

Beechcraft King Air 350 iER

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

Argentina Prefectura Naval (Coast 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.

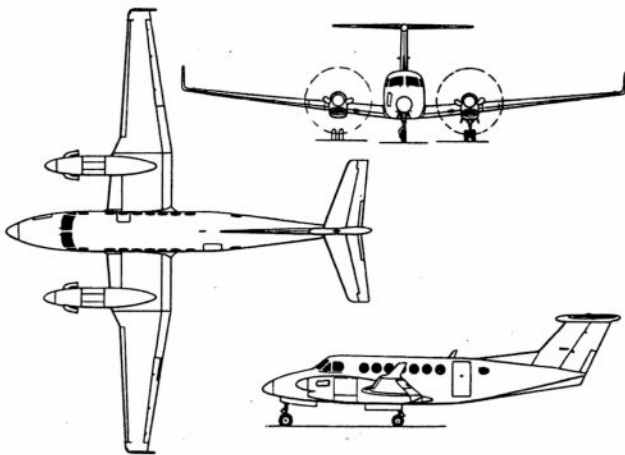
The T-tail was introduced and the 200 series got a 1,17m longer cabin and quite some modifications like Pratt and Whitney PT-6A-41 engines. Initially known as Super King Air, the "Super" designation was later dropped. First delivery was February 1974. The B200 from 1981 had some improvements like a cargo 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, window 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 may vary in shape and length.

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!

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

Please see the specific painting notes for a scheme.

The general colour is gloss white.

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.

Argentina Prefectura Naval (Coast Guard)

The Argentina Prefectura Naval (PNA) has the task to protect the country's rivers and maritime territory. It is subordinate to the Ministry of Security and operates in the civil jurisdiction (so not military) and is quite large for a Coast Guard. It operates not only vessels but also a few fixed wing aircraft and helicopters.

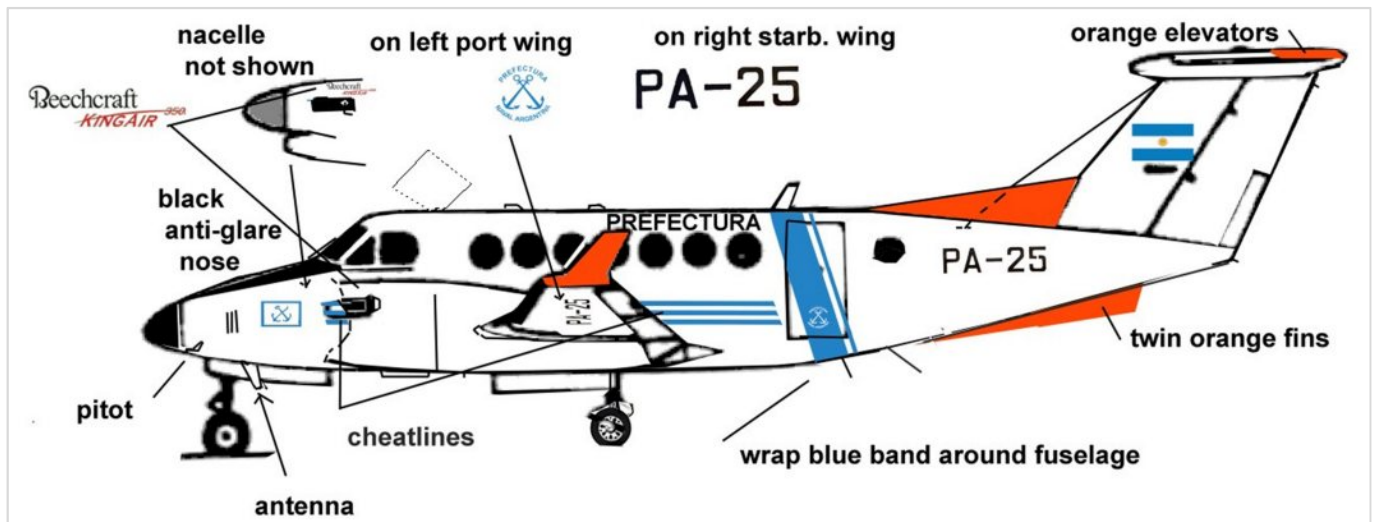
A pair of Beech King Air 350 is used for transport and surveillance duties. They have 4-bladed propellers. The main colour is gloss white with orange panels and orange winglets. The horizontal tailplane elevator is orange.

The blue cheatlines can be applied after the model has gotten the white paint; trim in length to end below the cockpit and in front of the cabin door.

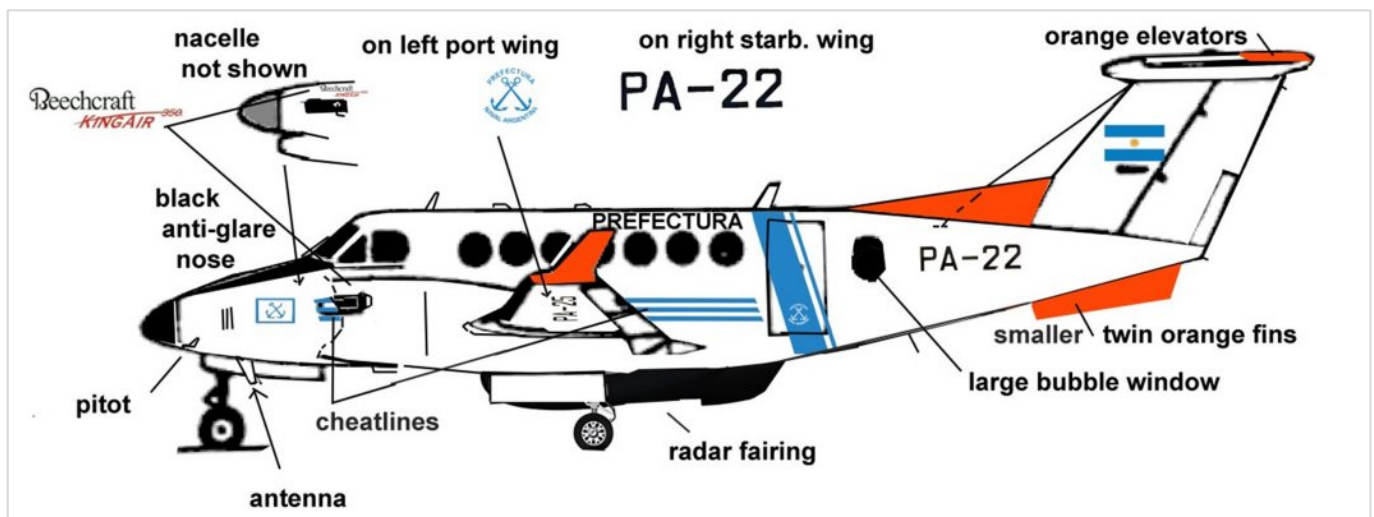
Registrations on the lower port outboard wing and upper starboard outboard wing. Naval badge on upper port outboard wing and lower starboard outboard wing.

Note black leading edges and other details as described on the previous page.

[1] Beech King Air 350, coded "PA-25" (MSN FL-792, ex N8042R). It was acquired July 2012. This plane have 2 ventral fins/strakes. A&A models kit supplies kit part #C10 and #C11.



[2] Beech King Air 350, coded "PA-22" (MSN FL-795) fitted with a search radar in a large belly fairing.



The radar fairing is not in the A&A Models kit, so the modeller needs to make this from scrap; it can be done by stapling composing various layers of plastic card, sanded in shape and puttied. Because of the radar fairing, the twin ventral tail fins are less long and wider than usual. These can be made by the modeller with plastic card.

On plane PA-22 the port rear observation windows are large bubbles, these have to made from scrap.

TIP: on the website AIRLINERS.NET it is easy to find photos of these aircraft.

Please visit website: www.aircraftinplastic.com

