



Rocky Mountain Model Club August 2002

Back to the Basics. Editorial

Over the next several months, some changes are going to be made to the meetings. No they are not going to be catastrophic! Rather they are hoped to re-generate an interest in learning (and sharing) new skills as they relate to model building.

Over the next couple meetings some volunteers are going to put on demo sessions. The first couple will start off from cracking open a kit. Topics like basic construction, detail painting, airbrushing, decal application, and weathering are planned. If you wish to show off your talents – sign up for demo session. It's hoped that not only aircraft tips will be demonstrated. This month Paul Holmes will be showing off his pre-shading techniques

The theme meetings will also be brought back online. Granted we all don't build / finish at the same pace, please try to bring out your current projects. We all can agree that the judging skills need to be improved before the next contest. The theme meets are when we can get some basic training done.

The Exec committee has discussed the monthly raffles and has decided to make a few changes. Contribution of kits is waning, as are the ticket sale revenues. The raffle is going to be held on a quarterly basis, and it is hoped that some "newer" and current kits can be added to the pile. Hobby shops are going to be approached to help with our needs.

New club info handouts are being designed for distribution to all the local shops. An effort to get our name out there is underway. As new people come out to the club we need to have events going on that will make them stay, join and participate. Lets make them feel welcome and help them learn.

The Saskatoon Air Show is right around the corner, Aug 17-18. If you interested in going, a car pool is being organized. Details will be presented at the meeting.

My email address with cadvision has died. I have a new Hotmail account, but as you may be aware it does not allow big files to be sent. Send all info to my new one at S_MCTAVISH@HOTMAIL.COM

IN THIS ISSUE

**20 YEARS OF CF-18 S
NEW DECAL FROM
LEADING EDGE**

Www.RockyMountainModelClub.com



Leading Edge Decals: 20th Anniversary Hornet

By Scott McTavish

Every year we are treated to a new air show color bird from the 410 Squadron. As they get more and more extravagant, us modelers keep looking forward to the next one. Thankfully we have a decal guy that's just as talented reproducing the wild schemes in to decals. This year's aircraft is by no means an exception!

Since it flew into Calgary for the official photo op, it has drawn much attention. Bright colors and striping made this Hornet look like its namesake "Bug." From the outset I knew that color matching was going to be a bit of fun.

Unlike Leading Edges other F-18 sheets, this one is pretty much geared for the Hasegawa kit. The decals do fit the Monogram kit, but some details are lost on the tails. Rick Chin has his example on display. The modeler will have to do a lot of masking and sequential painting before the decals can be placed. I used the following order on my model: Black, Light Ghost Grey, Medium Grey, Gunship Grey, Yellow, Orange, and White. This aircraft also has a very faint definition of a walkway. I masked this off and added a touch of gunship into the paint cup while I was painting the topside grey. Through some experimentation, (read that as buying several paints) I found that Humbrol's Gloss Yellow and Testor's small bottle Orange 1127 were almost exact matches to the decal sample patches.

These decals respond very well to Mr. MarkSoftner from Gunze. I did resort to using PolyS Decal Softener as well. This was required on the tails, wings and Squadron Patches / Text. Use a sharp blade to score the decal in some areas that can be touched up with paint in order to help get the decal to settle into the details.





Now for the pointers:

In order to get the curve right on the nose, I highly recommend using the black decal as a mask. Do not use decal set and the decal will peel off after masking is removed. Do not forget to trim away the clear edges!

The white fading on the forward part of the wing is represented in decal form. I found the computerized fading a bit unrealistic as compared to photos of the real bird. I decided to paint the fading instead. Although the paint and decal placement guides do not show the fading area, use the color cover for the correct fading zones. On the real a/c one side is a little larger than the other. Use the included reference sites below to determine this. Use the decal as a pattern to get the right curvature.

The black stripes on the rear fuselage do not cover the flap/fuselage triangle. How's that for a description? The first stripe has a slight curve that will match up with the underside of this part. Line up the notch on the underside with the Arrestor hook box. The triangle will have to be painted black afterwards.

The Wing decals have numerous openings in the clear film. This can lead to some wrinkling and tearing during placement if you are not careful. If you have dropped the flaps on your kit, be prepared for some more fun. Besides the main wing decal, spares are given for the flap/aileron and cover plate. I masked all these parts separately using the paint guides. Place the large decal onto the model. Once it has started to set in place, use a sharp blade and slice the decal at the rear of the wing. Use this section on the aileron, and trim away the excess. The other spare decal is then used on the flap, trimming away the excess. I put the flap into place to ensure the decals would line up. After putting on all the decals, I was about to put the small covers into place. They did not line up at all and required a repaint and new decals. I glued them in place then put the decal on for the second attempt.

The instruction sheet mislabels a few decals on the rear left side. Compare the decals with the picture to ensure proper placement. The rest of the decals are straightforward in their placement. Thankfully this a/c does not have all the "footprints" on it.



Photo by Mike Reyno - Skytech Images - <http://www.skytechimages.com>



If you are posing the canopy open, the rail does have a thin outline of red. This is visible on one of the reference pages. Also visible in some of the shots is that the a/c started out with the Spot light and then it was covered over.

After the decals are all on and remaining parts glued in place, its time for the final finish. This aircraft has faded a little bit with its use. The "color" areas are semi gloss, while the original paintjob areas are more towards flat. I used the PolyS Satin and Flat to finish mine off. Weathering can be left as fairly minimal. Some streaking on the upper wings, and lower fuse are visible in some photos of this bird.

I have spent about 1.5 months of occasional work on this kit. I enjoyed it very much and am happy with the results. This one definitely stands out in my collection. Thanks to Leading Edge for a review sample of this sheet.

Websites with some excellent detail shots are:

Www.Canadianaviation.com/features/f18/default.asp

Aerophoto.crosswinds.net/f1813.htm

Www.boeing.com/news/releases/2002/q2/nr_20522m.htm

Www.lemdecal.com

Www.aircraftresourcecenter.com

Photos used of the 1:1 bird are by Bill Gilson and Mike Reyno



NEWS....!

**Saskatoon Canada Remembers Airshow
August 17 & 18**

**Nanton Air Museum - Salute to the BCATP
August 24**

**Victoria Scale Modellers Island Open
September 21**

**Ogden Utah The Gathering
September 27 & 28**

**Regina Scale Modellers Model Expo
September 28 & 29**

**Lethbridge Plastic Modellers Club Contest
October 5**

**Rocky Mountain Model Club 9th Contest
May 10, 2003**