

Auster AOP

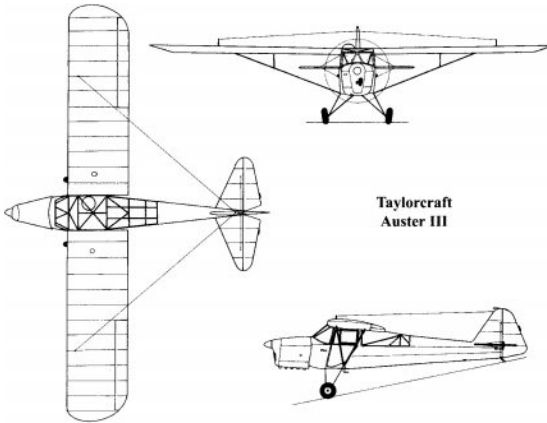
(designed for 1/72 scale)



Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force (RHKAAF)

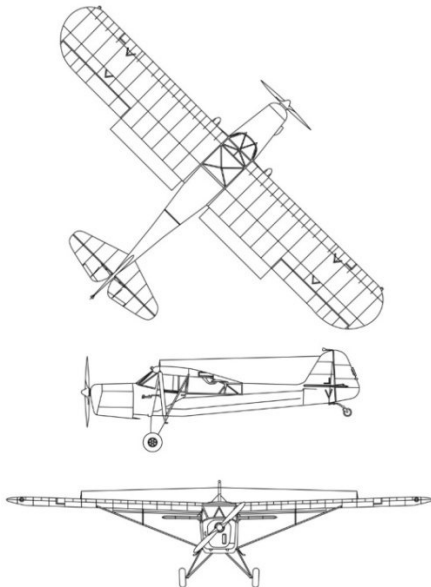
INTRODUCTION

The Auster was a military liaison and observation aircraft produced by the Taylorcraft Aeroplanes (England) Limited company during the Second World War. Model E was later called the Auster III and quite some variants were developed the following years using Lycoming and Gipsy Major engines with different nose cowling shapes.



old type III

It was developed into the Air Observation Post (AOP). The Auster AOP 6 was the successor of the Auster V and quite different with Major 7 engine, other gear and fixed flaps below the wing trailing edge...



Some 400 were produced and also flew with the Royal Air Force. The T.7 is a dual trainer and quite similar to the AOP 6.

MODEL KITS

In 1/72 scale there is the old Airfix AOP 6 kit that was released in a few different boxes. A more recent 1/72 kit is AZ models AOP 6.

Hallam Model had a 1/72 vacuform of Auster AOP 9. This was a quite different type with other window configuration, rudder, tail dorsal fin and other wing braces and gear struts.

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 laser printed 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 double!

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.

RHKAAF

The Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force (RHKAAF) was a Hong Kong Government department based in Hong Kong. It was formed as an air force in 1949 as part of the Hong Kong Defence Force. It was disbanded 31 March 1993.

The RHKAAF flew quite some smaller aircraft and helicopters over the years. The first Auster flew January 1950 and eventually fifteen Austers were operated (1 mk.V, 5 AOP 6, 5 T.7 and 4 AOP 9). First under RAF ownership with RAF codes, 28 October 1966 transfer of remaining aircraft was done to the Hong Kong Government and they got HKG registrations. The main base was at Kai Tak Airport in Hong Kong.

TIP: on internet it is easy to find photos of a RHKAAF Auster, search "Auster + code / registration".

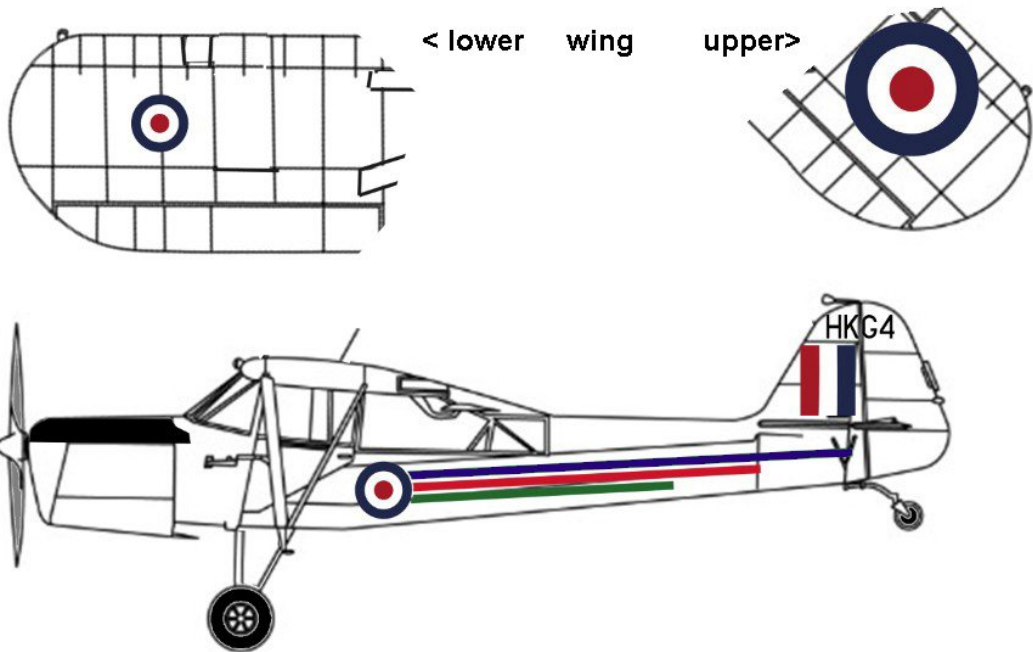
Recommended websites:

<https://rhkaaf.hk/raf/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Hong_Kong_Auxiliary_Air_Force

See for other RHKAAF decals the website

www.aircraftinplastic.com

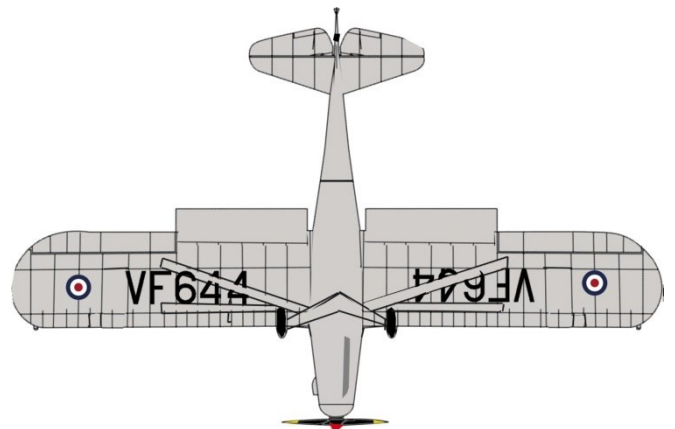
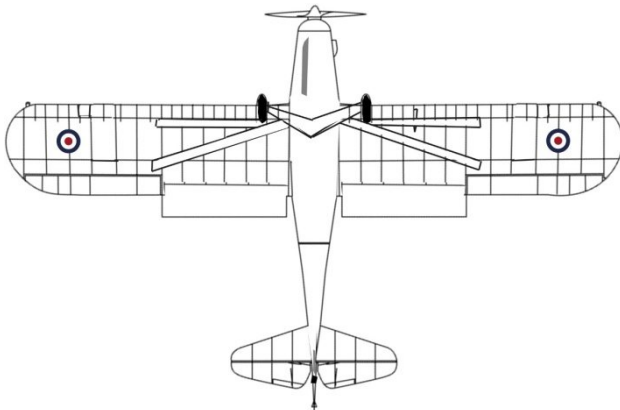


[1] Auster T.7 , code WE552 / registration HKG 4 was in RHKAAF service from April 1953 to 1971. Has visible gear struts (no fabric covering). Note fixed wing flaps.

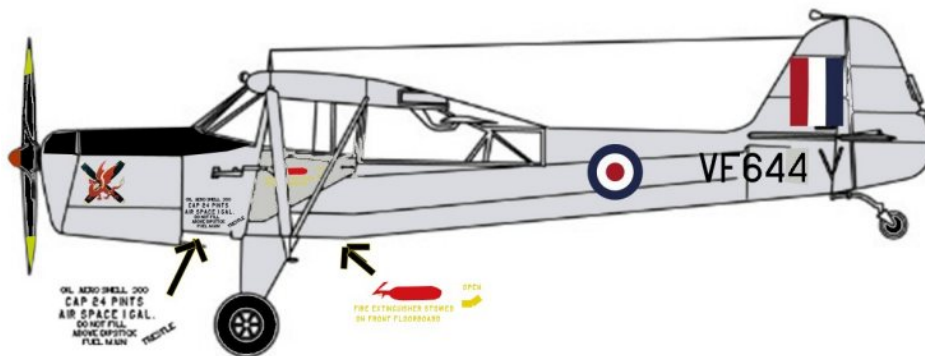
Symmetrical scheme port and starboard. Colours is overall white. Black anti-glare panel. Colourful strips on the fuselage (both sides).

Smaller roundels on both lower wing tips and larger roundels on both upper wing tips. (no registration on upper nor lower wing).

Propeller colours probable black with yellow tips. Small radio antenna sprite on central roof top.



HKG 4 at left and VF644 at right; lower schemes are shown smaller



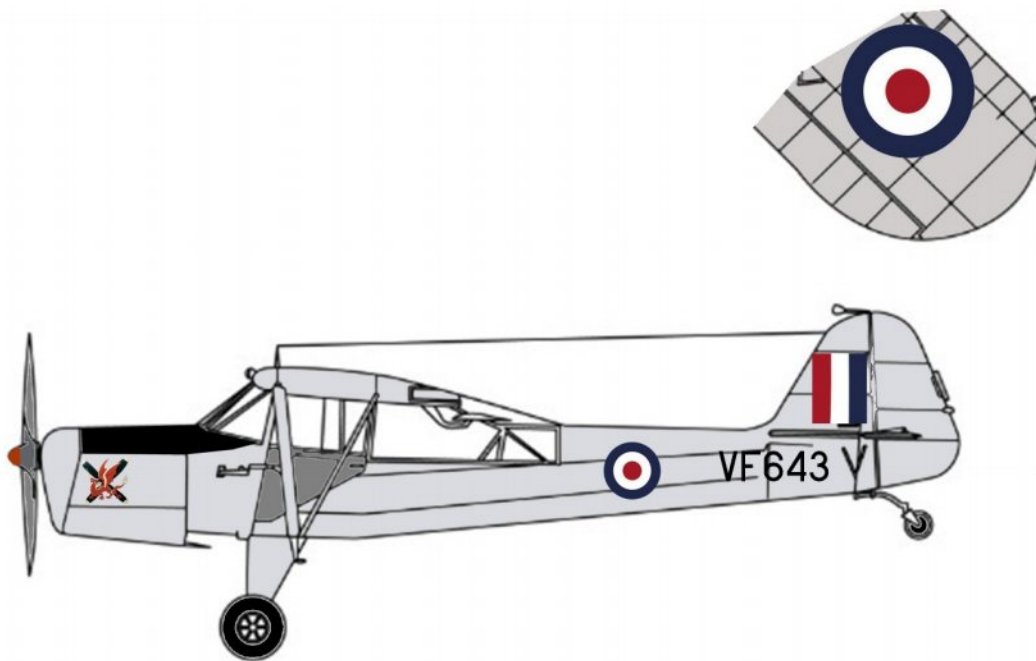
[2] Auster AOP 6, registration VF644 flew with RHKAAF from October 1949 to October 1966 so did not get HKG re-registration. It has the fixed wing flaps and main gear fabric covers. (this aircraft was later restored in New Zealand).

Symmetrical scheme port and starboard. Silver dope finish overall. Black anti-glare panel.

Special RHKAAF Winged Dragon badge on cowling.

Smaller roundels on both lower wing tips and larger roundels on both upper wing tips. Large VF644 codes on lower wing, compose VF6 + 44

Propeller blades black with yellow tips. Spinner tip is red. Note antenna wire.



[3] Auster AOP 6, registration VF643 flew with RHKAAF from October 1949 to February 1971. Got re-registered HKG 5 in Oct 1966.

It has the fixed wing flaps and main gear covers with fabric. Also flown without cabin door.

Symmetrical scheme port and starboard.
Silver dope finish overall. Black anti-glare panel is a not full length.

Special RHKAAF Winged Dragon badge on cowling.

Smaller roundels on both lower wing tips and larger roundels on both upper wing tips. Large VF643 codes on lower wing. (see drawing VF644).

Propeller blades black with yellow tips. Spinner tip is red. Note antenna wire.

GENERAL NOTES:

Some extra codes are also on the decals sheet.

RHKAAF Austers were also seen with yellow bands on both rear fuselage and wing and even dayglow orange stripes on lower and upper wing. Photos may show these.

On the decals sheet a few short orange stripes are provided on which the Winged Dragon was sometimes seen on the engine cowling. (both sides).
(not possible to decal print the longer stripes but can these be made with aftermarket colour decals sets).



[4] Auster AOP 9, coded XN410 was purchased from the Singapore army and flew with RHKAAF from January 1967 to August 1970. It had a downfacing camera for surveys. Re-registered HKG 9 October 1967.

AOP 9 XN407 with later registration HKG 6 can also be made with same scheme.

Symmetrical scheme port and starboard.
Silver dope finish overall. No anti-glare panel.
It was seen with dayglow orange stripe markings.

The AOP 9 is a quite different Auster AOP variant as compared to the AOP 6.

Only a vacuform Hallam Model is known in 1/72 scale

Please visit website: www.aircraftinplastic.com

