

Beechcraft King Air 350 iER*(designed for 1/72 scale A&A Model kit 7224/ 7237)***Guatemala Air Force****INTRODUCTION**

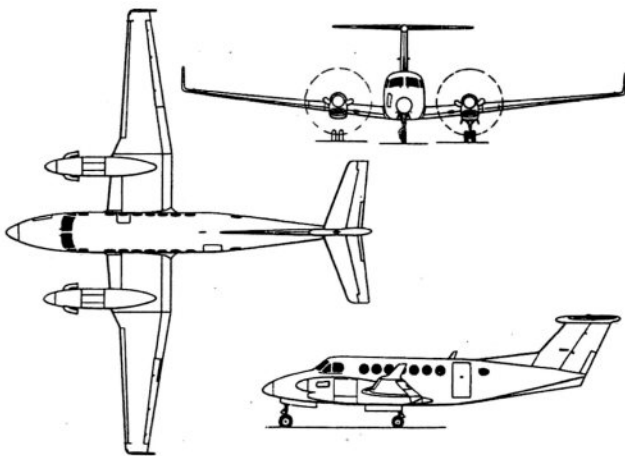
The American manufacturer Beechcraft developed a line of small twin-turboprop transport aircraft in the 1960s. Known as King Air family it was produced in a series of different variants. The first King Air 90/ 100 series had a low mounted horizontal tailplane and small cabin. Deliveries started in 1964 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 also vary 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 "200/ 300" series (kit 7224/ 7237) with a T-tail. Some have 3-bladed, others 4-bladed props. (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.

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 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 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 overall colour is white on the presented King Airs.

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

Some general notes: 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 proplades have black de-icing portions.

Guatemala Air Force

A few Beechcraft King Air 300 are flown by the Guatemala Air Force.

The overall colour is gloss white. These "300" series aircraft have a single large ventral fin at the tail. (A&A kit supplies part #C9).

There are several Guatemala schemes seen with different cheatlines styles.

The decals are on the sheet but the modeller may adapt these a bit with "reversed cheatlines colours" by cutting in between and setting them in the desired order on the model. Also note that the national "star" positions may vary.

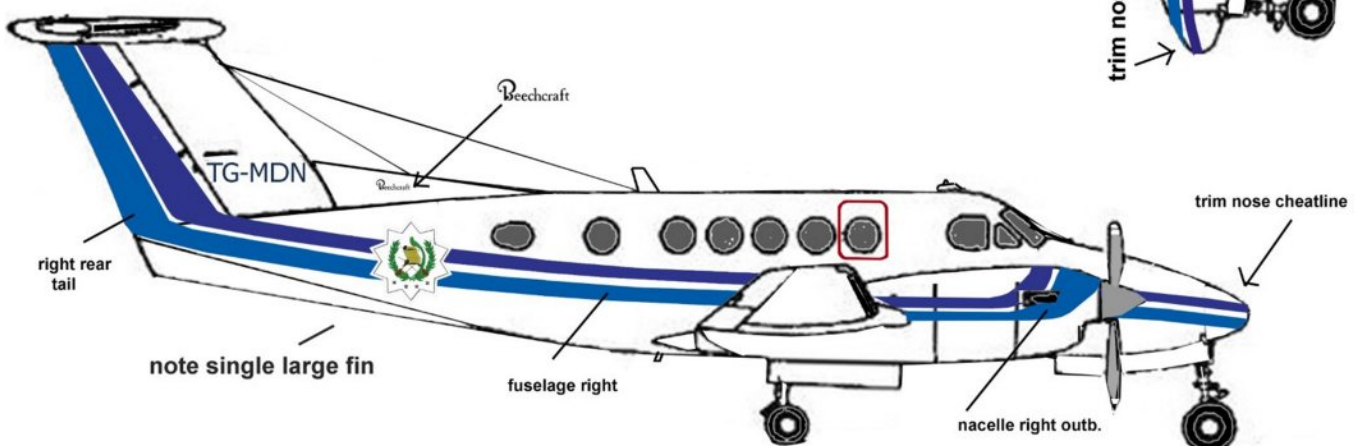
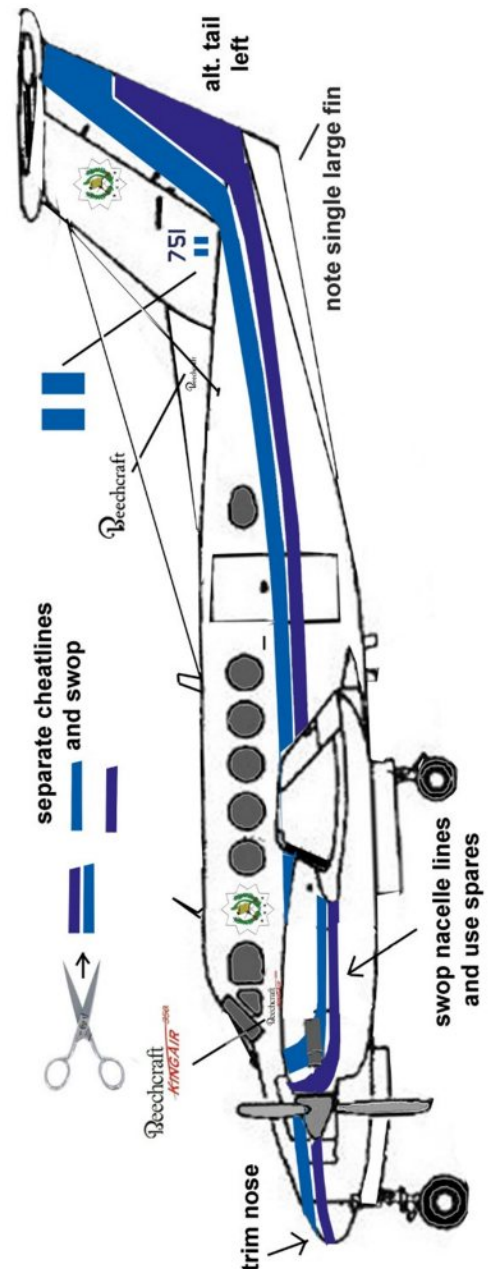
[1] Beech King Air 300, coded "751" (MSN FA-47, ex TP-CPG) was flown around 1995-2021, also by the Presidential unit. It appears to have black leading edges on the wing and at horizontal tailplane. The smaller "stars" are behind the cockpit windows and also on the tail. It has 4-bladed propellers.

Some of the cheatline decals need to be swapped with the darker blue ones being the lower. Also, the lengths may be trimmed. The tail colour panels are decals but may look better when painted.

On the nacelles are also cheatlines, probably inside and outside.

It is unclear if there are registrations on the wing, probably not.

[2] Beech King Air 300, registered TG-MDN (MSN FA-105, ex HK-3628) was also "752" and flown around 1995-2008. It appears to have metal leading edges on the wing and black leading edges at horizontal tailplane. The larger "star" is at the rear fuselage. The tail colour panels are decals but may look better when painted. It has 4-bladed propellers.



On the website AIRLINERS.NET it is easy to find photos of these aircraft. Search the "code/ registration"

Please visit website: www.aircraftinplastic.com

