

Boeing 737-700 BBJ Netherlands Government "PH-GOV" (several scales)



INTRODUCTION

The Boeing B737 is a very well-known family of passenger aircraft from the American Boeing company. The Business Jet (BBJ) is a variant of the 737 with modifications as a business jet for VIP transport. The first VIP aircraft was offered from 1998. The BBJ1 is based on a 737-700 airframe, with elements from the 737-800.

Changes compared to the normal 737 include:

- Blended winglets for lower fuel consumption as standard (winglets are optional on 737 airliner);
- On-board stairs that can be folded out for disembarkation and boarding at airports with limited ground support;
- Extra fuel tanks, intercontinental range;
- ETOPS-180 certification;

Information: BBJ1 (based on B737-700)

Engines: 2x CFM-56 engines

Cruising speed: MACH 0.78

Max. speed: MACH 0.82

Range: max approximately 11,000 km (with approximately 20 passengers)

Length: 33.63 m

Wingspan: 35.79 m

ABOUT PH-GOV

The Netherlands Government uses the B737-700 BBJ business jet with registration PH-GOV which was delivered in early 2019. The VIP cabin offers space for 24 passengers. It has CFM56 Evolution engines and extra fuel tanks for such a range that the Caribbean Netherlands can be reached without a stopover. GKN Fokker installed the luxurious interior. The aircraft entered service in July 2019. KLM takes care of general flight operations and provides the pilots.

The aircraft has special communications equipment. There is a fairing on the vertical tail end for a TV antenna and on the fuselage spine a few other flat antennas.

On internet, it is easy to find photos. Search "PH-GOV".

MODEL KITS

In **1/72** scale a good large plastic model kit is available from BPK "Big Plane Kits" (C-40 kit #7224 or kit #7228).

For **1/144** scale there is a B737-700 Zvezda kit #7027.

A number of windows for the PH-GOV needs to be filled as the VIP interior is different from the airliner version. This is indicated in the drawing or study photos which are easy to find on internet of the PH-GOV.

The tail top fairing needs to be made from scrap and is approximately long 25 mm in 1/72 scale. Add the flat spine antennas from plastic card.

DECAL SYSTEM and 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!

NOTES: for large decals that are to be set on a dark model surface it is better to paint a white/light area underneath. For some smaller decals, a white separate decal may be on a sheet instead; this is often indicated with an "arrow"; put the white underlying decal and then the other on top.

Some tiny white borders may appear at a particular decal. Cut these off or over paint.

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.

PAINTING AND DECALS

The PH-GOV paint scheme is symmetrical port and starboard.

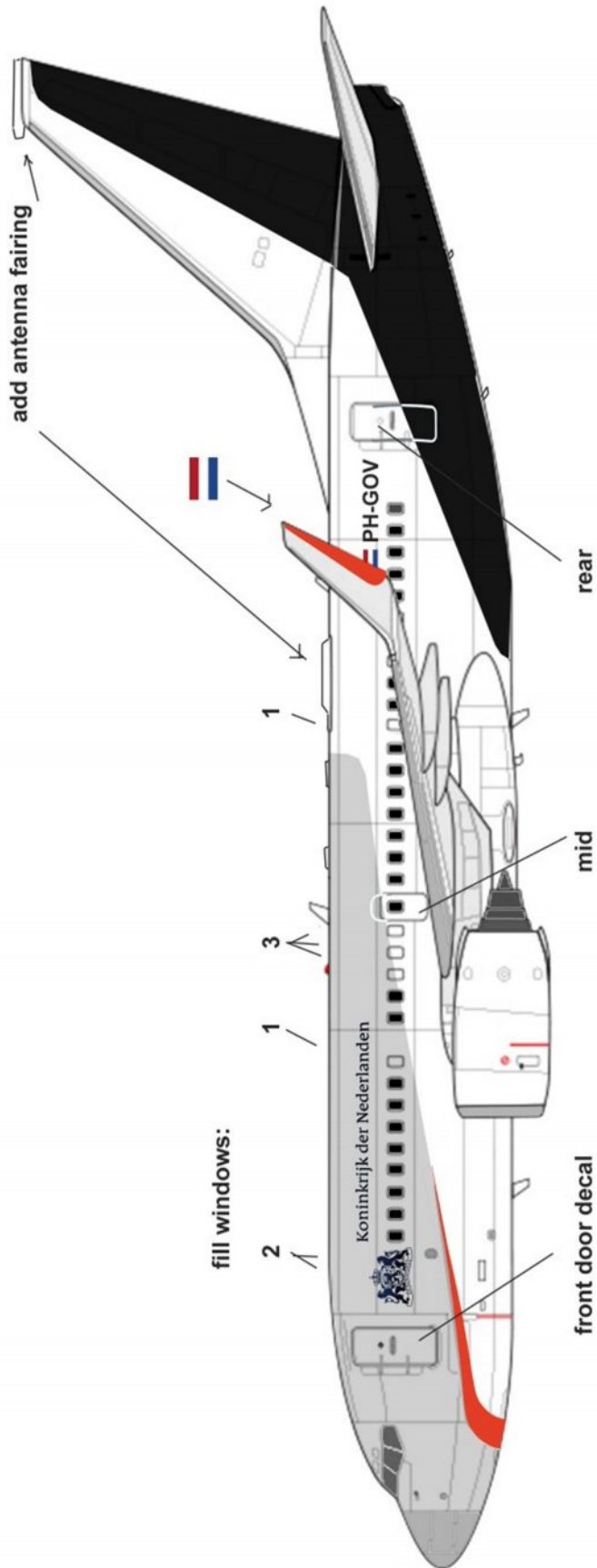
- 1 basic scheme is first gloss white.
- 2- fuselage upper front area has a silver-grey finish; apply a mix of grey and silver paint. Approx. a mix of Federal Standard gull gray FS16440 + silver. The nose is slightly darker due to the radar nose area.
- 3- rear fuselage and tail is very very dark "flag" blue, approx. Federal Standard FS15044.
- 4- engine nacelles are white with a gloss metal intake ring and burned metal rear exhaust areas.
- 5- wing, winglets and flying surfaces appear to be Boeing light grey.
- 6- leading edges of wing, stabilizers and tail are metal.

The orange-red areas at the lower front fuselage and outsides of winglets are decals, apply over a white area. Or better: mask and airbrush orange-red.

At the lower port wing the large PH-GOV registration is located.

The forward doors, centre emergency exits and rear doors are separate decals.

The aircraft otherwise has the standard servicing stencils and the off-white upper inboard wing emergency walk areas. Apply as per kit.



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