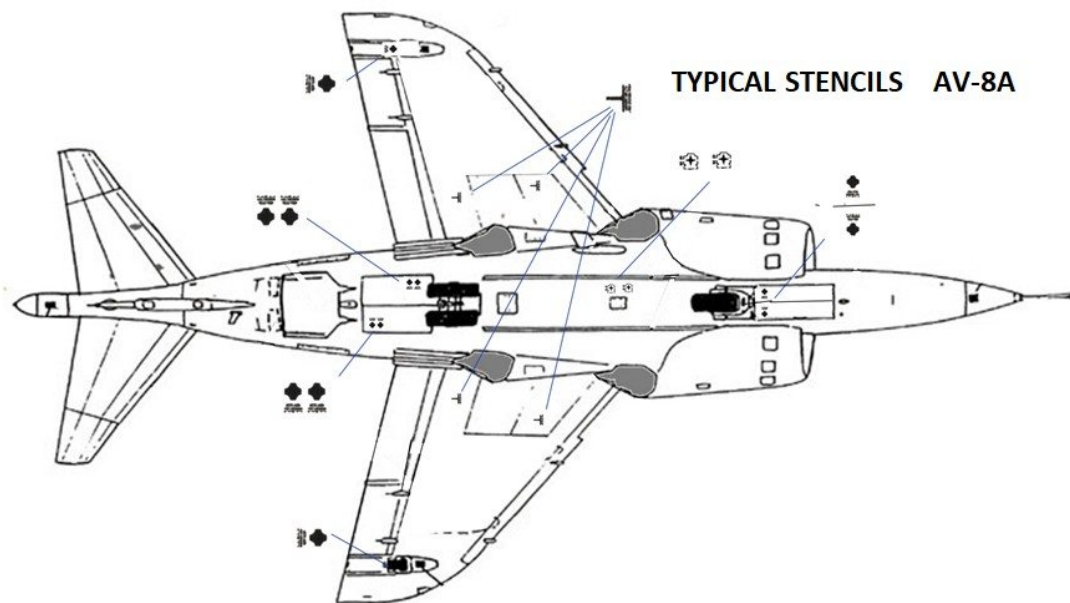
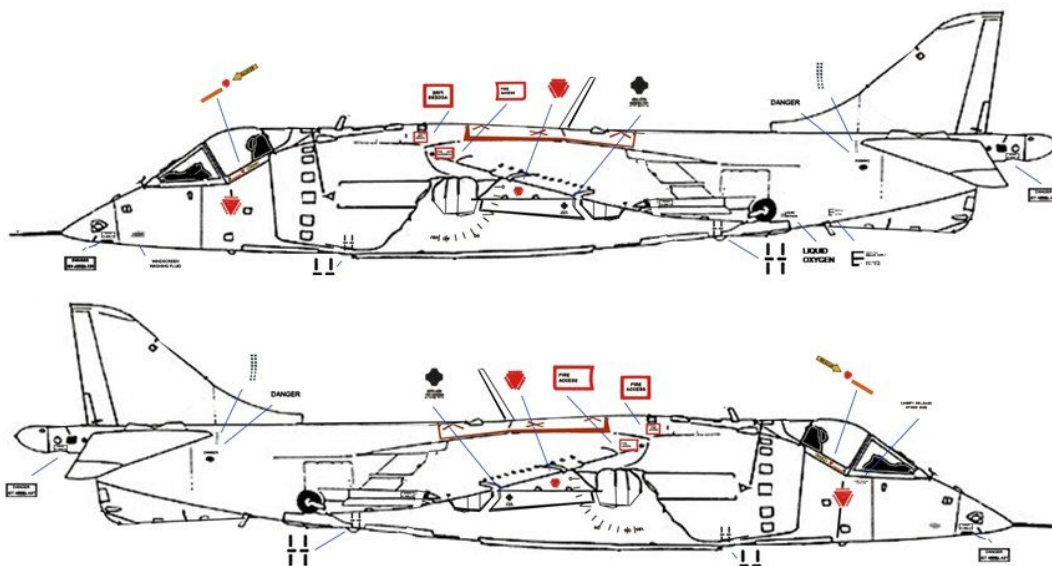
[B] Thailand Navy AV-8A(S), US Bur.no 161174 (ex Spain 008-9). Coded 3107 / 7. It has the later darker scheme with FS16118 and probably lower FS16440 surfaces. Has a black nose. Note the black intake warning markings.

The large access hatch in the upper fuselage spine has black outlines but still the red crosses.

Seen with the low visibility lights panels.



AV-8A Thailand upper view
(on lower wing roundels on same position)



Stencils may be in colour (red) or "toned down" *(black/grey)

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