

## Beechcraft King Air 350 iER

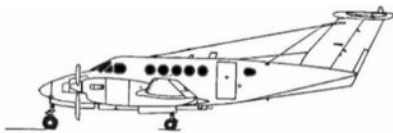
(designed for 1/72 scale A&A Model kit 7226/ 7243)

### Estonian Police and Border Guard

#### INTRODUCTION

The American manufacturer Beechcraft developed a line of small twin-turboprop transport aircraft in the 1960s. Known as King Air family it was produced in a series of different variants. The first King Air 90/ 100 series had a low mounted horizontal tailplane and small cabin. Deliveries started in 1964 and production continued in modernized versions until 2021. It was also used in military roles.

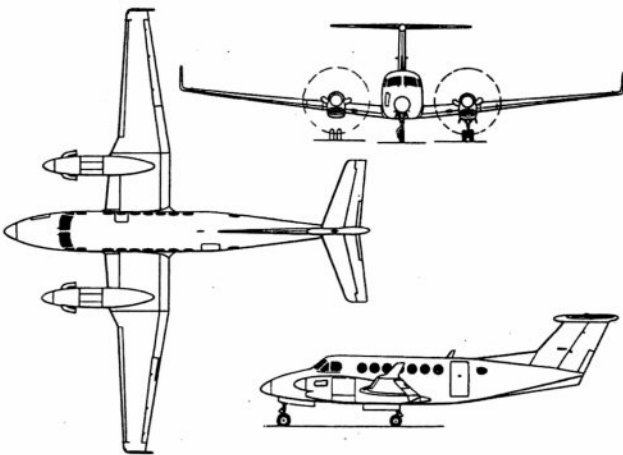
The T-tail was introduced and the 200 series got a 1,17m longer cabin and quite some modifications like Pratt and Whitney PT-6A-41 engines. Initially known as Super King Air, the "Super" designation was later dropped. First delivery was February 1974. The B200 from 1981 had some improvements like a cargo door and could carry 13 passengers. Engines varied with 3-bladed or 4-bladed propellers. The military versions are known as RU-21J or UC-12/ C-12/ T-54.



200/300 series

The 300 series got PT-6A-60 engines in different nacelles and increased take-off weight. Several military variants were developed also for different roles like reconnaissance, maritime patrol and navigator trainer.

The 350 series got a longer fuselage and cabin for additional seating, increased wing span fitted with winglets. Deliveries started in 1990. The B300 is the version with cargo door and the 350ER has a higher take-off weight and became available from 2007.



350 series

For the King Air numerous upgrades and modifications are available. Over 7,600 King Air aircraft were manufactured and the type is still in production after 50 years!

The simplest way to distinguish the "Super" King Air type is counting the circular windows: at the right starboard side the 200/300 has usually 5 circular windows and the longer 350 series 8 circular windows and wing with winglets.

#### MODEL KITS

In 1/72 scale a few model kits have appeared of the King Air. The best kits are from **A&A Models** from the Ukraine. Several kits were released including the longer "350" series (kit 7226/ 7243) with 4-bladed propellers. (these kit parts should be twisted a bit to feather ground position). Though these are short-run kits, with some effort excellent models can be made. For painting, windows masks are nicely provided.

Depending on the particular King Air model scheme, some small kit modifications may be needed on windows, extra radar fairings/ SLAR, antennas, wire antennas and other bits.

Note that the rear fuselage ventral fins/ strakes may vary in shape and length. Sometimes, just one fin is fitted.

#### 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 laserprinted 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 doubled!

*NOTES: for large decals that are to be set on a dark surface, a white under laying decal may be on the sheet*

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.

#### PAINTING AND DETAILS

The main colour is gloss white with blue areas.

As many markings are applied on a white surface, some decal bits may not have a white colour.

Leading edges of wing inboard the nacelles, outboard wing and horizontal tailplane is flat black. Long running wire antennas may vary per specific King Air.

The propeller spinners are usually chrome metal. Propeller blades are dark grey with often white-black-white tips. The insides' of propblades have black de-icing portions.

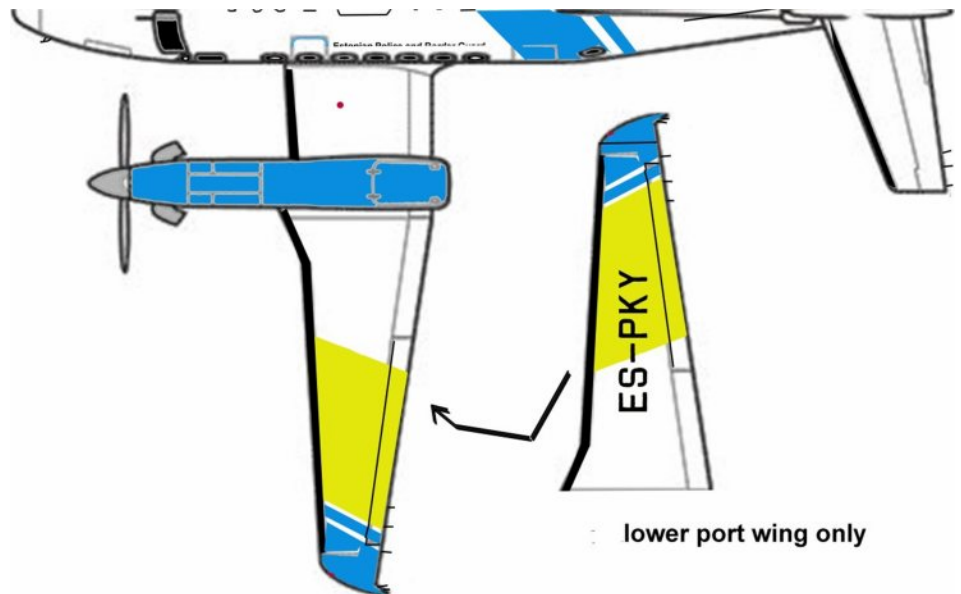
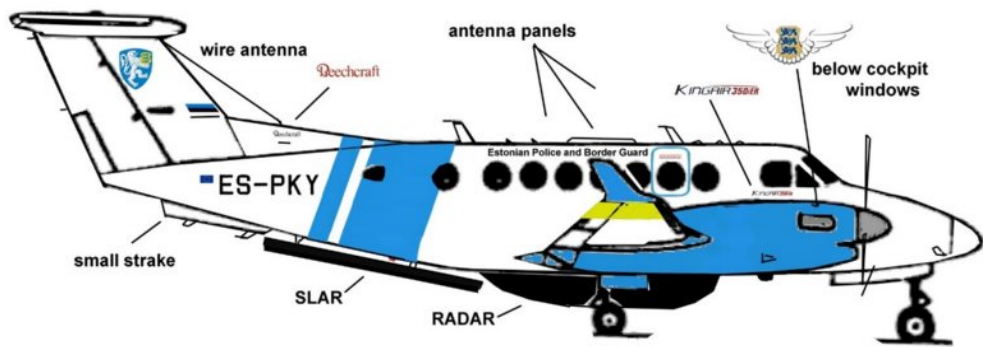
## Estonian Police and Border Guard

The Estonian Police and Border Guard operates a single Beech King Air 350 iER for patrol and surveillance duties. Owned by the Ministry of Interior of Estonia, it is registered ES-PKY.

It was fitted with Bromma MSS7000 systems suite and delivered in 2018. The interior has stations and seats for two system operators, two observer seats and in the cockpit a two pilot crew. Below the fuselage is a large fairing housing the search radar and sensors. Below the tail a SLAR radar is fitted in a long boom.

The main colour is gloss white. Nacelles, wing tip and winglets as well as a wrap-around fuselage band are medium blue (approx. FS15095 which is slightly darker than the Estonia flag blue).

The band decal can be used and trimmed to fit but it may be better to mask this area and paint this as the other areas. At the outboard wing sections are yellow panels (approx. FS13591) with a blue stripe, note there is a tiny white separation edge as well. The decals have spare blue stripes, trim to size or mask and paint.



The modeller needs to make the large black radar fairing below the fuselage from scrap; this can be done by glueing several layers of plastic card and sanding this in symmetrical shape (see sketch). The long SLAR radar boom can be made with plastic rod (approx 45x2x2 mm in 1/72) and it is installed with stubs to the tail.

The rear tail ventral fins/ strakes are less longer and wider than usual, because of the fairing and SLAR. These are not in A&A Models kit, so make these from plastic card.

At the fuselage are various spine antenna plates, smaller antennas and pitot tubes. A single wire antenna runs from the port side to the vertical tail.

There is a special "winged badge" located below the cockpit windows on both sides as are KingAir titles. The large wing registration is only situated below the port left wing. The rear port door outline decal can be set over the wrap-around band and note the two emergency hatches at the second window station.

Please visit website: [www.aircraftinplastic.com](http://www.aircraftinplastic.com)



# PHOTO ADDENDUM

## ESTONIAN POLICE AND BORDER GUARD

### Beechcraft King Air 350 iER "ES-PKY"

Photos kindly provided by Mark Attrill © Copyright 2024 Thank You Mark!



Note nose badge, chrome prop spinner and the radar fairing shape. The appearance of the blue depends a lot on the lighting and weather conditions.

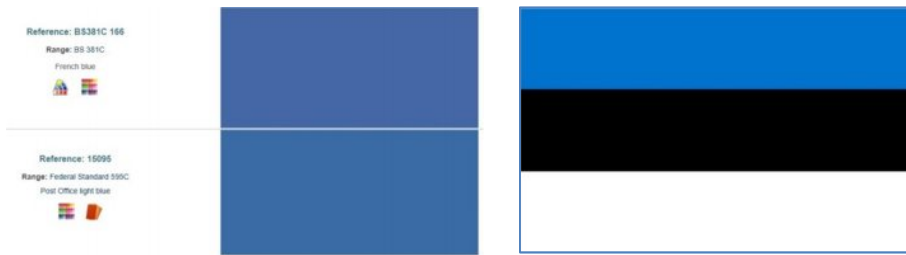


Badge and details at nose

The tail badge lion faces forward



Port rear fuselage view. Note the strake shape, small EU flag and Beechcraft logo | Starboard view



Large areas of airframe look approx. FS15095 which is slightly darker than the Estonia "Flag blue".  
BS 381C 166 French blue with a bit white mixed in may approximate this