



## Full Review

Airfix

Handley Page Victor B Mk.2 BS

1:72 scale

by

Dave Coward

(November 2017)

Copyright [www.scalemodellingnow.com](http://www.scalemodellingnow.com) 2017





### A note from Geoff...

It's great to be able to bring you our second full build review of this important release from Airfix. Dave has finished his project and above is a photo to show you how it turned out - very well I think as it happens... Nice work Dave!

### Aftermarket parts:

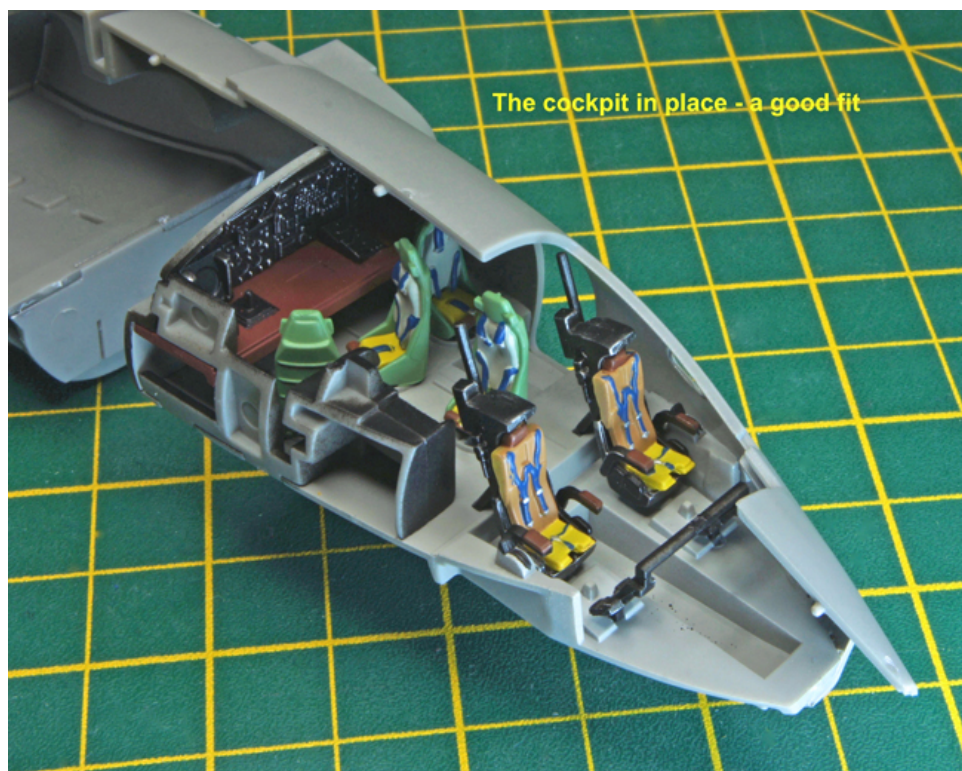
- Eduard masks
- Euro Decals (Fantasy Printshop) ED-72100 RAF Handley Page Victors

### Background...

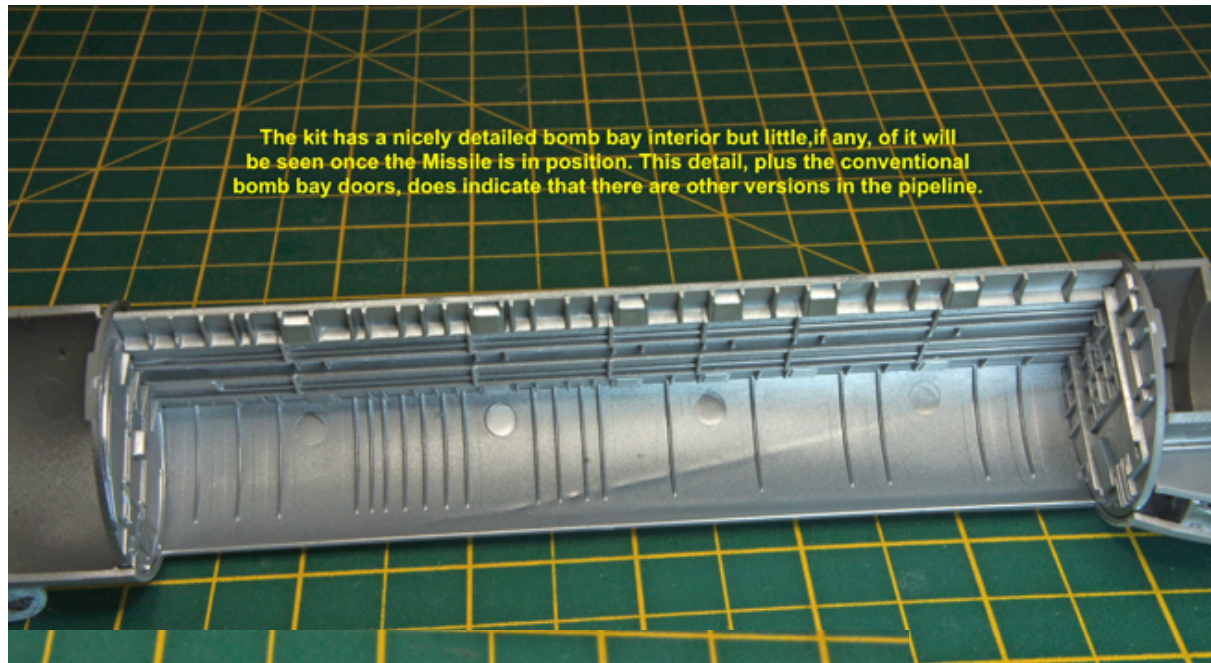
I originally planned this as a quick build alongside [James V's build in Aircraft-Finished Now-Airfix](#) but it ended up taking a bit longer than I planned as it was quite a big project in the end. I won't go into the back ground behind the actual aircraft here as plenty can be found on the net but I'll stick to my thoughts on how the kit goes together. As is my usual style I'll let the pictures along with the attached remarks do most of the talking rather than paragraphs of words so let's get on with the build.

### Construction...

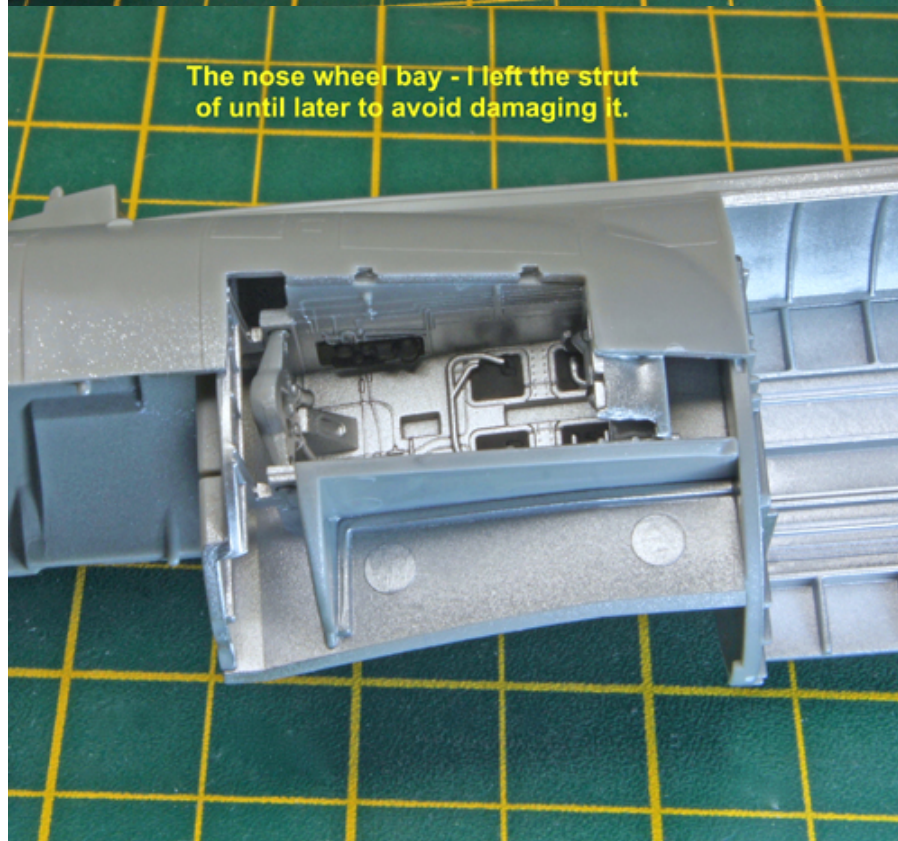
The kit starts with the internals and the first part of this is the cockpit. This is nicely detailed with decals for the pilots' instrument panels and raised relief for the rear crew instruments which can be picked out using dry brushing. The seats have moulded on seat belts which is fine in this scale. What I would say is don't spend that much time going to town detailing this area as very little can be seen through the canopy glazing or the open door if you choose that option. Eduard do produce a very nice colour PE set for the interior but I honestly think it would be a waste of money - my tip, just stick to the kit detail.



The rest of the interior consists of a bomb bay, the nose wheel bay and the airbrake interior. The bomb bay has some nice surface detail but none of this will be seen once the Blue Steel Missile is in position. The kit does include standard bomb bay doors which aren't mentioned in the instructions; is this an indication of a future release or just Airfix giving you the option of a standard bomber version? I didn't add the nose wheel strut at this early stage of construction as I knew I would break it! in James's build he has extended the tail airbrakes but I wanted to keep the sleek lines of the airframe so I chose the closed option - I'm glad to report that the doors fit perfectly and there is no requirement for any filler.

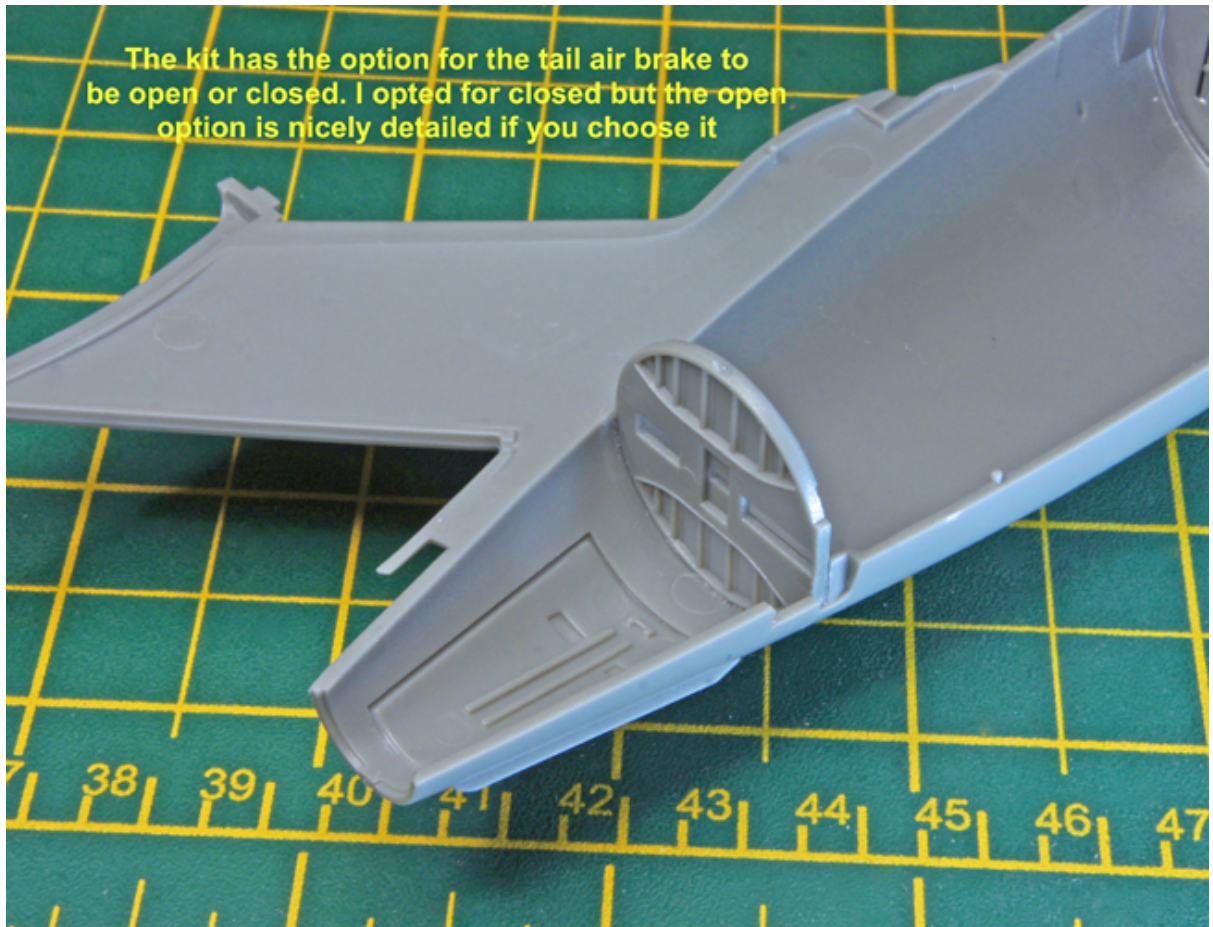


The kit has a nicely detailed bomb bay interior but little, if any, of it will be seen once the Missile is in position. This detail, plus the conventional bomb bay doors, does indicate that there are other versions in the pipeline.



The nose wheel bay - I left the strut of until later to avoid damaging it.

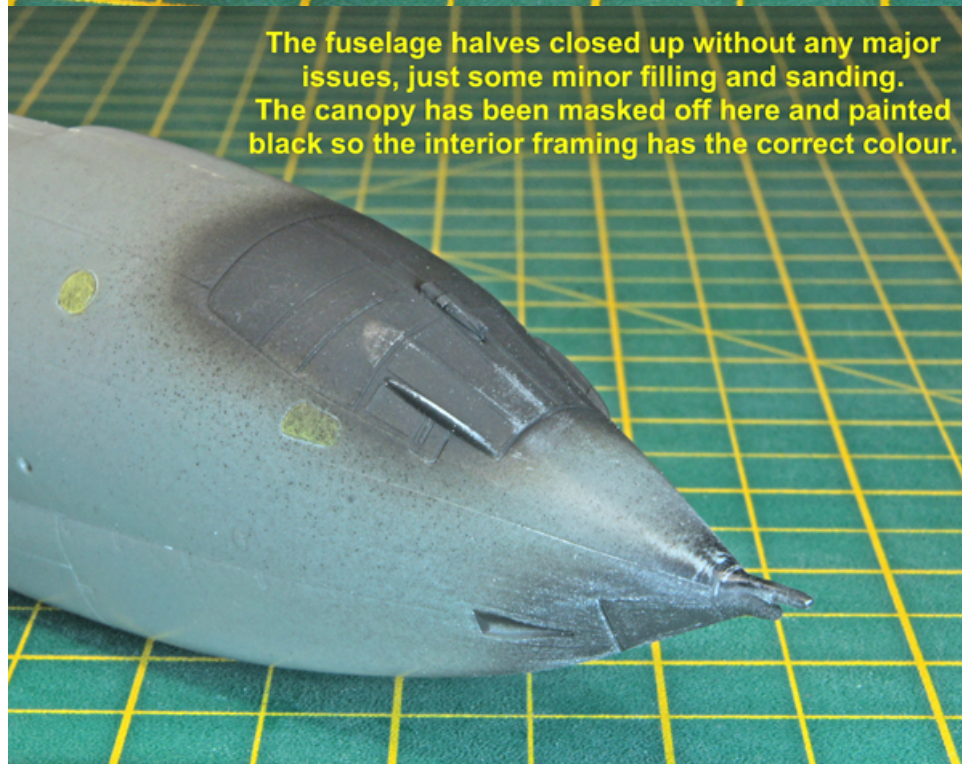
The kit has the option for the tail air brake to be open or closed. I opted for closed but the open option is nicely detailed if you choose it

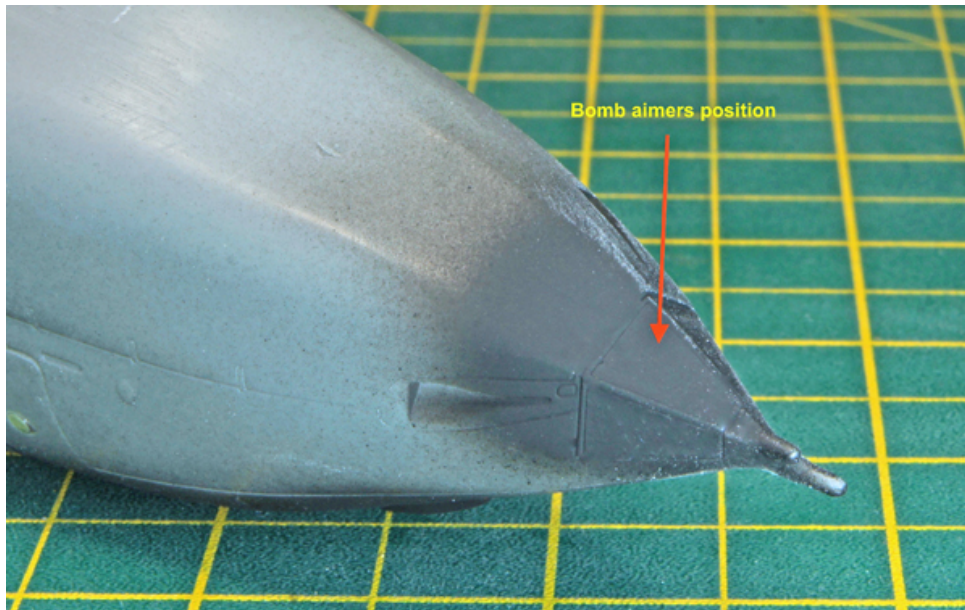


The closed fit of the airbrake doors is very good with no requirement for filler.

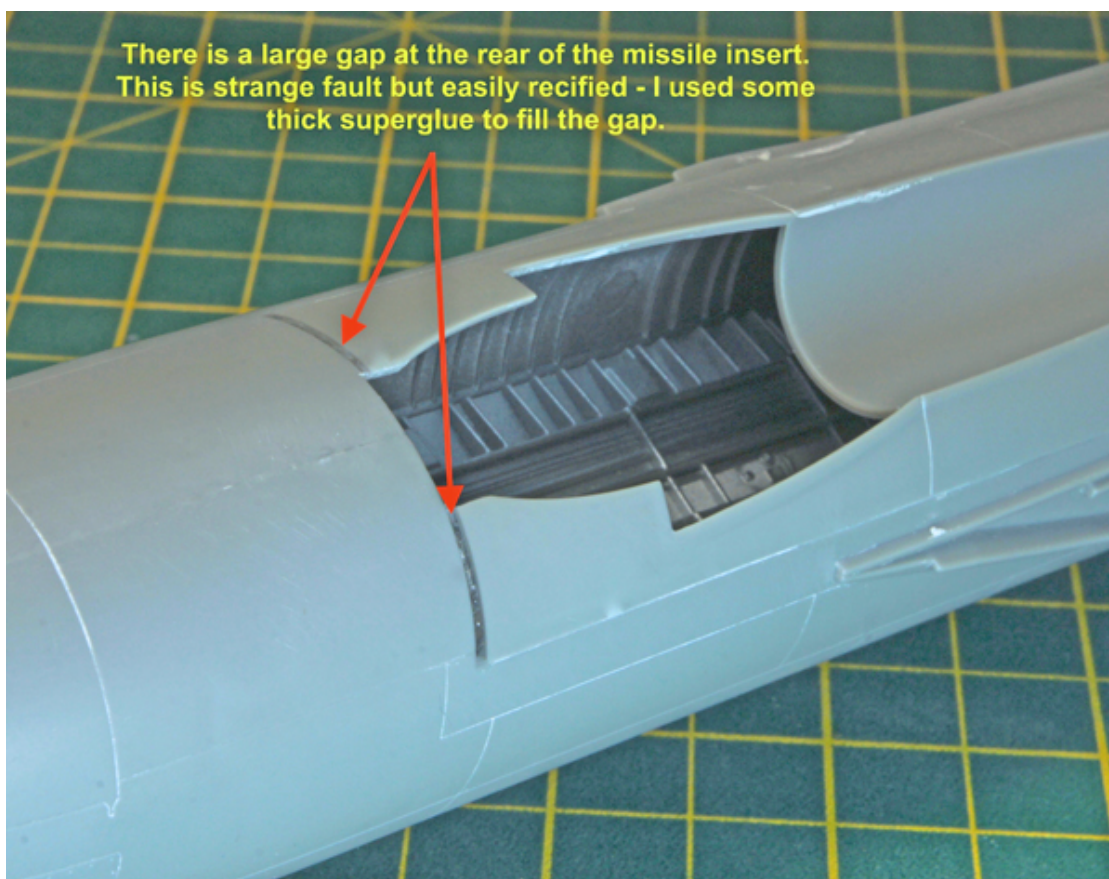


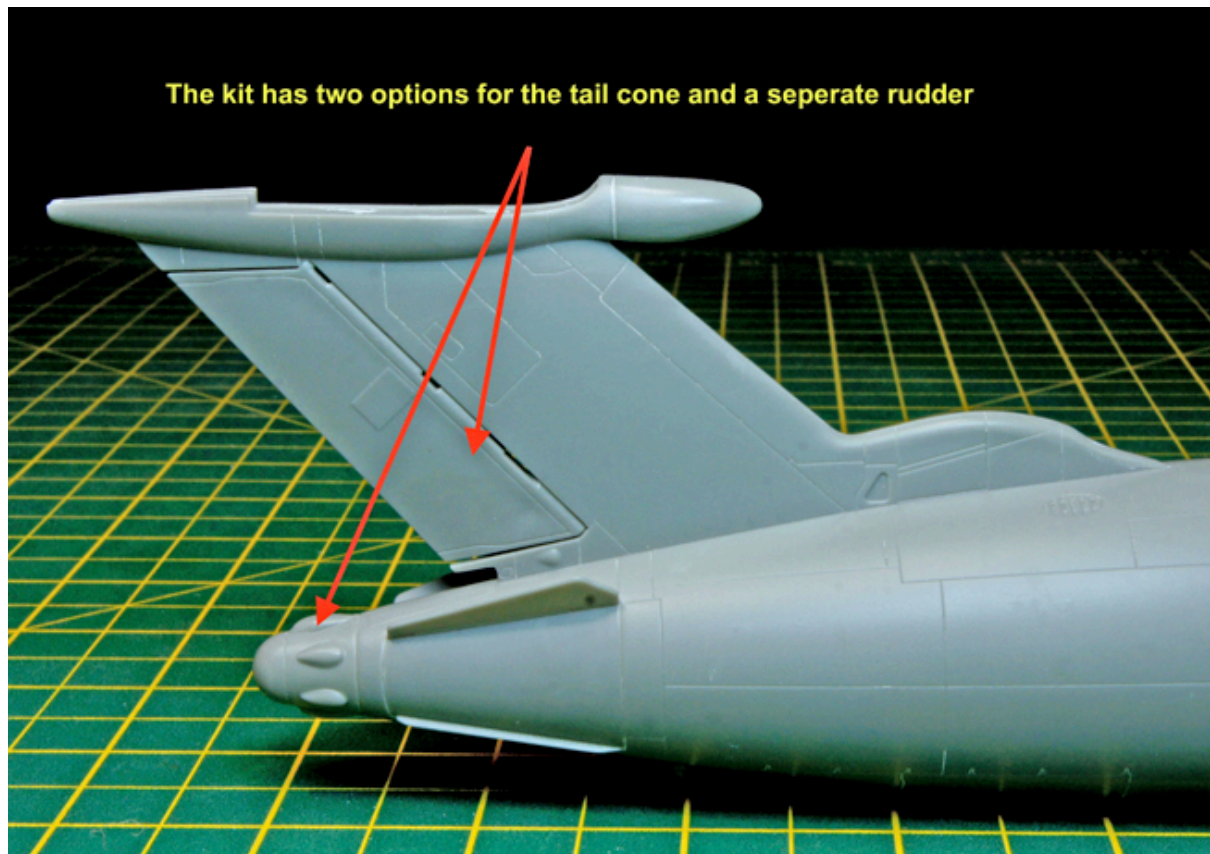
You will need to add quite a bit of nose weight to the model to avoid it tail sitting, fortunately there is plenty of space in the nose to get this weight in. With all the interior in position the fuselage halves can be joined - again I'm glad to report that there are no problems here, just some minor filling and sanding. The canopy glazing can also be added which is a good fit. I did invest in one of Eduard's pre-cut masking sets mainly because I was being lazy!





One strange error I found in the kit was a rather large gap at the end of the missile insert for the bomb bay. This is easily filled in, I used some thick superglue that was sanded to shape once I had hardened it with activator (kicker). The kit has two options for the tail radome, check your references for which one is applicable to your chosen subject.





### Wing and intakes...

Now for the fun part the wing and in particular those rather complex intakes.

These were always a major issue with the old Matchbox/Revell kit but Airfix has taken a rather novel approach to the construction of these. Firstly, you build the intakes from an upper and a lower section plus a front side section. Some filler is needed along the internal seams but the absence of the splitter plates makes sanding the filler flush an easy(ish) job. The intakes can then be sprayed white. The splitter plates are painted up separately as are the compressor blades for the front of the engines.

The splitter plates can then be slotted into the slots in the lower surfaces of the intakes and glued in position and its worth then giving everything a coat of white to blend everything in.

Finally, the compressor blade end plates can be fitted and that's it done. Whilst this isn't perfect it's a country mile better than the old Matchbox kit intakes. One observation from my build that I would do differently on a future build is I would build the intakes up before attaching them to the wing - I attached the upper half of the intakes to the upper wing and built them up from there, doing it the other way will make them easier to work on.

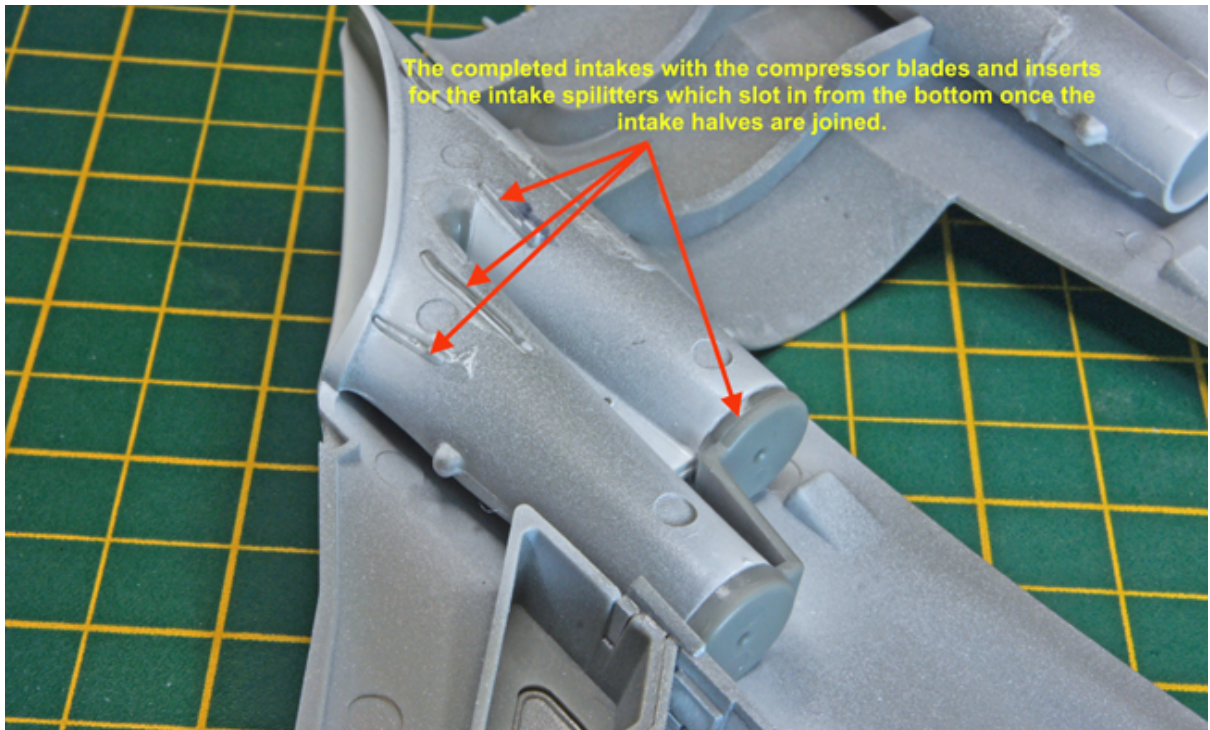


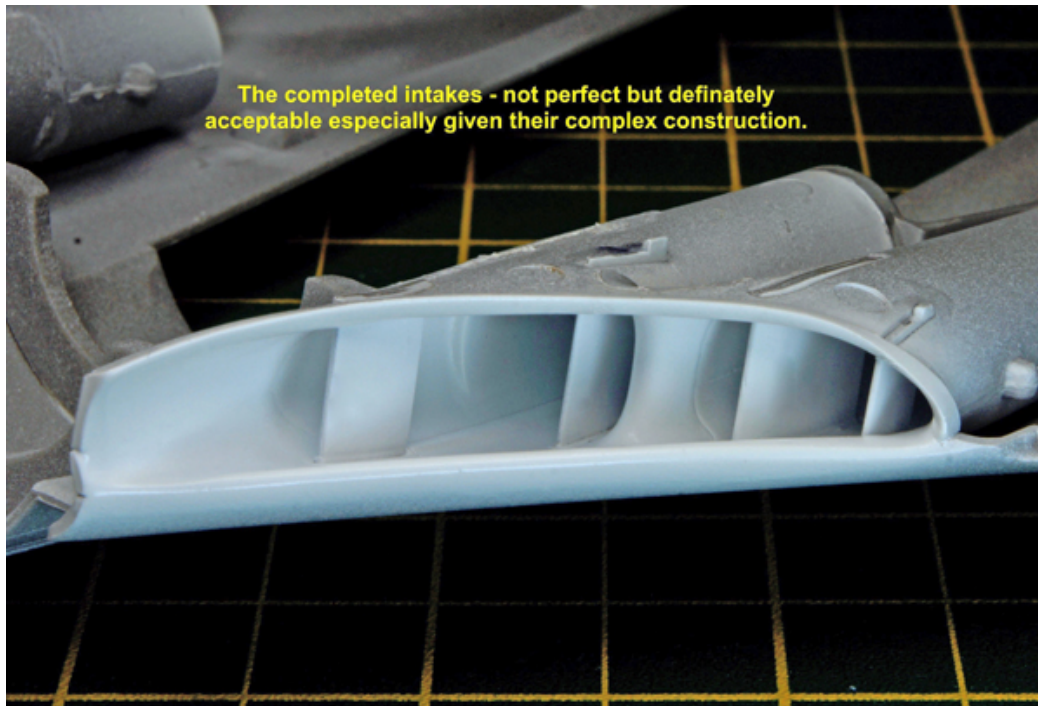


The splitter plates and compressor blades



The completed intakes with the compressor blades and inserts for the intake splitters which slot in from the bottom once the intake halves are joined.

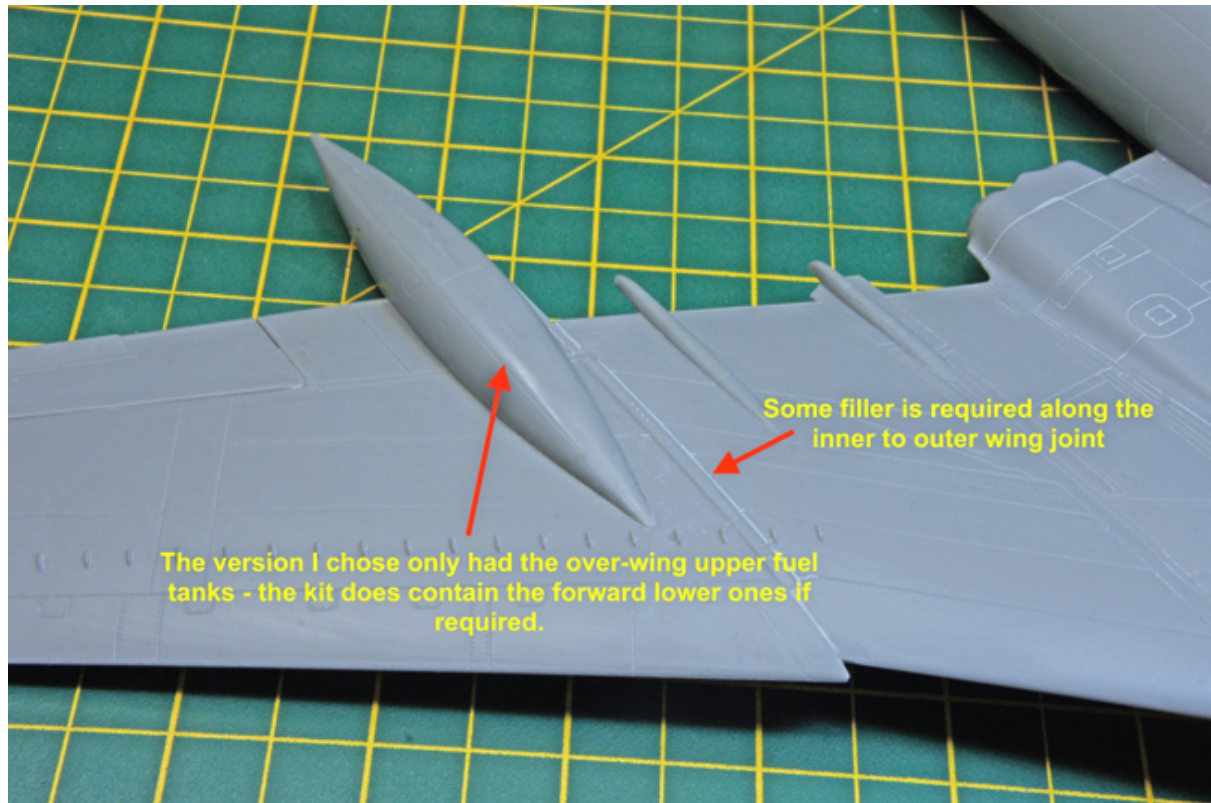




The rest of the wing can then be built up and attached to the fuselage. One thing I wasn't keen on were the clear separate wing tips. Whilst I get the separate wing tips (the later tanker version had shorter wing tips) I really disliked the clear plastic just for the sake of the small wing tip navigation lights. The clear plastic makes it very difficult to see any gaps and steps in the joints and I also find it

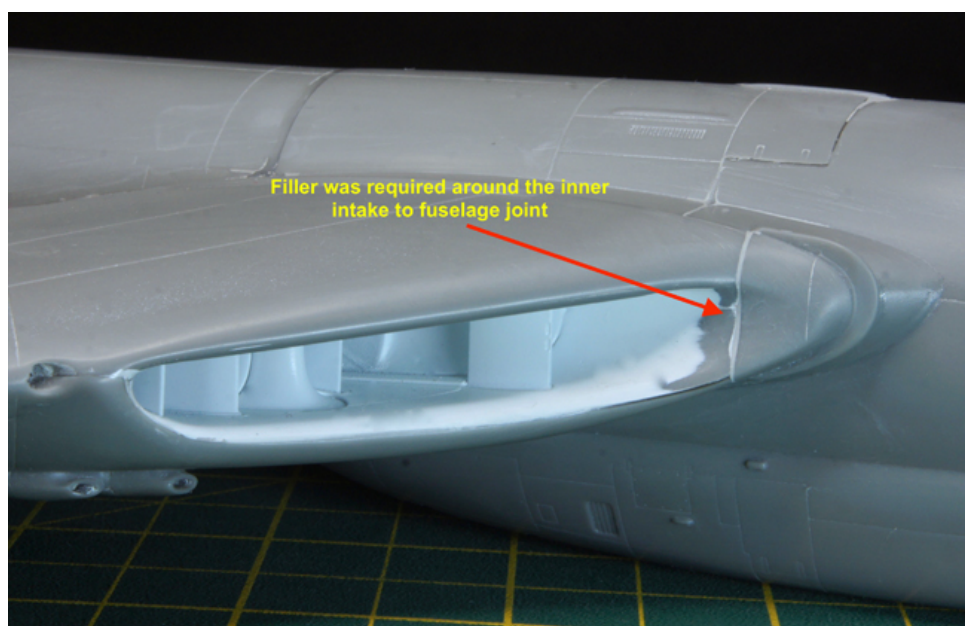
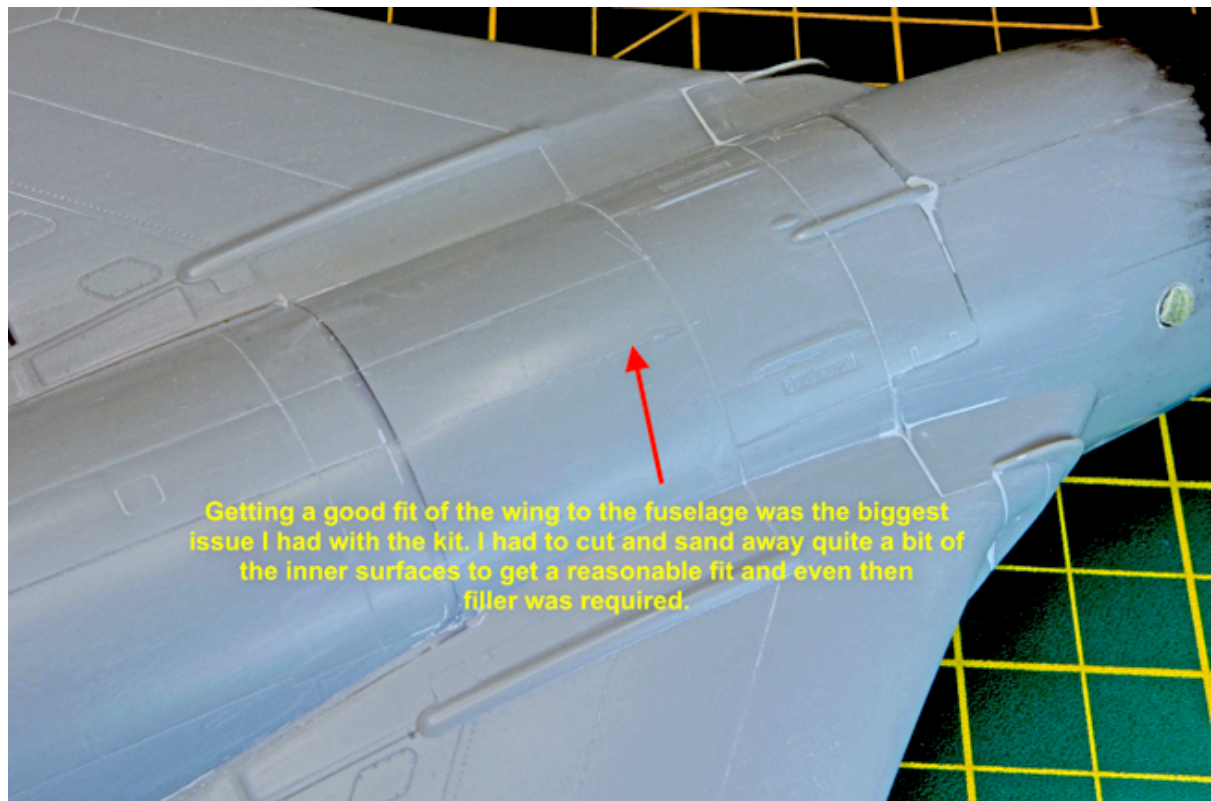


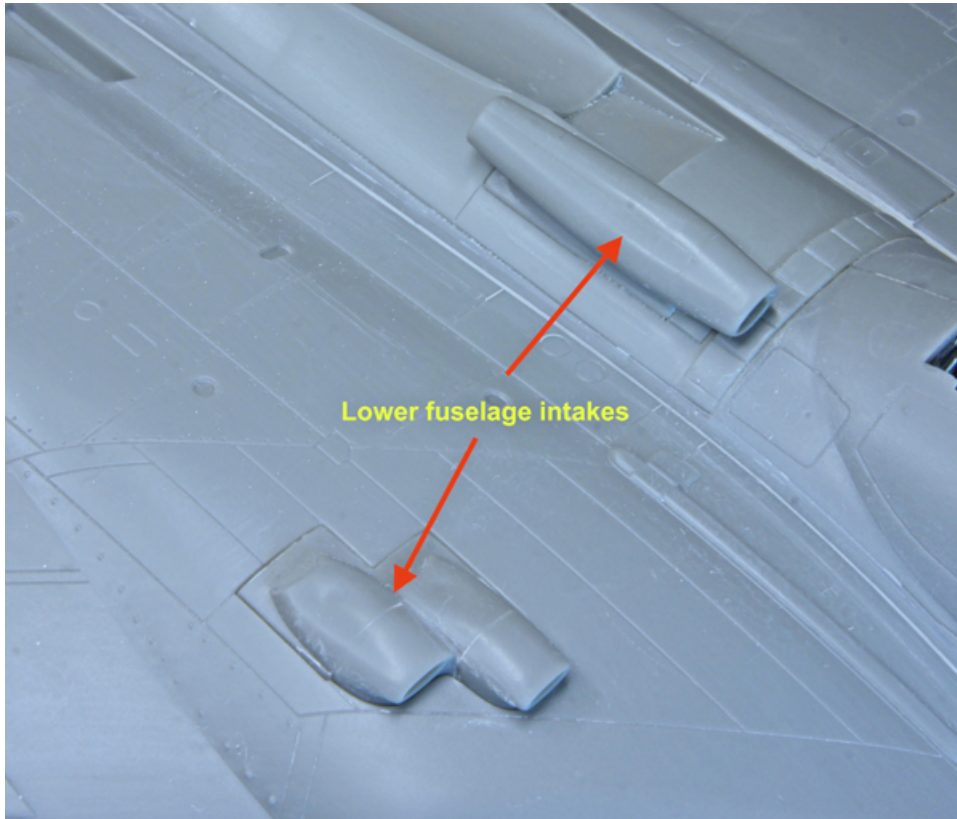
quite difficult to sand. Otherwise the wings build up reasonably hassle-free with just some filler being required here and there.



## Wing-to-fuselage joint issues...

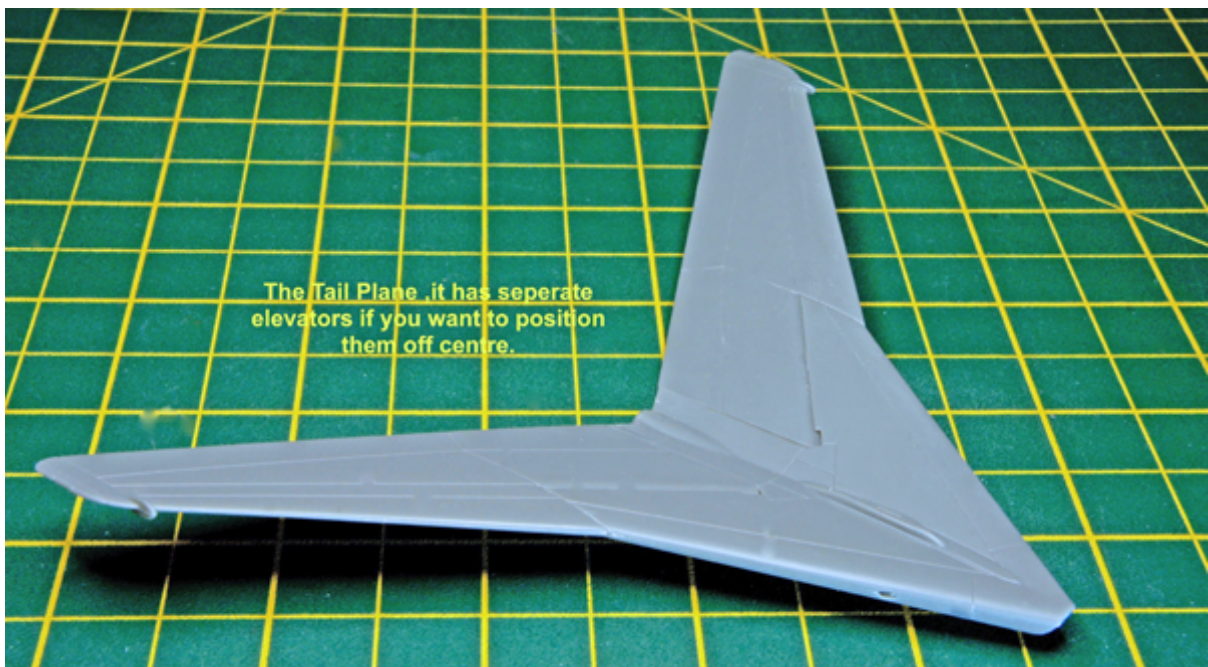
Now for the biggest fault I found with the kit - getting the wing to match flush with the fuselage along the top. I had to do some serious removal of plastic from the inner surface of the wing and the wing slot on the top of the fuselage to get a decent fit. That said once it did fit there were no gaps along the wing to fuselage joint which was good.



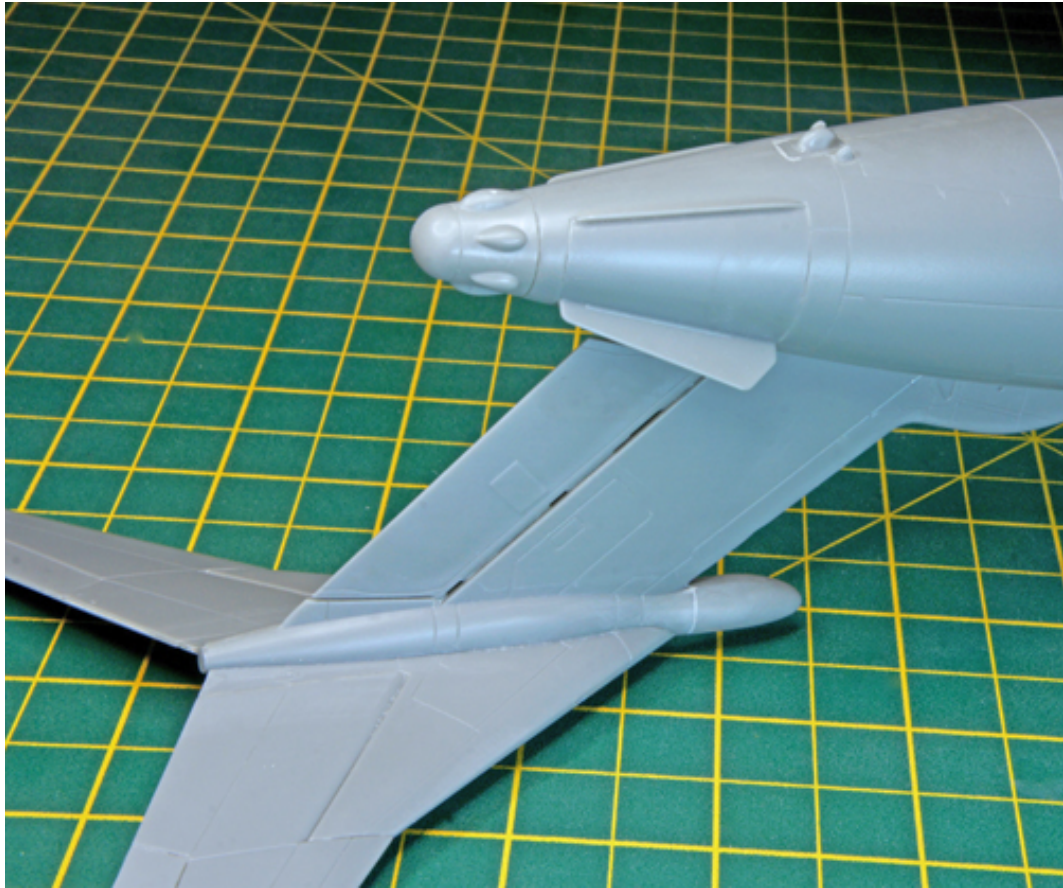


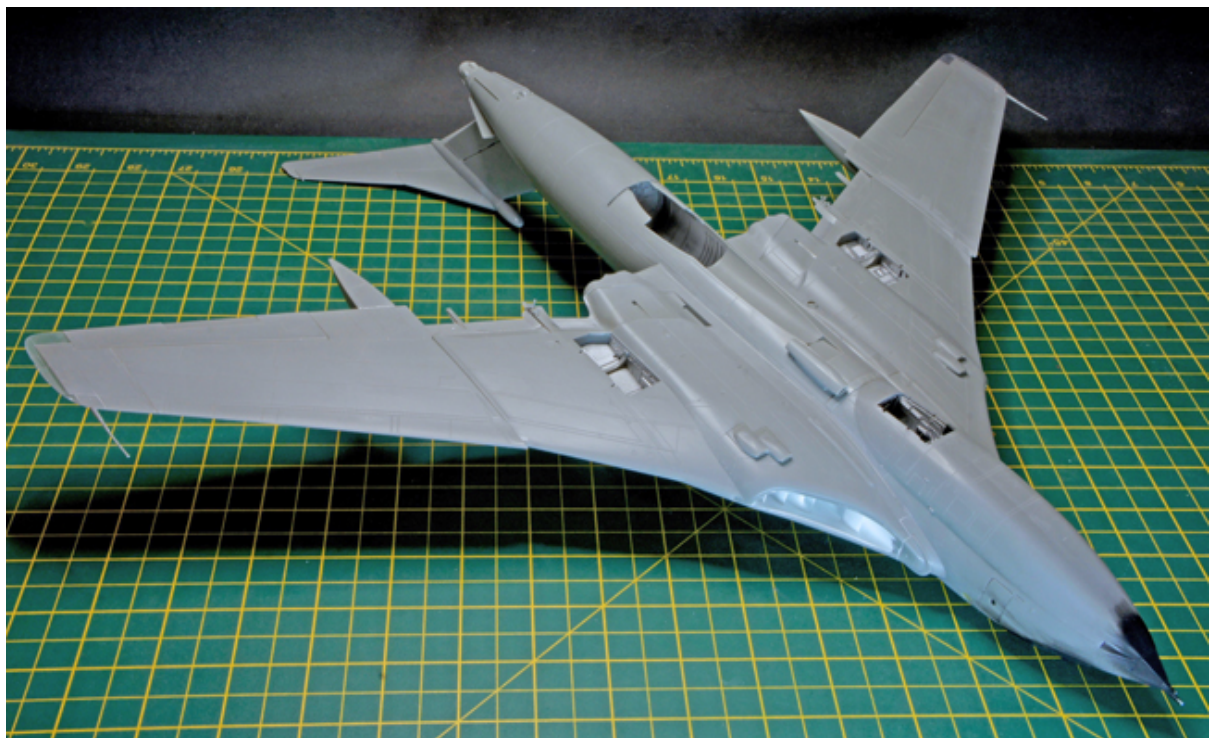
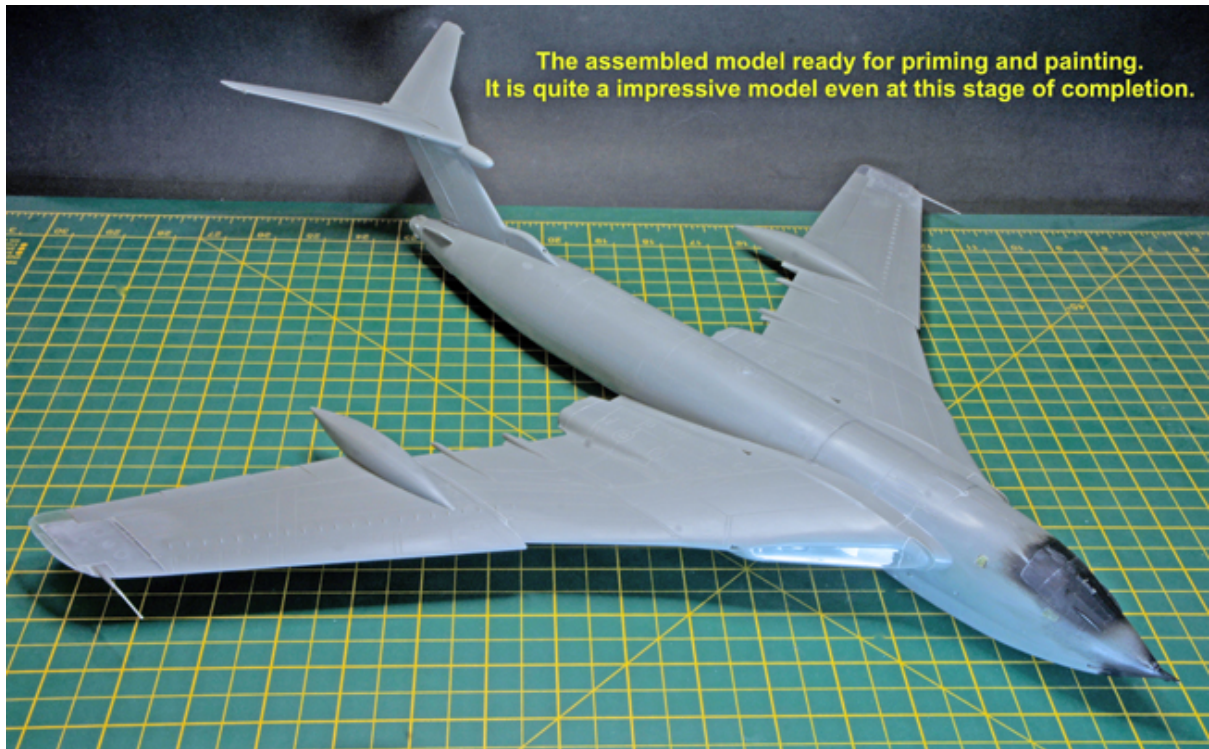
The 'T' tail was built up and attached. This has separate elevator (the rudder is separate as well) so they can be positioned as required. My only real comment here is that the bullet fairing needs some work to get it blended in. With that done, the fuselage is

ready for priming and painting.



The Tail Plane .it has seperate elevators if you want to position them off centre.



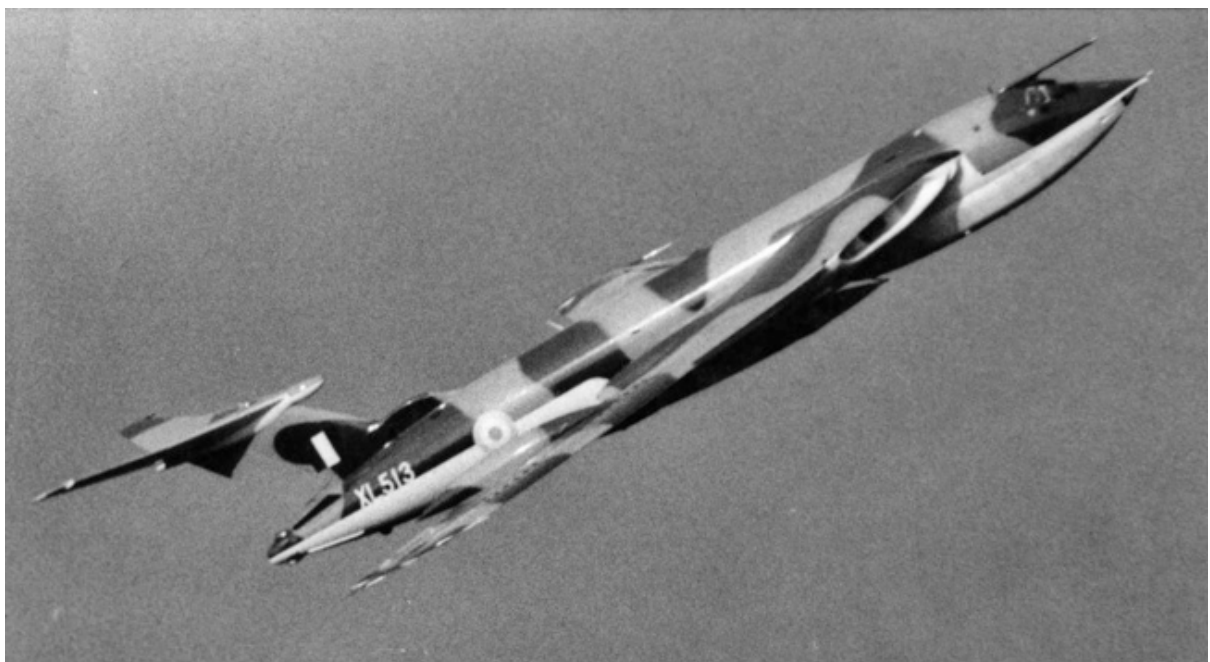


### A unique scheme...

This is a big model so quite a bit of care needs to be taken whilst handling it in the painting stages. My chosen aircraft was a one-off and unique in its finish. XL513 was the first aircraft to have its all white anti-flash finish replaced by the new



tactical scheme comprising of a white underside and a hard-edged green/grey camouflage pattern on the upper surfaces. Compared to later aircraft the demarcation between the white and upper colours was high up on the fuselage and intakes and didn't wrap around the wing leading edges onto the lower surfaces. It also retained its anti-flash fuselage roundels on the fuselage and had white serial numbers on the rear of the fuselage - on later aircraft these were black.



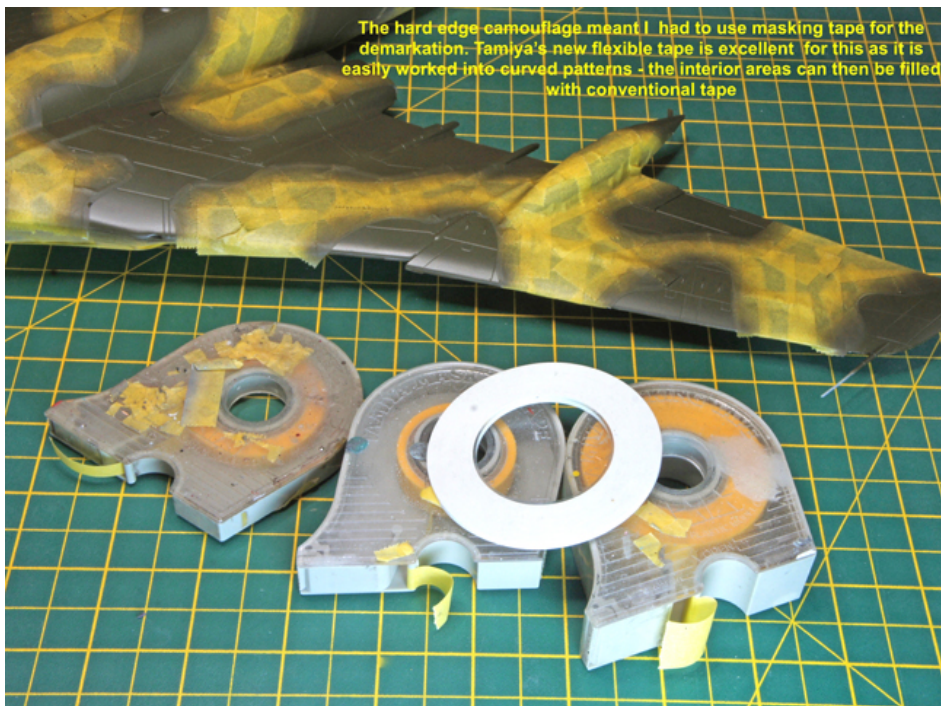


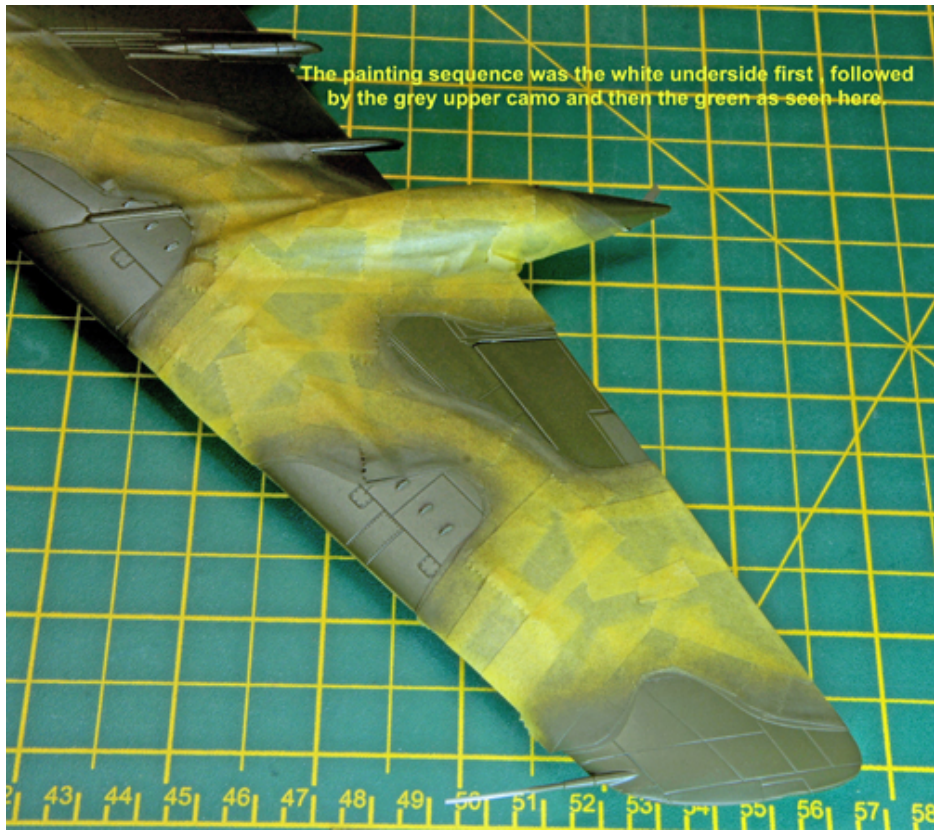
### Painting...

I initially primed it with Tamiya Fine Grey primer and sorted out some minor issues before spraying the lower surfaces white and masking these off when dry. Next came the upper camouflage and this started with the grey. Next the camouflage pattern was masked off using Tamiya's new flexible masking tape to get the pattern and filling in the gaps with their standard tape. This flexible tape is great for hard edged patterns as on these aircraft and I highly recommend it. The green was then added and when dry the masking is removed to reveal the finished article - some minor touch ups were required but overall the masking process was a success.

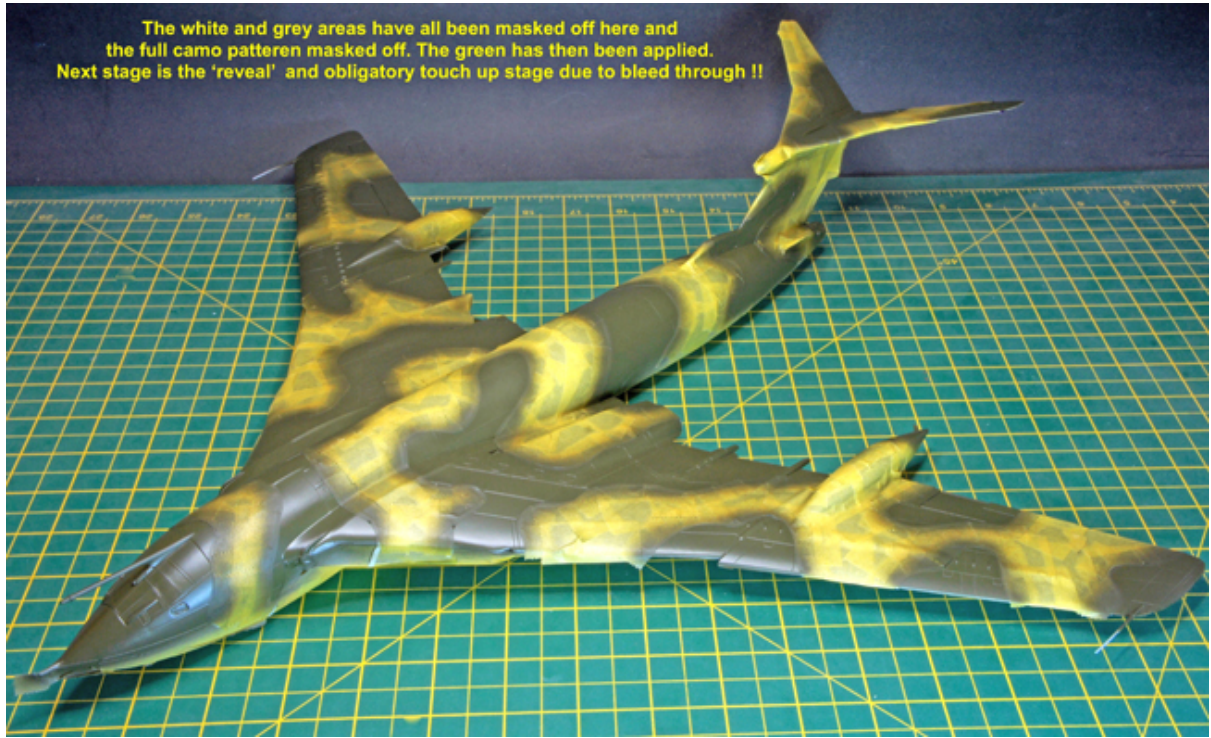
I did have my obligatory "oh bu\*\*er" moment when I dropped the model and knocked the nose pitot off and smashed the bomb aimers glazing. I could have tried to order up a spare from Airfix but opted to glue it back together and paint it up black, this actually worked quite well in my opinion. Everything was then given

as gloss coat and left to dry for 48 hours before applying the decals - on a mo.



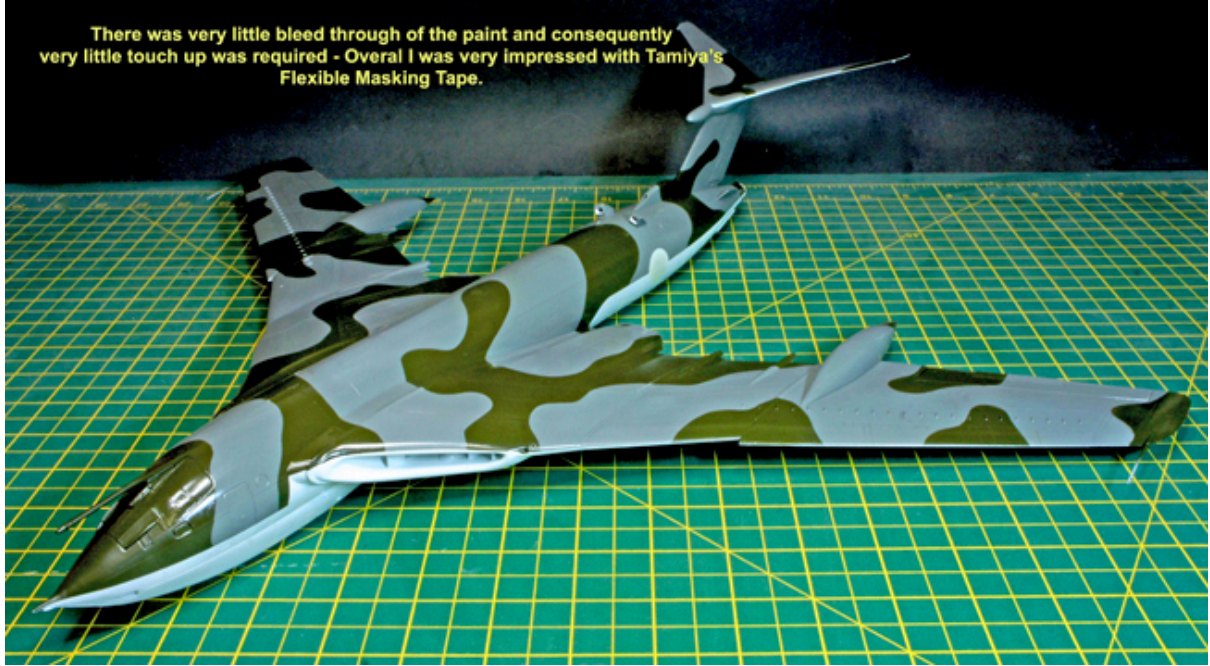


The painting sequence was the white underside first followed by the grey upper camo and then the green as seen here.

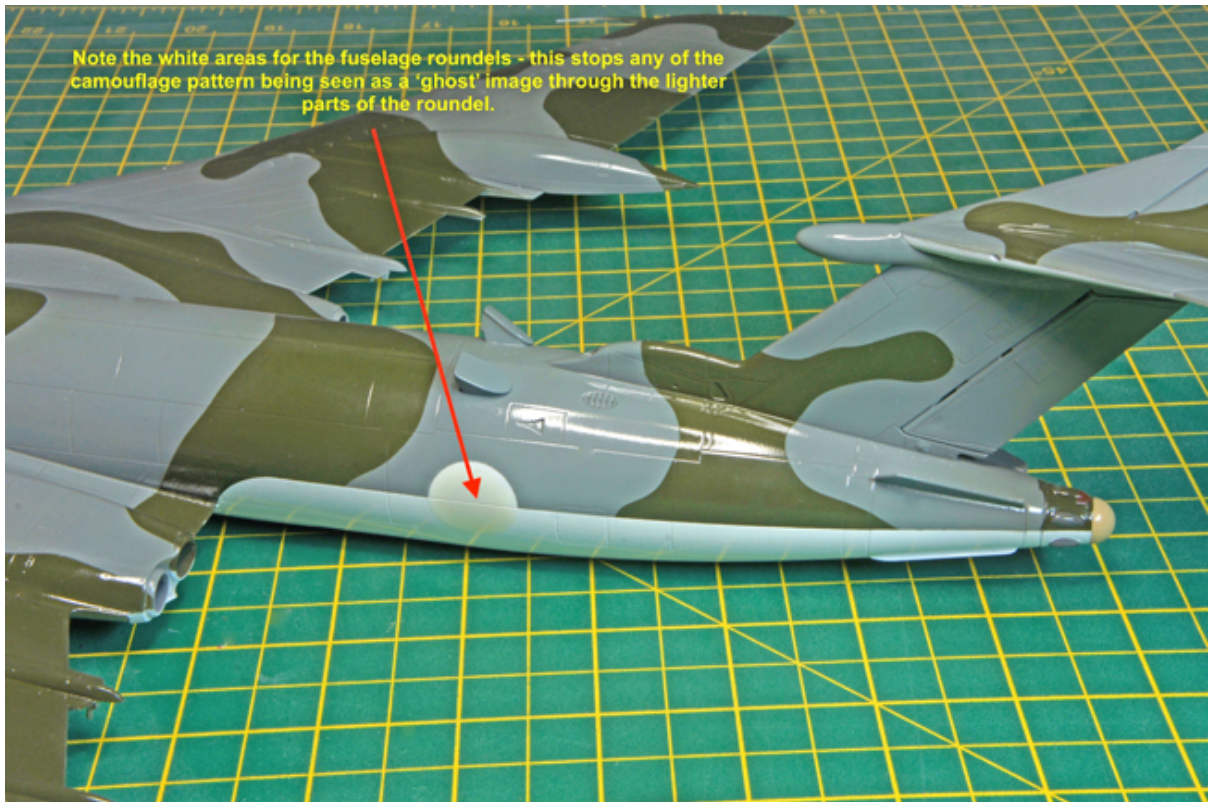


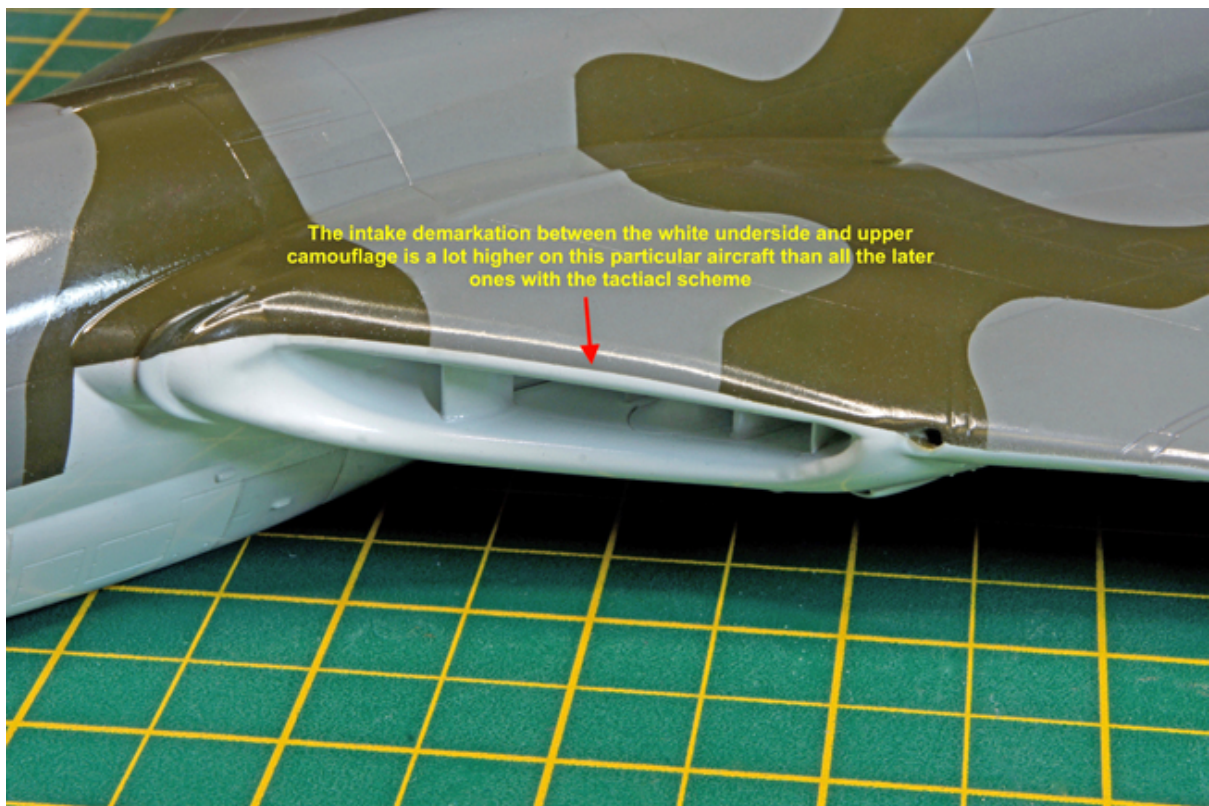
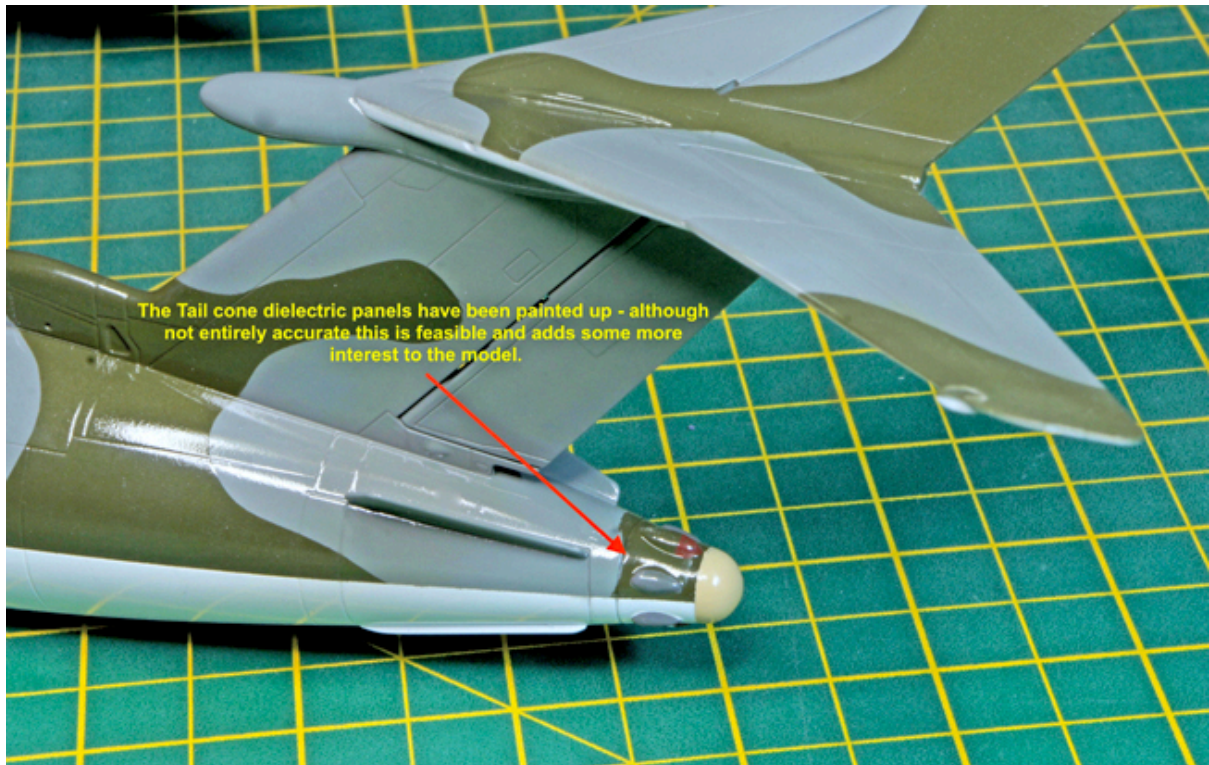
The white and grey areas have all been masked off here and the full camo pattern masked off. The green has then been applied. Next stage is the 'reveal' and obligatory touch up stage due to bleed through !!

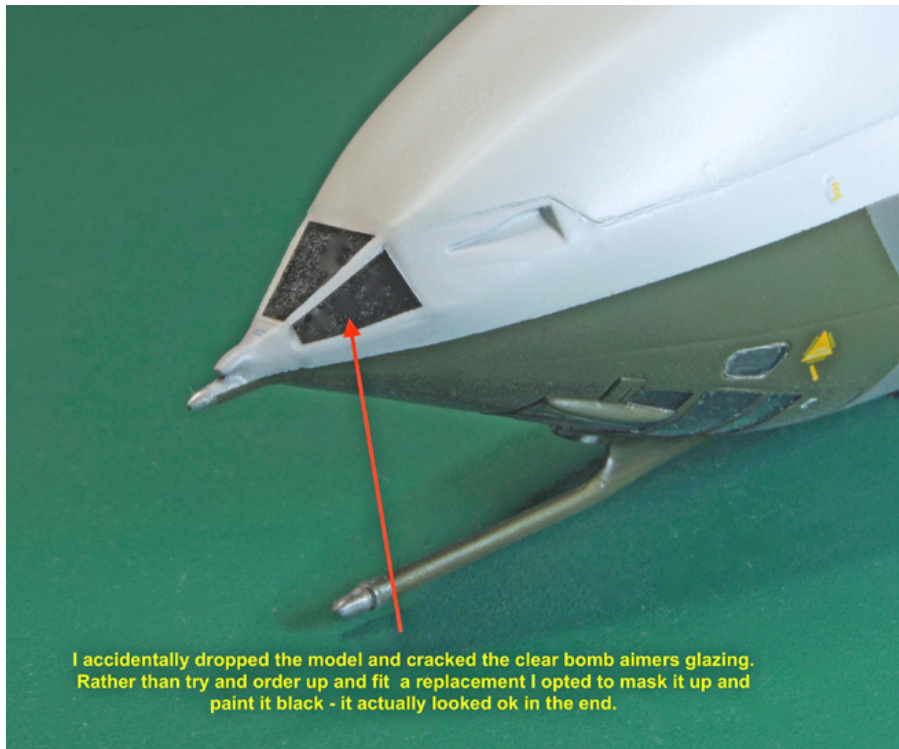
There was very little bleed through of the paint and consequently very little touch up was required - Overall I was very impressed with Tamiya's Flexible Masking Tape.



Note the white areas for the fuselage roundels - this stops any of the camouflage pattern being seen as a 'ghost' image through the lighter parts of the roundel.



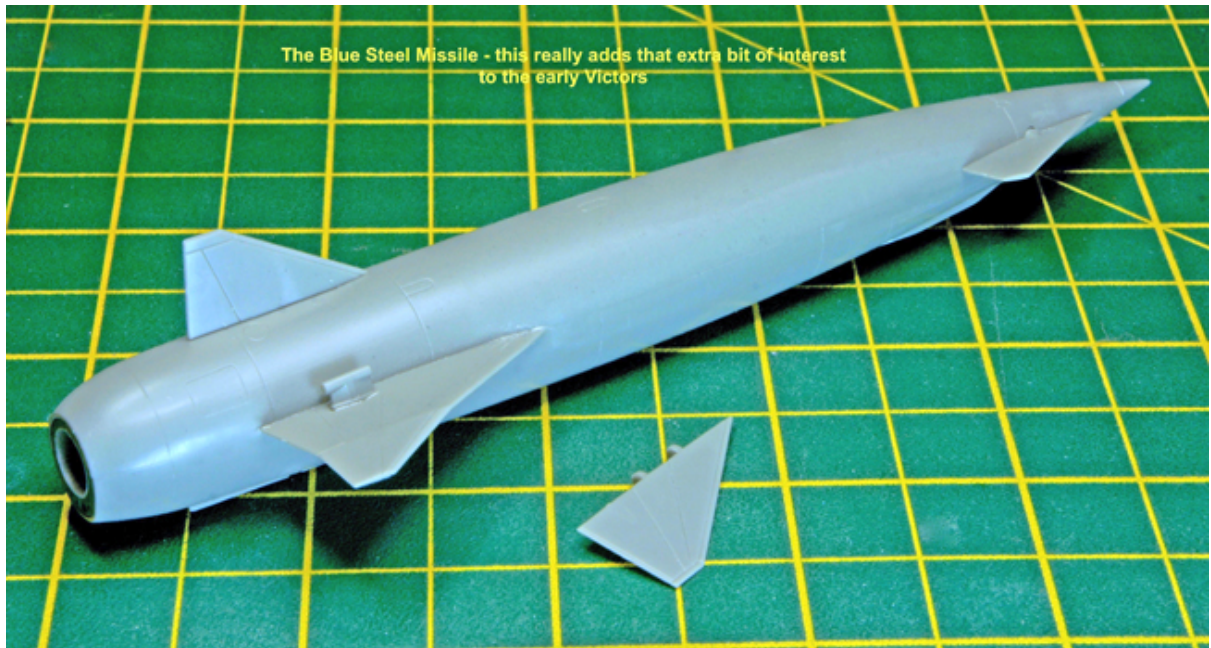




I accidentally dropped the model and cracked the clear bomb aimers glazing. Rather than try and order up and fit a replacement I opted to mask it up and paint it black - it actually looked ok in the end.

### Blue Steel Nuclear Missile...

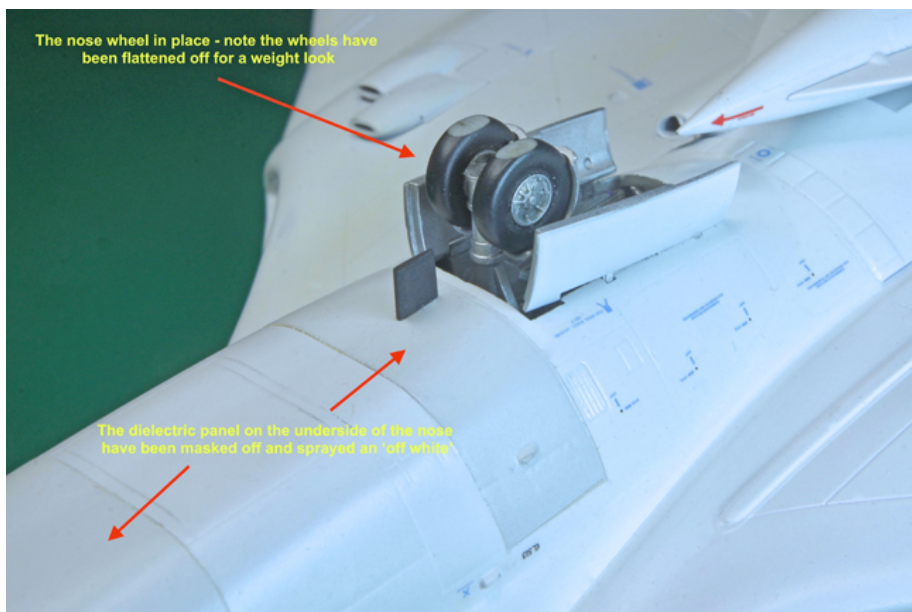
I now turned my attention to the Blue Steel Nuclear Missile and in my opinion the addition of this really makes this model. The missile is simple in its construction and is all white. There are some decals which add a touch of interest to it and it nicely slots into the bomb bay recess.



The Blue Steel Missile - this really adds that extra bit of interest to the early Victors

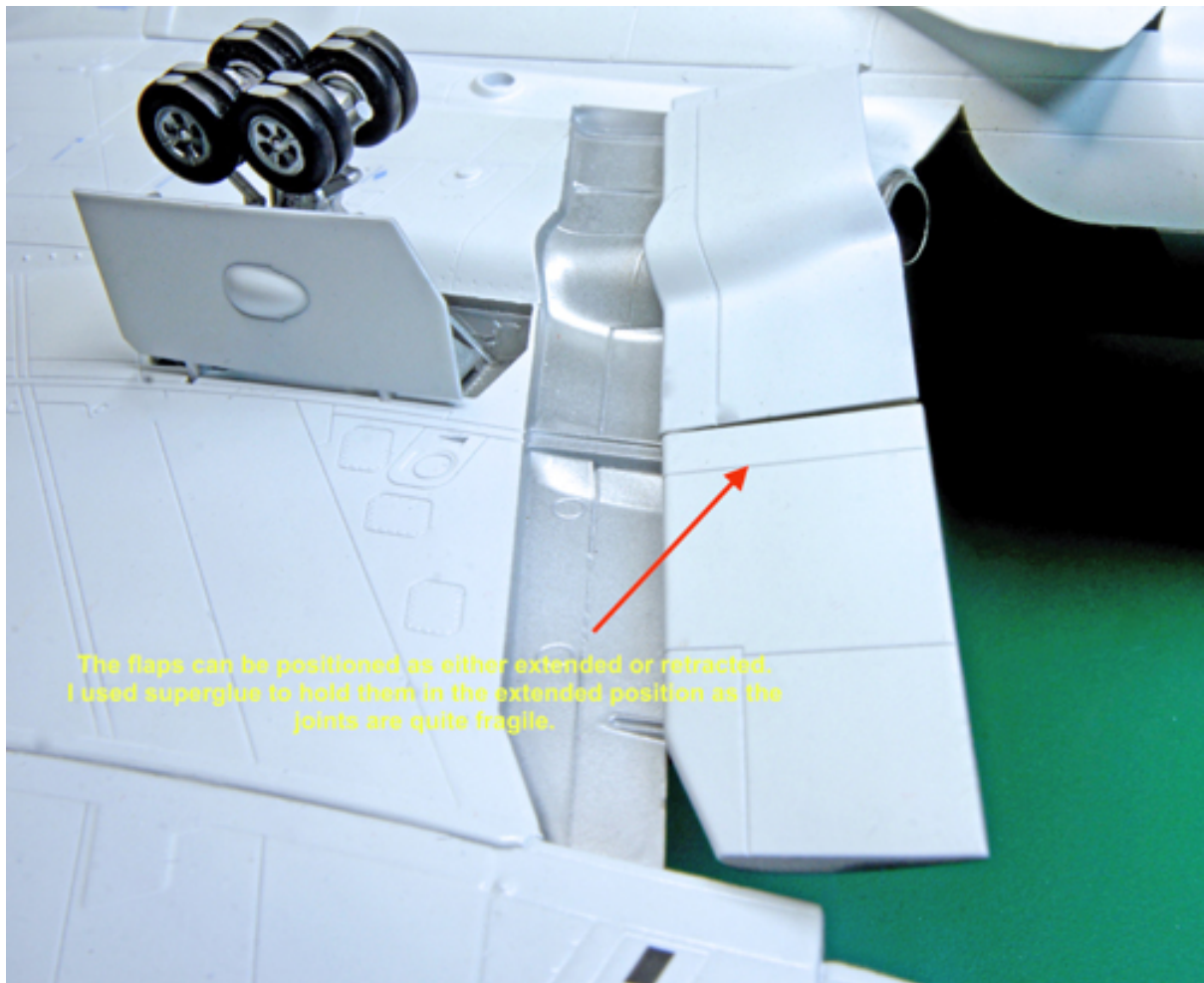


Now it was just case of adding the decals and all those bits and bobs. I used a combination of the kit decals and aftermarket, both performed flawlessly. The undercarriage assemblies build up nicely even if masking all those wheels is rather tedious - thank goodness for the Eduard masking set which made this whole process a lot easier. I did sand down the tyres to get a weighted look. The flaps can be positioned either retracted or extended, I have mine extended but I did use superglue to hold them in position as the joining surfaces are rather small.



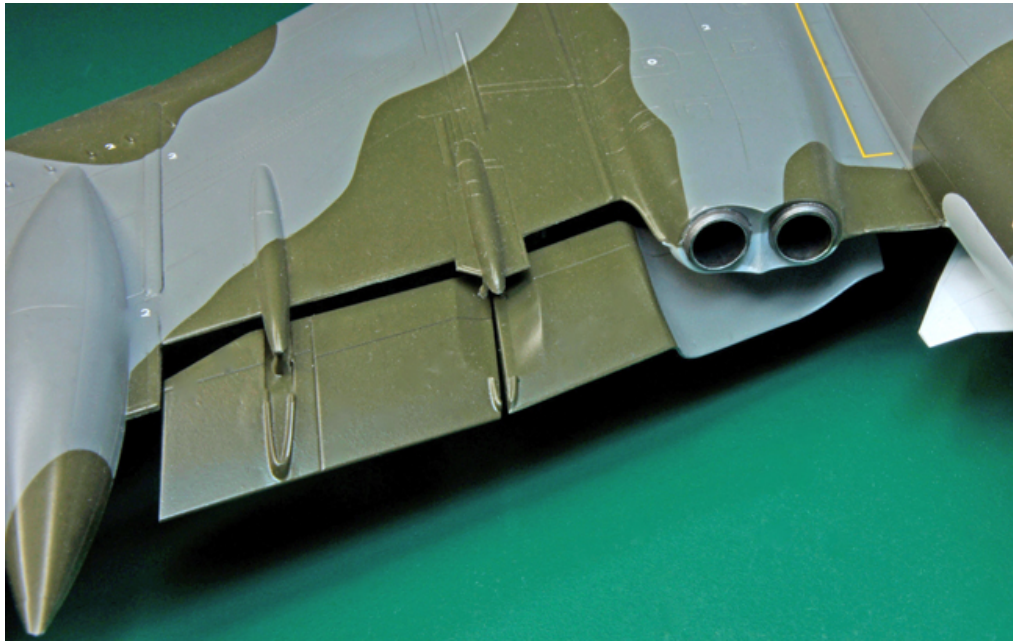


Like the nose wheel the main wheels were sanded down to get a weighted look.



The flaps can be positioned as either extended or retracted. I used superglue to hold them in the extended position as the joints are quite fragile.





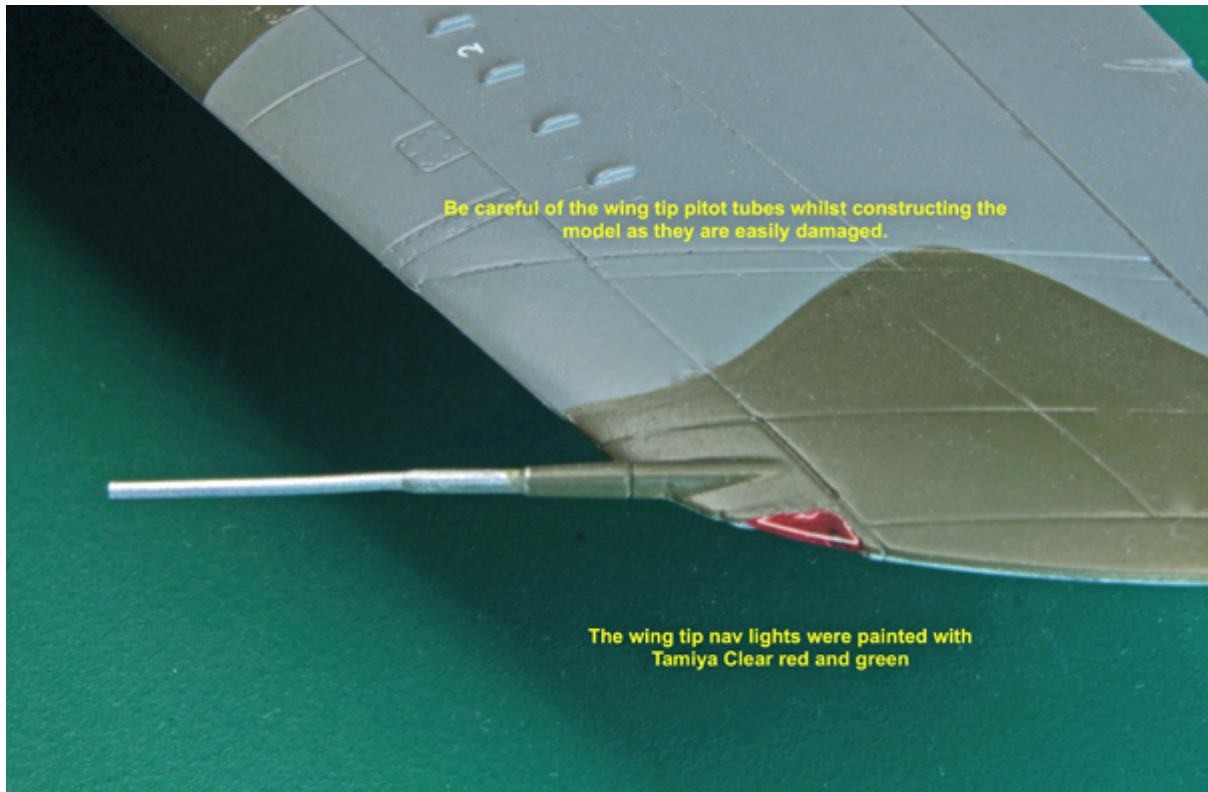
The APU intakes on the upper rear fuselage can be added if you want them open otherwise leave them off for the closed option. The wing tip lights were painted clear red and green.

One thing I forget to mention earlier on are the wing tip pitots; as these are part of the wing mouldings they are very susceptible to being damaged - I know so be warned!



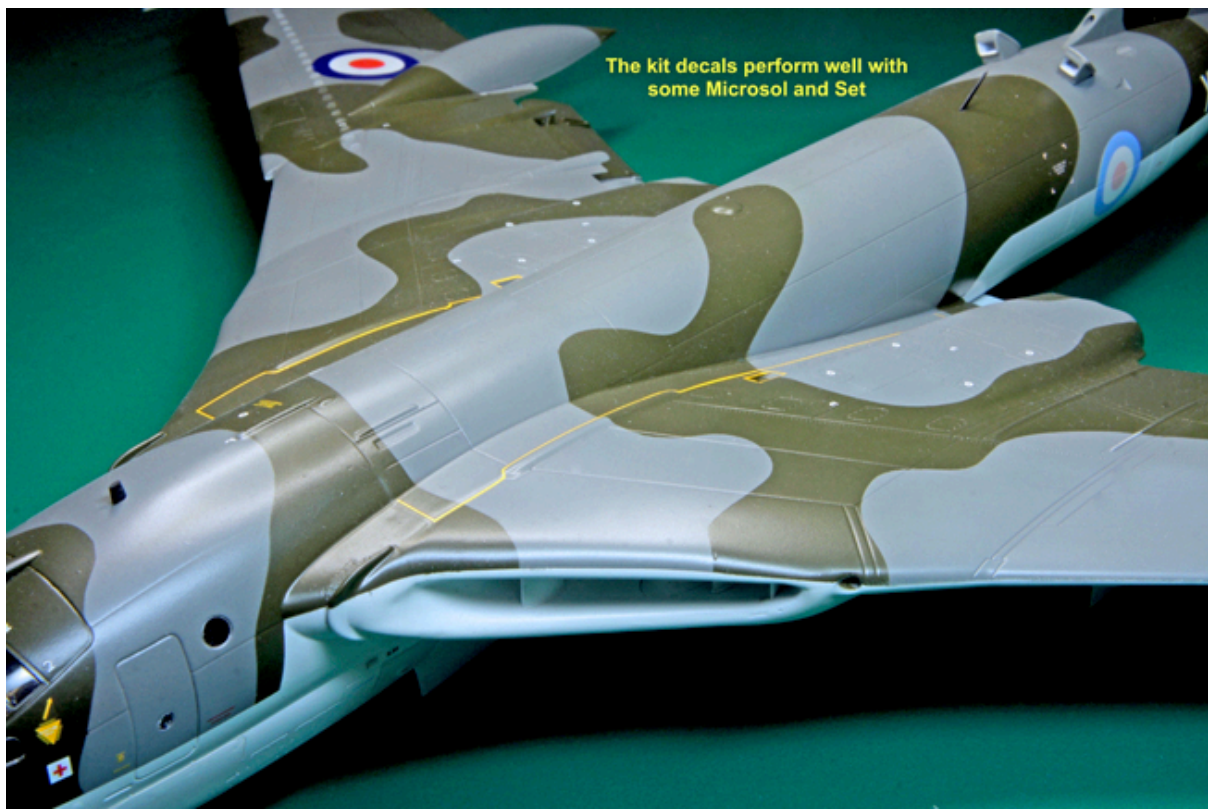


The cockpit glazing has been removed and the AAR probe fitted. As I mentioned earlier there is not a lot to be seen through the glazing so don't go overboard when detailing the cockpit.

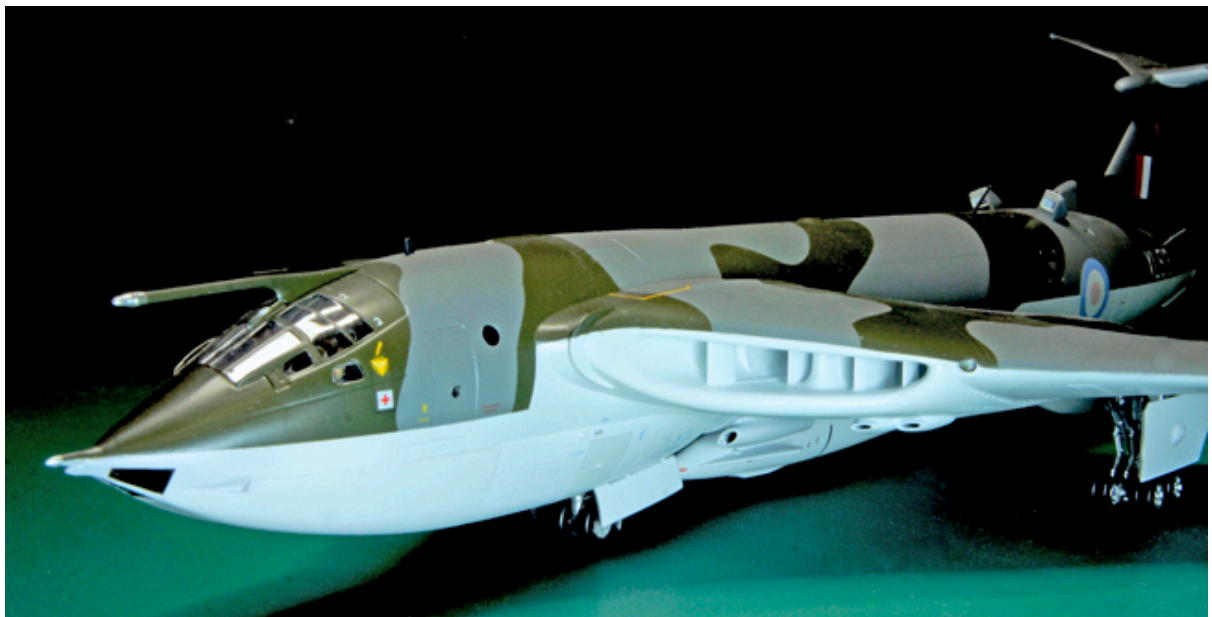


Be careful of the wing tip pitot tubes whilst constructing the model as they are easily damaged.

The wing tip nav lights were painted with Tamiya Clear red and green



The kit decals perform well with some Microsol and Set





### Summary...

Well that's it done and I'm reasonably impressed. Whilst not perfect it's still a quantum leap better than the old Matchbox kit and apart from the wing to fuselage join issue I had (this may well have been my fault) everything went together quite well and the intakes are especially worth a mention for their novel assembly process. There are obviously other variants in the pipeline judging by the parts in the kit and its break down so watch out for these.

Overall a nice kit at a reasonable price that builds into a very impressive model. Not a beginner kit but any modeller with some experience will have no issues with it - recommended.

Dave C.

<b>SMN Quick summary</b>	<b>Star rating out of 5</b>
Quality of moulding	***
Accuracy	****
Instructions	***
Decals	****
Subject choice	*****
Build enjoyment	***
<b>Overall</b>	****





