



Feature Article

Revell

Hawker Hunter FGA.9 Paul A. Build

1:32 scale

(June 2025)

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The Plan...

The Hawker Hunter is a much-loved classic aircraft and well-featured in SMN with some excellent build projects in varying scales. These projects cover the construction element in excellent detail so my project will join at the priming stage and focus on the painting and finishing work.

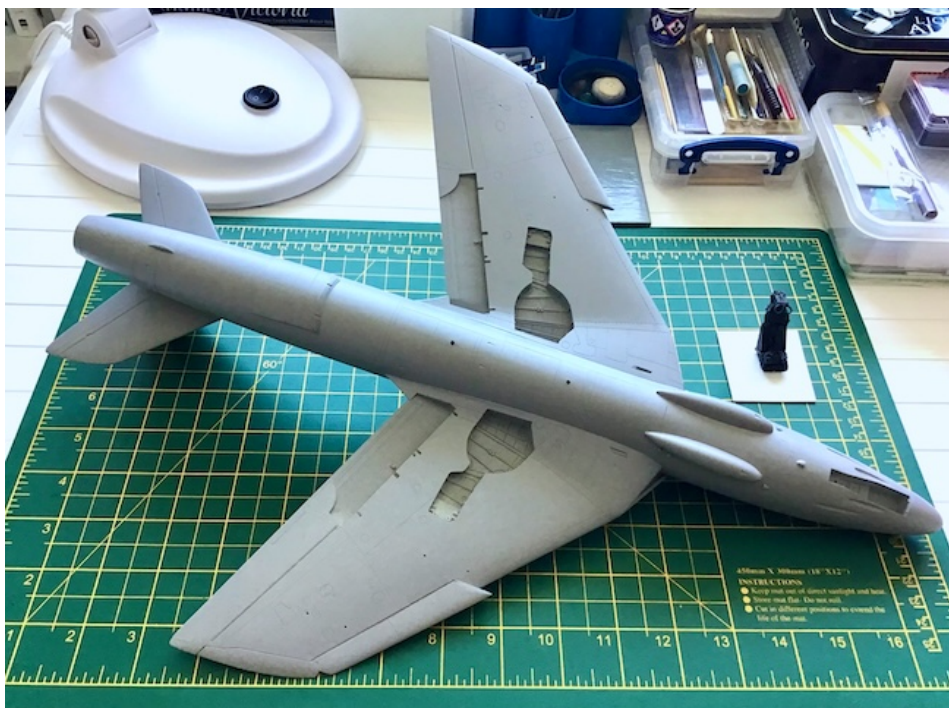
I'll just add that I enjoyed every aspect of the construction process with this great kit and compliment Revell on the the level and quality of its surface-detail and general fit of parts.

Here we go...



The Revell kit is an impressive size in 1:32 scale. I found the fit of parts and general ease of construction made for a very speedy process to reach this stage with only a small amount of filling-work required.

The basic main airframe has received a coat of Mr Surfacer 1200 Grey Primer applied straight from the rattle can and gives a very smooth and hard finish.



The underside showing some good detail for a kit released back in 1986.



Mr Hobby Aqueous Acrylic RAF Dark Sea Grey diluted 50:50 with Levelling Thinners was applied for some pre-shading and initial tonal-variation overall.



I decided to add the main pitot at this stage. The plastic kit part was replaced by a suitable-sized sewing needle.

The underside surfaces were painted with Mr Hobby Aqueous Acrylic RAF Light Aircraft Grey diluted as

before and randomly applied for tonal variation.
The masking was then applied in readiness for the main camouflage colours being RAF Dark Sea Grey and Dark Green.





With the Dark Sea Grey areas masked for sharp-edge demarcation the Dark Green has been applied in a similar random manner to create some tonal variation. I applied the Mr Hobby Aqueous Acrylic Dark Green followed by Tamiya acrylic Dark Green. The latter has a slightly lighter and more olive tone and helps with the tonal effect. The Levelling Thinner-to-paint ratio is 60:40 respectively and sprayed at about 15psi.



Some lovely surface details on this kit released back in the late 80's. For masking the demarcation itself, I used very thin strips of Tamiya Masking Tape.





The basic camouflage application is now complete and shows the Mr Hobby Aqueous Acrylic Light Aircraft Grey on the underside surfaces with some tonal variation.



With the main camouflage colours now applied the airframe has received a protective coat of Mr Superclear Gloss Acrylic/Lacquer Varnish. As always this was applied straight from the rattle can and very quickly dries to give a smooth and solid surface.



Decal time...

The kit decals have survived a long period since manufacture but a printing issue became immediately apparent as seen here on the roundels with the off-set white border outline. This was also

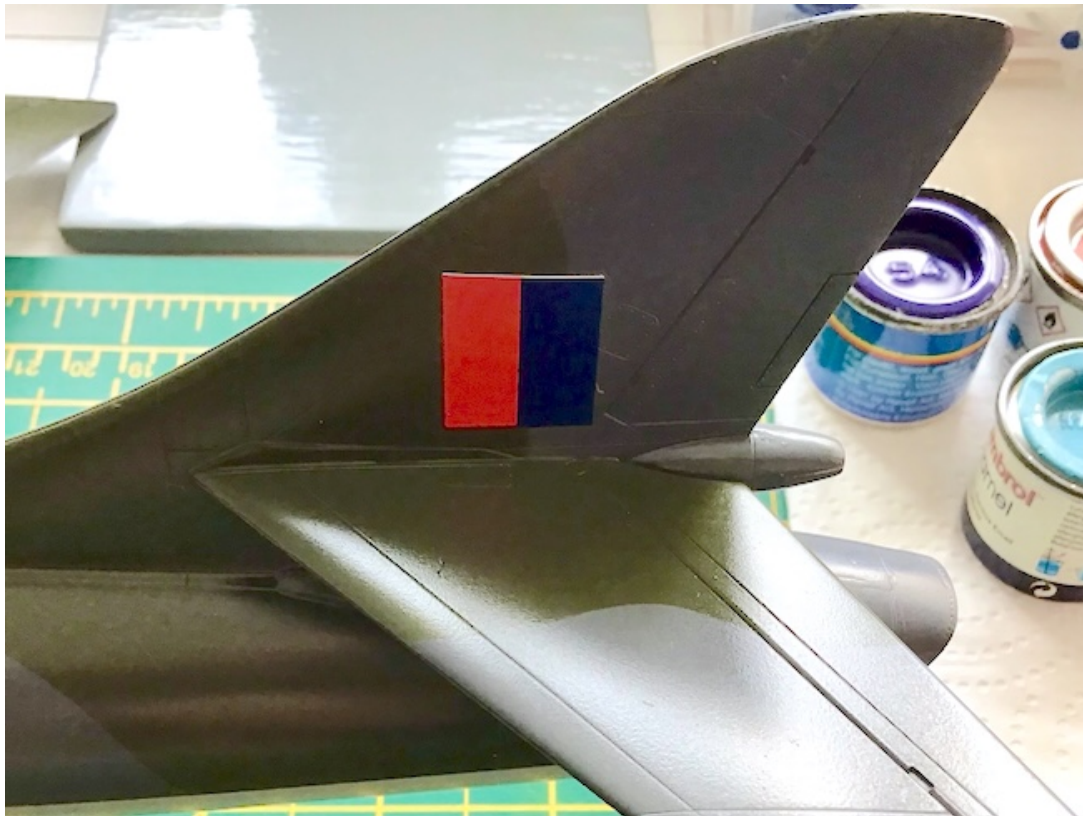
the case with the fin flashes. The problem didn't show when the decals were on the backing-sheet. So what's my best way forward?

Apart from the other kit options which I assume would have the same problem I had no replacement decals to choose from. On the plus side the decals had perfect colour density and demarcation and settled perfectly using Micro Sol only. I decided to use some cosmetic artistry and paint out the white outlines.

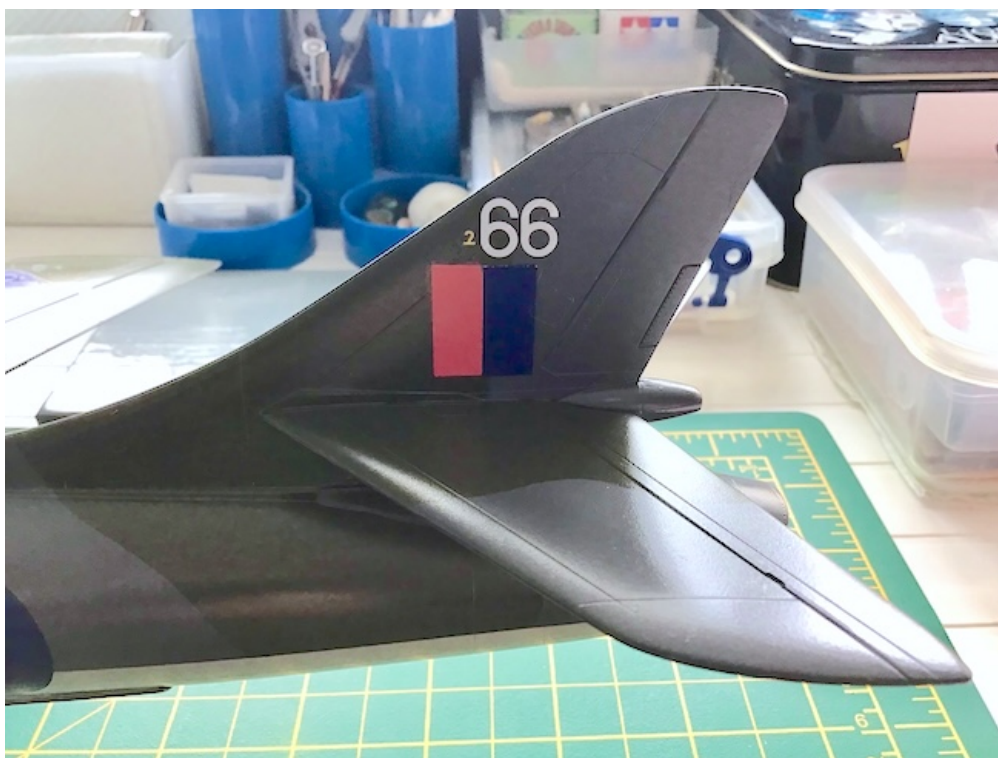
The decals were printed by Revell and fortunately I had Revell gloss enamels 54 Blue and 34 Red in stock and colour-matched the decals perfectly. I simply thinned each colour slightly and used a very fine brush to eradicate the problem.



When the further detail-painting and weathering stages are completed these results will be good enough for me. The same procedure followed on the fin flashes, fuselage and underside roundels.

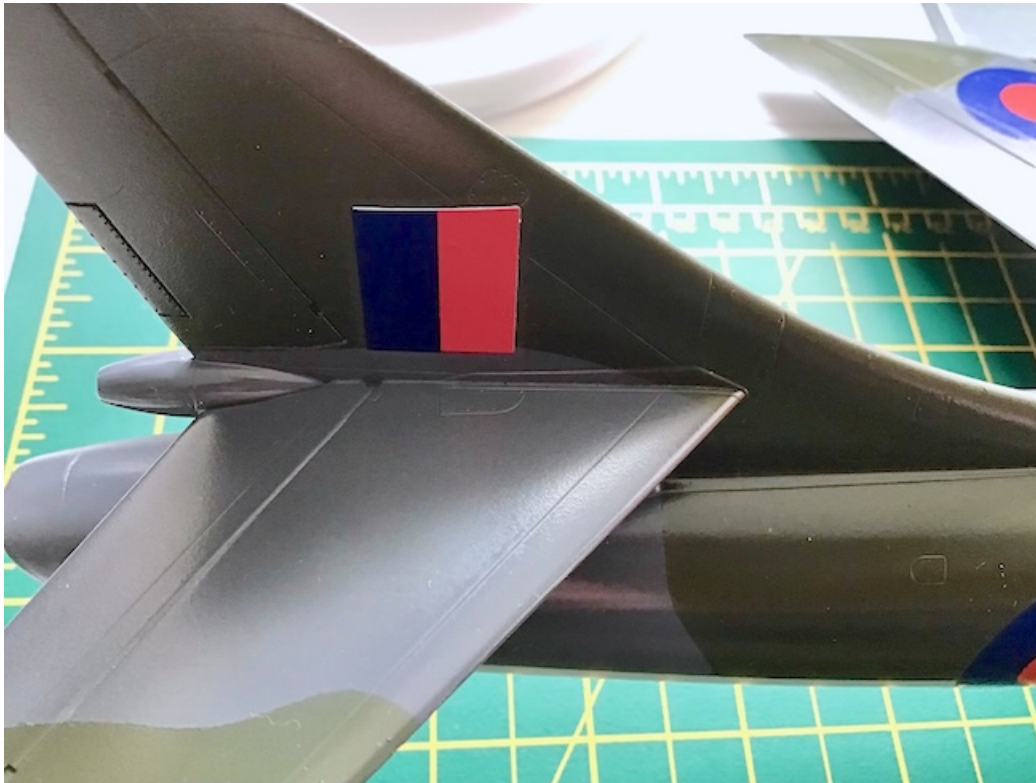


(Photo: Before)



(Photo: and after)

The same process was then repeated on the starboard side.



The build project is now back on track!



Work is underway on the smaller components and also the detail-painting.

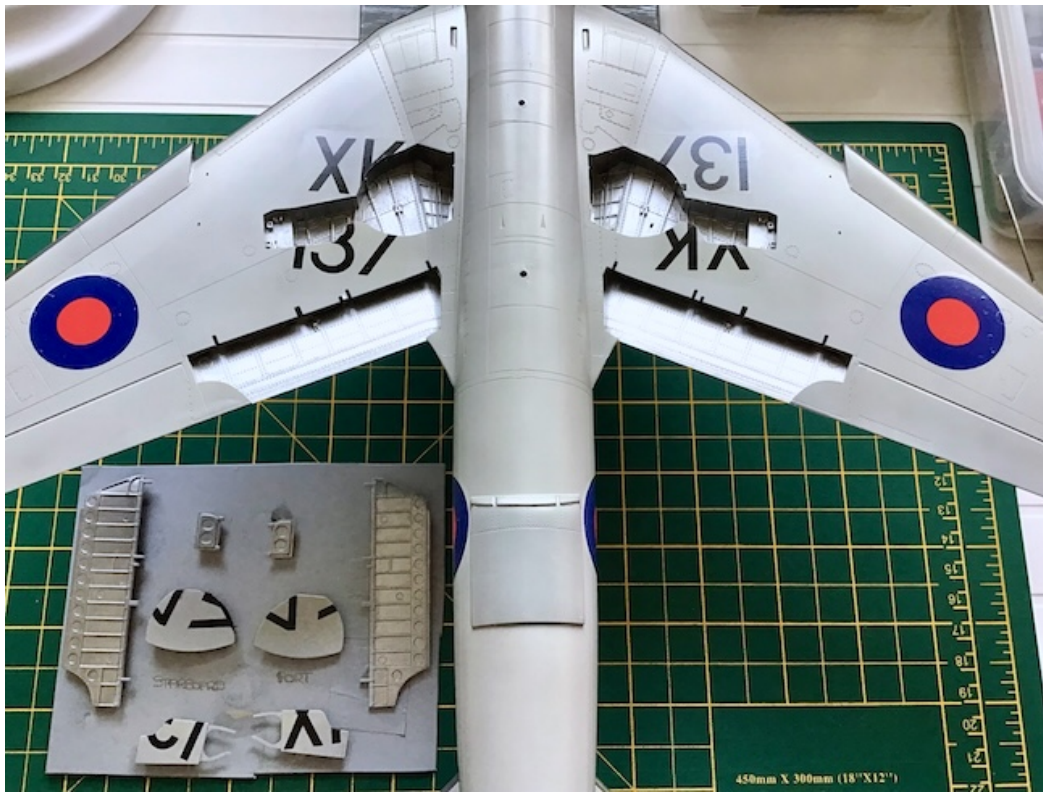


Taking shape...



The decals for the underwing serials are single-piece items. To work with these, I temporarily held the separate undercarriage doors in place on beds of White-Tack and as flush to the wing surfaces as

possible. Two applications of Micro Sol ensured the decals adhered and conformed accordingly.

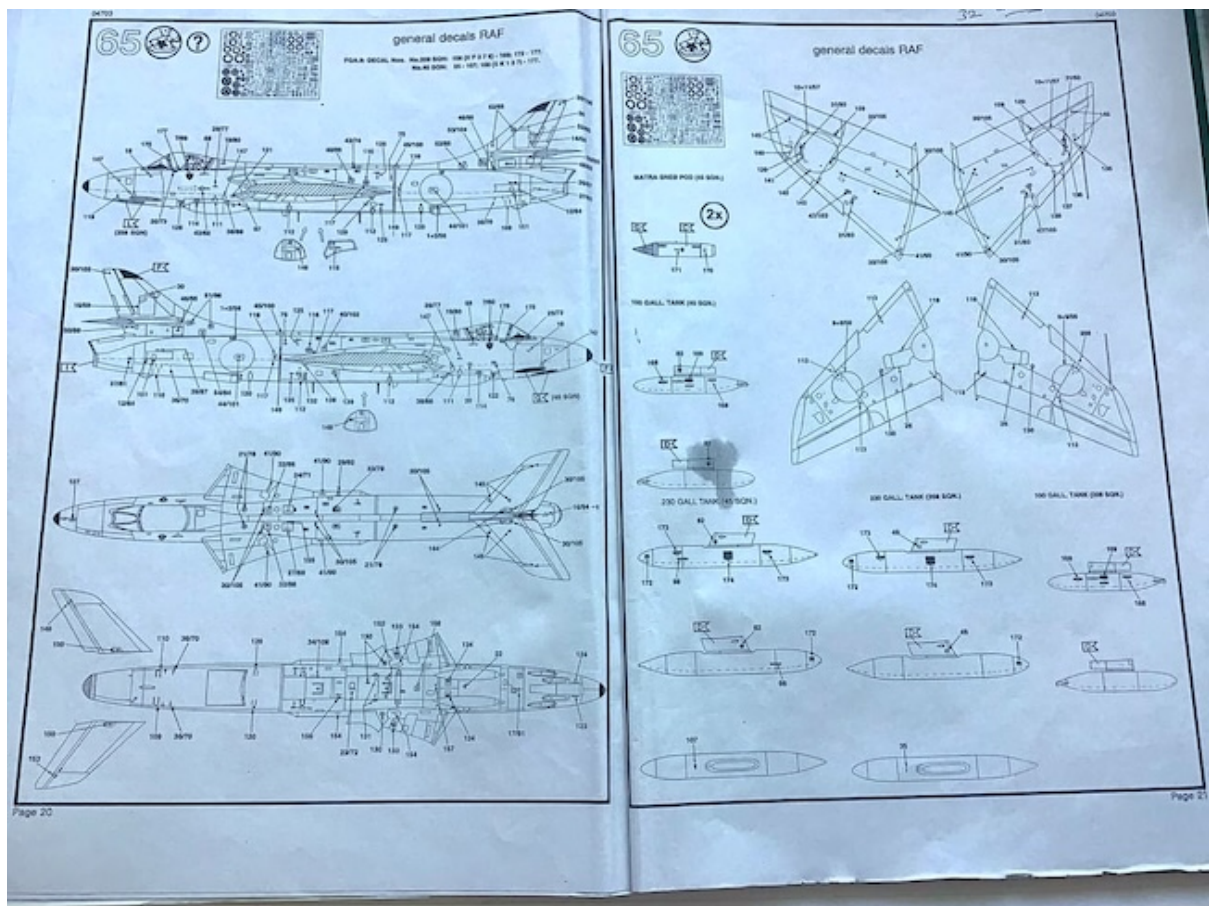


A scalpel blade was used to carefully cut and separate the decals.



The inner surfaces of the wheel bays and flaps have received two brush-applied coats of Vallejo Acrylic Metal Color Duraluminium.

Having studied Geoff's excellent reviews and use of this product in SMN I opted to use this product and method the results of which I'm delighted with. The finish is solid and void of brush marks or streaks and saves masking and involving the airbrush which I don't think would give a better result.



The Phantom isn't the only aircraft to wear a plethora of stencilling! Now for a game of patience.



The decaling stage is now completed with all stencil-data added. A time-consuming task because of the quantity involved but worth it particularly in this scale. The decals themselves are kit-issue as previously mentioned along with the printing alignment issue but performed excellently considering their age (approximately 25 years old). Only Micro Sol was used in their application.

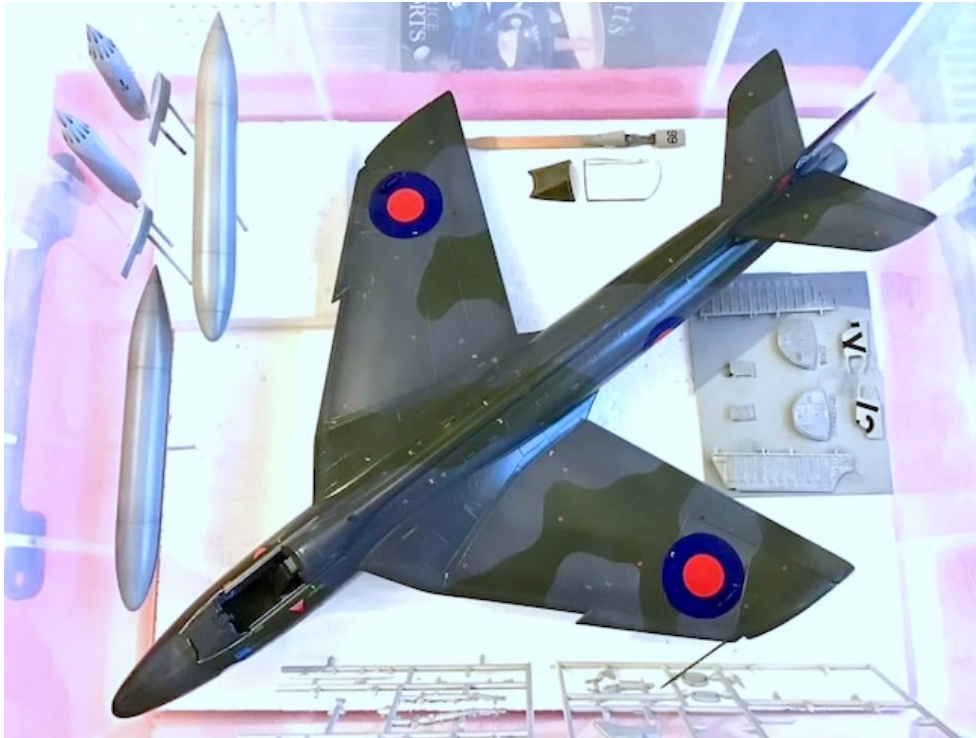


The Main Airframe and all Sub-Assemblies have received a protective coat of Mr Superclear Clear Gloss Acrylic Lacquer Varnish and applied straight from the rattle can.



I highly recommend the Mr Superclear product. Used from the rattle can it's quick to apply and dries very quickly to give a very smooth and 'bullet-proof' finish therefore perfect for the detail-painting and weathering stages now to follow.

The larger wing tanks will be added together with the rocket pods.



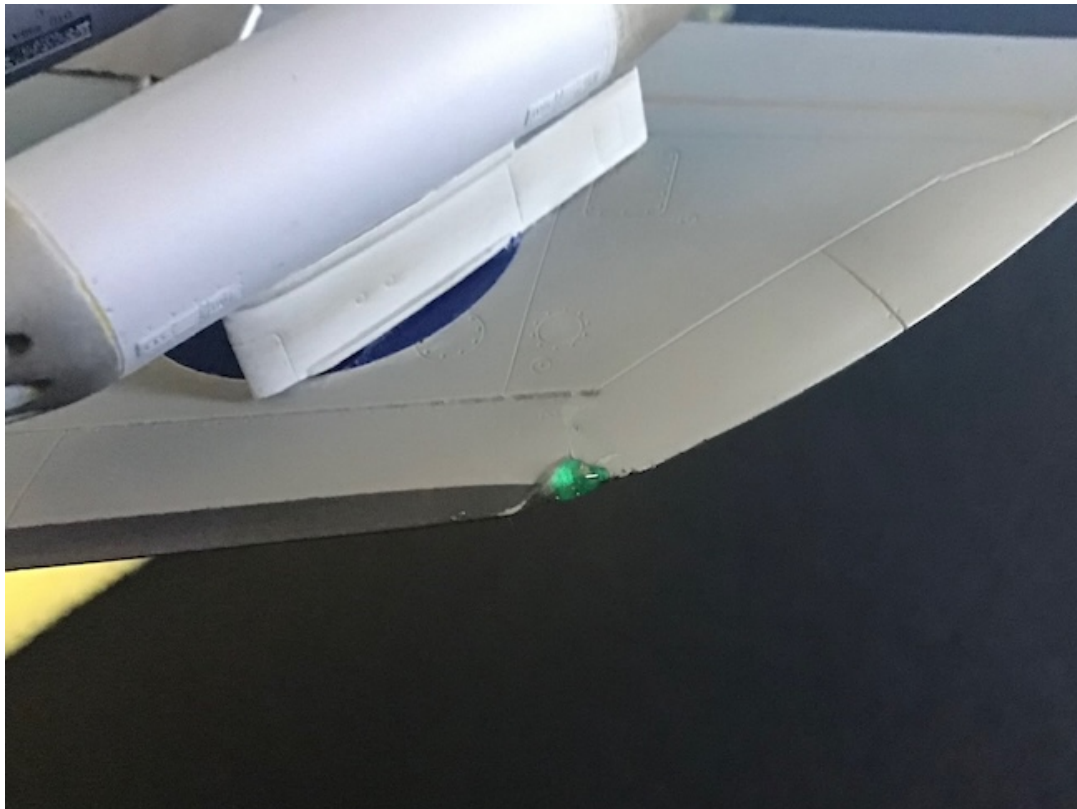
Stored and awaiting the next stages



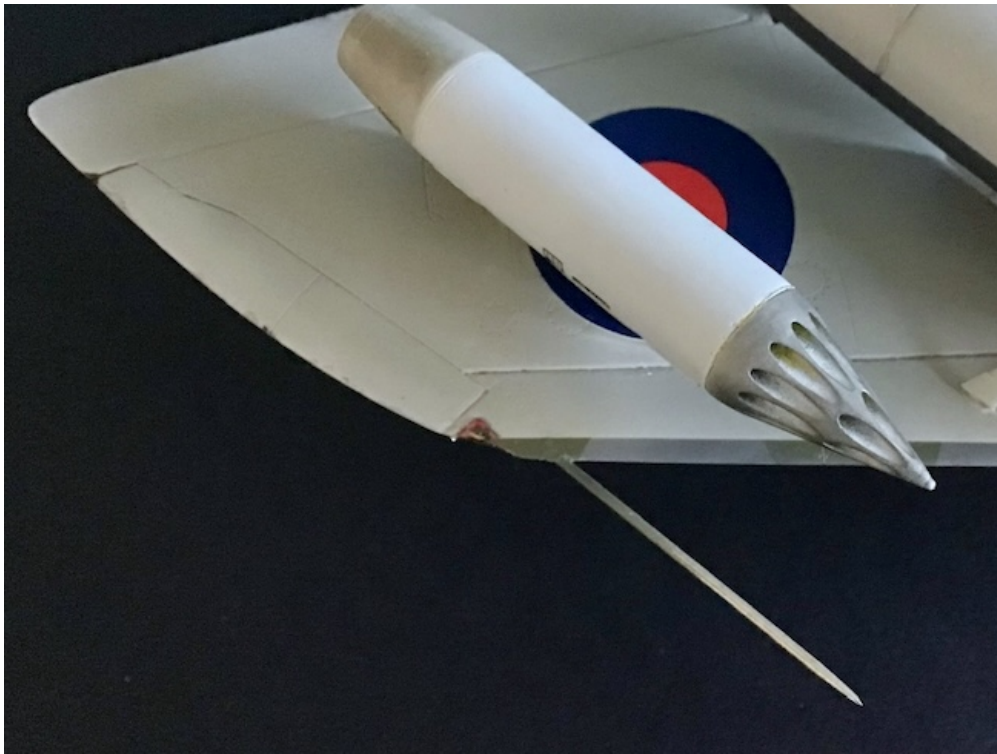
Which begin with painting the homemade intake covers. For small items like these I brush-apply either Humbrol or Revell enamels. Made from plasticard sheet, I enjoy adding covers as an extra interest and splash of colour. They're easy to make and I'll add wire-handles to them in due course.



The plastic mounting pins on the pylons were almost non-existent so they were removed and replaced with pieces of brass rod for proper strength.



Time for the smaller details to be added. The navigation lights were formed with two-part epoxy resin tinted respectively for the starboard and port sides with Tamiya Clear Green and Red acrylics.



The final components are now added with flaps, underwing tanks and rocket pods fully-fixed in position.

Conclusion...

A classic kit of the iconic Hunter and one I thoroughly enjoyed building. Despite its age, the level of detail is very good indeed. The construction aspect was straightforward with the main cosmetic work being required at the main fuselage/nose section joint. Nothing major or challenging at all.

The only aftermarket item used was a resin ejection seat. The decals had an offset printing issue as initially mentioned but I overcame that with some careful fine brushwork. It was a case of make do and mend because I certainly wasn't aware of any aftermarket decals for this subject and scale. The decals responded excellently with only Micro Sol being used and had stood the test of many years time very well.

Mr Hobby Aqueous Acrylics were used for the camouflage colours and diluted 50:50 with Levelling Thinners. Vallejo Acrylic Metals were used where required and gave an excellent finish when applied straight from the bottle. Mr. Superclear Gloss and Matt Varnishes were used and applied straight from the rattle can.

A mixture of pastels and artist's pencils were used for the final weathering. I kept this to a minimum because I understand that 45 Squadron kept their aircraft commendably clean.

Thank you for viewing.

Best Wishes Paul A.













