

Alouette III of World Air Forces: PART 3 (designed for 1/72 scale)

Congo-Kinshasa, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Greece (Hellas)

The French company Sud Est/ Sud Aviation developed in the 1950s a number of helicopters such as the Alouette III. First flight was in February 1959. The Alouette III type designation was SE3160 and later at Aerospatiale SA316 with Artouste engine or SA319 with the Astazou engine. The Alouette had several roles typical of light helicopters and was very reliable. The last Alouette III was delivered in 1985 from Aerospatiale. But the Alouette III remained to be built in license at Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) in India as the "Chetak". Over 2,000 Alouettes were manufactured and it was used by over 50 World Air Forces and many are still flying the Alouette III today.

CAMOUFLAGE AND SCHEMES

There is a large variety in Alouette III schemes as used by various World Air Forces.

See the particular suggestions of each scheme. My website AircraftinPlastic.com can help building your model. On the website also books and internet sites are listed and are some manufacturer downloads available.

Often configurations varied as Alouettes delivered to an Air Force could be fitted with floatation gear and a hoist. Different antennas and pilot aids could be fitted like rear view mirrors. So it is strongly recommended to study photos in books and internet to pick a particular Alouette though it maybe difficult to find a photo. The precise scheme colours used by a particular Air Force are often unknown.

On the decals sheet are as a few extra tail rotor warning and Alouette markings. Sometimes also some extra codes and numbers make it possible to make a slightly different Alouette model.

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. 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!

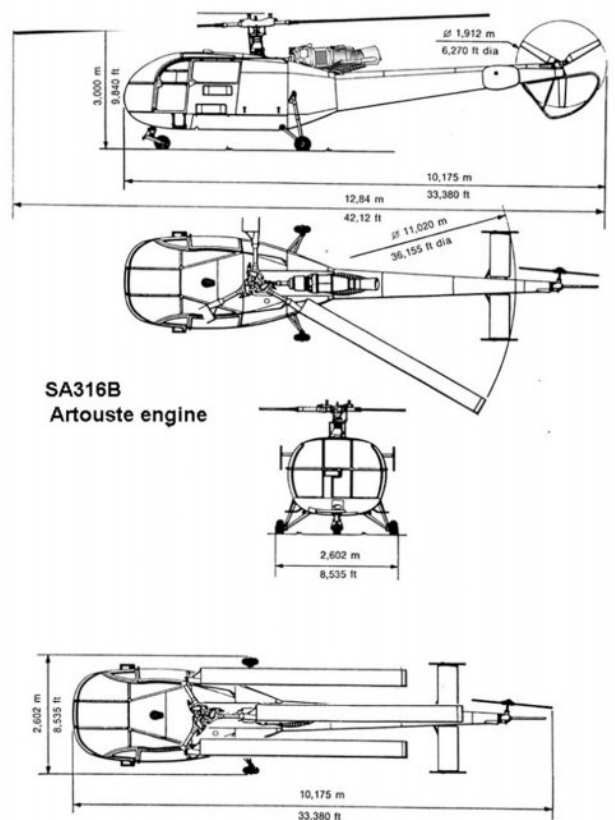
Note that a decal that contains a white section is often split in two parts. To apply the full decal marking, first set the white decal section at correct position and on top of that the coloured section. On the decals sheet you will often see an "arrow" to indicate this way of application (on white surfaces, the white section is optional).

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.

MODEL KITS

In 1/72 scale only **Heller of France** has an Alouette III kit that has appeared in various boxes with some changes in parts. In the kit are parts for the SA316 with Artouste engine or SA319 with the Astazou engine.

(Note: the same 1/72 kit was also released by **Kovozavody Prostejov**).



Congo - Kinshasa (2 schemes)

Congo – Kinshasa Democated Republic (later called Zaïre) operated over a dozen Alouettes of type SE3160 and later a few SA316B from the 1960s well into the 1980s. A single SA319B was also flown.

Alouette III SE3160 c/n 1359 is shown as flown in the 1970s. It appears to have an overall olive drab (green/brownish) finish. Note the small national insignia and "white" number 359 on the fuselage. There is an extra yellow coloured tail bar below the tail boom and as the standard tail bar it is yellow. The tail rotor colours are standard yellow with red stripes. The main rotor tips are bright red and the main rotor blades probably medium green. also fitted with a pair of wire antennas on the nose.



Fitted with large fixed floats Alouette III coded "white" 9T-HPR was also seen. (it probably was again the "1359"). This helicopter was used during the Congo civil war. It has a large national insignia aft of the cabin sliding doors. Note the standard tail bar and tail rotor.



The large floats are not in the Heller kit and need to be made from scrap or with the Whirlybird resin set 72013. Each is in 1/72 scale about 65 mm long with a 10 mm diameter. The float gear rod structure is complex.

Ecuador

Some 10 SE3160/ SA316B and 4 SA319B Alouettes were used by the FUERZA AÉREA ECUATORIANA, probably from the 1980s.

This SA316B c/n 1977 coded FAE-977 has a nice looking scheme of gloss white with bright orange trim (approx. FS12510). The horizontal tail stabilizer and the tail fin plates are also orange. The tail rotor colours are standard yellow with red stripes and a yellow tail bar. The main rotor tips are bright red. The two tail fin plates have the national flag, trim the provided stripe decal.



NOTE: a few extra decals are on the sheet that may enable to make an overall olive green FAE Alouette III as well. But this needs further research by the modeller.

(A pair of SA319B with Astazou engine were also used in Ecuador coded FAE-367/- 398)

El Salvador

Probably some 5 SA316B Alouettes were flown by the FUERZA AÉREA SALVADOREÑA with others flown with civil markings.

This Alouette III SA316B coded "white" 23" is shown as flying in the 1980s. The c/n is 2375 or 1888? It has the basic Alouette configuration but the overall colour is unclear: dark grey finish or dark olive drab? The tail rotor colours are standard yellow with red stripes and a yellow tail bar. The main rotor tips are bright red and the main rotor blades probably medium green.



Ethiopia

Some 6 Alouette SE3160 and 4 IAR316B (licensed built) Alouettes were used probably by the Ethiopian armed forces from 1978. The shown SE3160 c/n 1291 coded "black" 752 has a patched camouflage of leaf green and medium green.

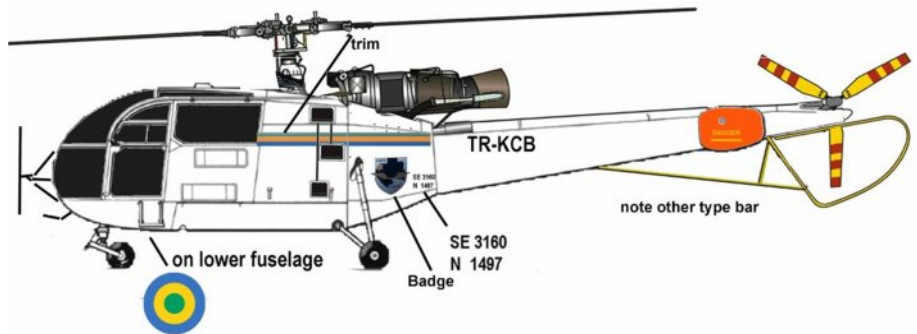


It has the basic Alouette configuration. The tail rotor colours are standard yellow with red stripes and a yellow tail bar. The main rotor tips are bright red. Add a small blade antenna on the starboard side at the tail boom and a pair of wire antennas on the nose. The danger marking in yellow is on each tail fin plate. (It is unknown if a roundel was set aft of the nose gear on the belly).

Gabon

About 12 Alouette III helicopters were flown by the Gabon armed forces and Gendarmerie (including a few SA319).

This SE3160 c/n 1497 coded TR-KCB was flown probably starting in the 1990s by the École d'hélicoptère de l'ALA based at Libreville. It has an overall gloss white finish. The tail fin plates and horizontal stabilizer are bright dayglow orange. There is an extra tail bar and the near vertical tail bar rod was relocated (as shown). Add on the nose a pair of large wire antennas. It seems the cabin sliding door windows were sun tinted.

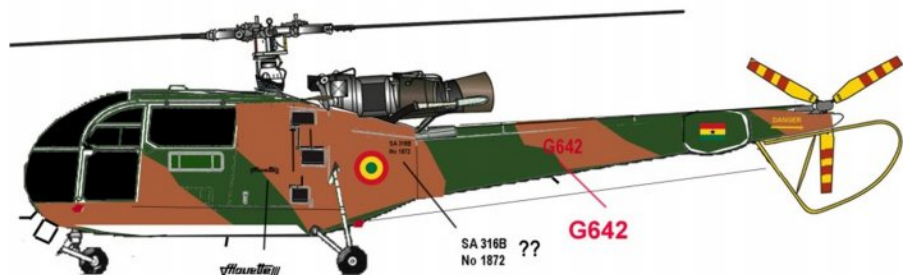


The tail rotor colours are standard yellow with red stripes with yellow tail bars. The main rotor tips are probable bright red. Trim the decal stripes to fit the fuselage. Note the badges amidst the fuselage and yellow DANGER warnings on the dayglow tail fin plates. A large roundel was set aft of the nose gear on the belly.

Ghana

Some 5 SA316B and a single IAR316B Alouette were flown by the Ghana Air Force, starting in 1972.

This SA316B c/n 1872 and coded "red" G642 was flown for some 30 years. It has a camouflage scheme of earth brown, medium green and very light grey/white fuselage belly (approx. FS36622).



Add a blade antenna below the port nose and 2 long wire antennas running from tail bar to main gear legs. The yellow DANGER markings are at the tail boom ends and each tail fin plate has a small Ghana flag. The black Alouette III logos are amidst the fuselage but it is unclear if the small SA316 serials were present. (the decals are on the sheet).

Greece (Hellas)

Some 5 SA319B Alouette III with Astazou engine were flown by the Greek armed forces from 1975 to 2014. The Alouettes of the Hellenic Navy (later Navy Air Command) were flown from shore at Athens airport and later Elefsis and Kotroni. They were fitted with a large search radar on the nose and plate antenna on top. Sometimes also fitted with the hoist at port.

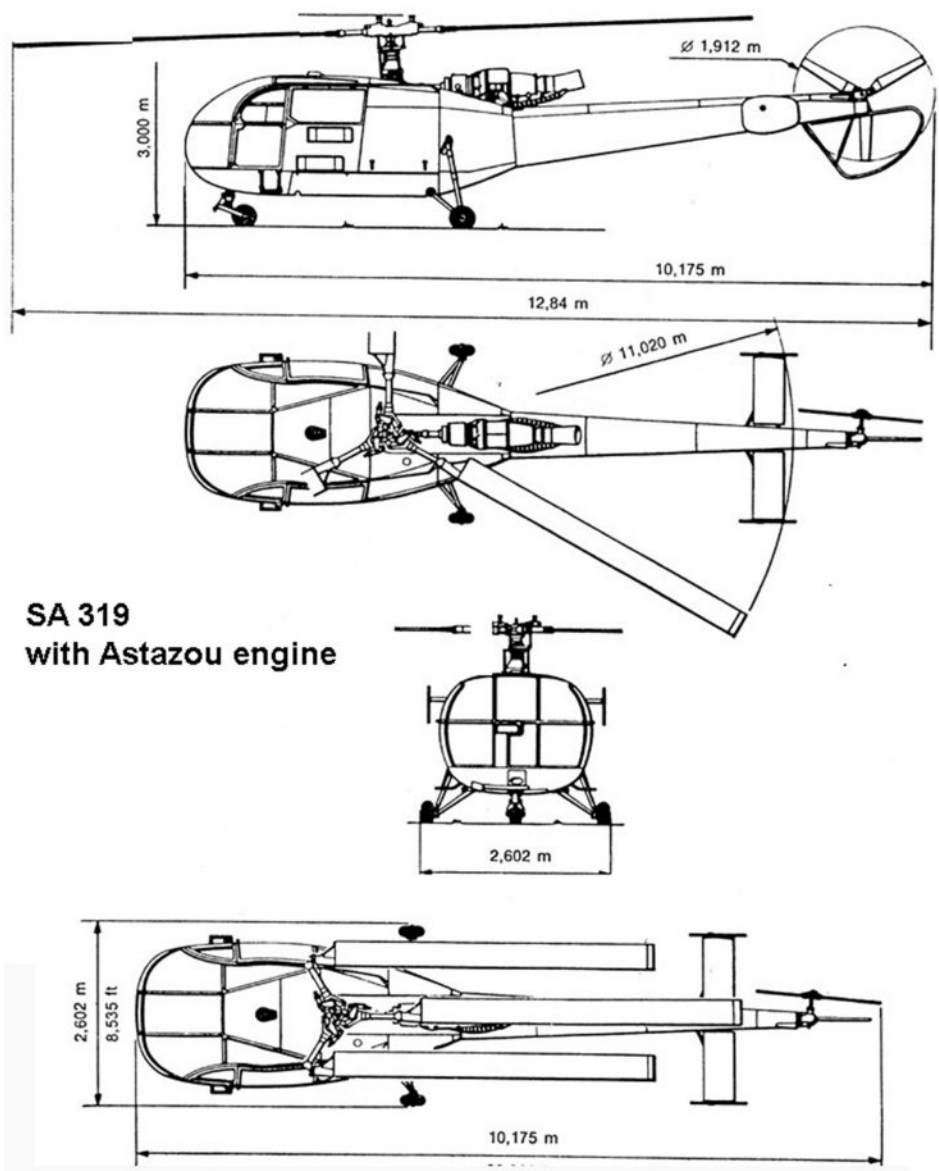
The finish of SA319B (with Astazou engine) c/n 2221 coded "white" PN03 is an overall gloss medium blue (approx. FS15180). The tail rotor colour are standard yellow with red stripes with yellow tail bars. The main rotor tips are probable bright red-orange. The red warning is at the tail boom ends. On each tail fin plate a small Greek flash flag is situated. Another roundel is situated aft of the nose gear on the belly. Small logos are situated aft of the cabin sliding doors above the anchors.

On top of the Astazou engine air intakes curved plates are fitted and a few stubs/fairings on the lower fuselage sides and tail boom.

(note: on the decals sheet "white" 04 and 02 are also available in a slightly different style).



Drawing shows the SA319B with the Astazou engine. The parts are in the 1/72 Heller kit and KP kit.



**SA 319
with Astazou engine**

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