

F-94 Starfire

KIT 4353

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4353-4200

LOCKHEED F94-C STARFIRE

A news release, approved for publication by the Department of Defense, and dated July 3, 1952 stated, "American airpower's latest answer to air invasion, an almost automatic jet warplane armed with radar and rockets to outsmart and outshoot enemy bombers, is now in production."

The first U.S. fighting plane to be armed entirely with rockets, the F94-C carried 24 rockets clustered in a group around its nose, and 24 more in two auxiliary pods mounted beneath the wings. This made a total of 48. A hit with one of these was enough to destroy a bomber. Napalm (liquid fire) tanks, or two 1000 pound bombs could be mounted under the wings, which made the STARFIRE one of the most heavily armed planes in the U.S. Air force.

Riding in a pressurized, temperature controlled cockpit, surrounded by electronic "brain-like" instruments, the pilot's job was to maneuver the aircraft to the general target area. At this point the radar operator took over, made the final adjustments, and put the plane's controls on automatic. The plane approached and automatically locked on to the target, tracked it and

finally, opened fire. These attacks could be made without any of the crew ever seeing the target.

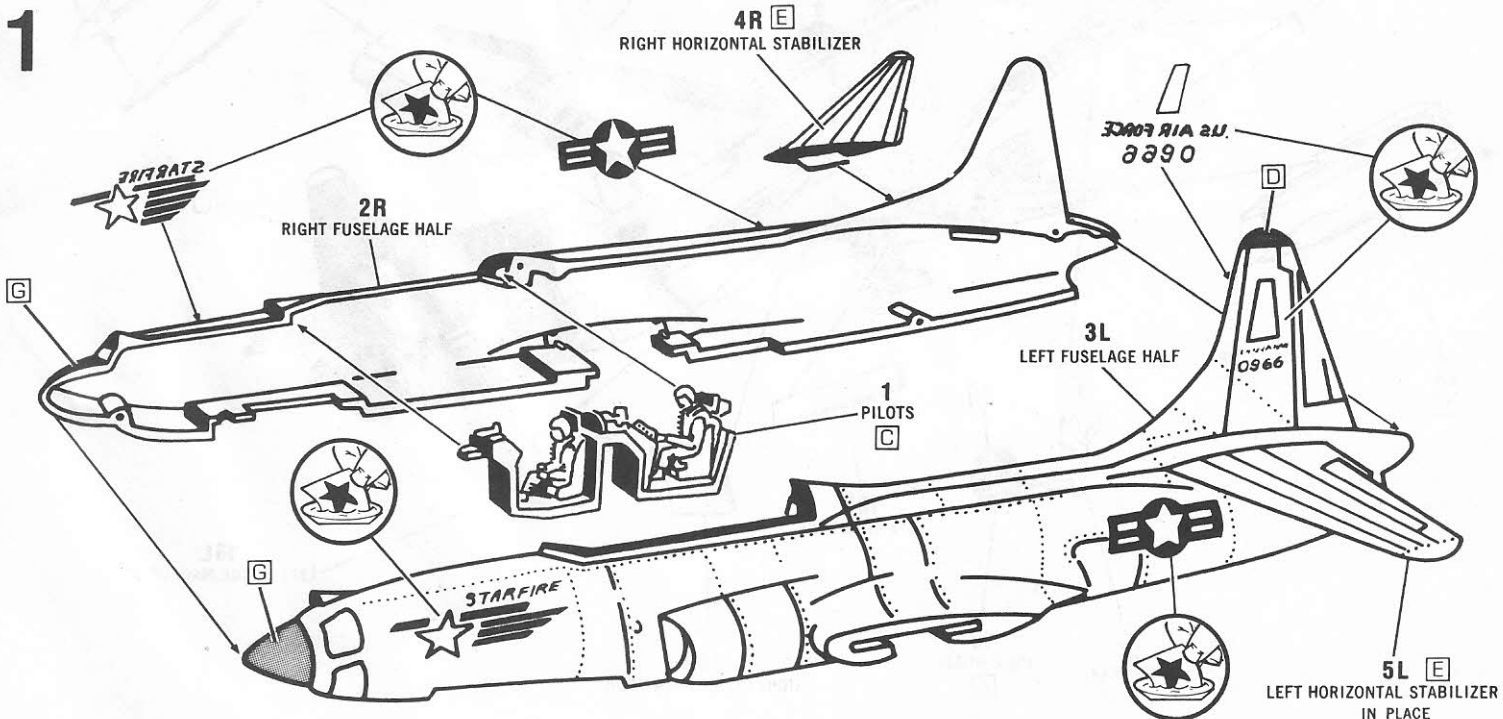
Among the other features of the aircraft was a new type of ejection seat, which had telescoping guide rails to insure a high flight path and plenty of clearance once the pilot had tripped the escape lever. Also installed was a drag parachute to help in slowing the airplane on fields that were too short for a normal brake landing. The chute was 16 feet in diameter and had risers 7 feet long. The parachute was stowed in the most logical area available, a fiberglass compartment built into the tail cone faring directly above the tail pipe.

Weighing more than 20,000 pounds, ready for take-off, the STARFIRE had a wingspan of 37 feet 6 inches, a length of 41 feet 5 inches, and a height of 13 feet 7 inches. Its engine was a Pratt & Whitney J-48-P-5, and was equipped with afterburners that provided extra power for take-off or combat. For operation out of extremely short fields, the STARFIRE could be lofted into the air by means of two 1000 pound thrust RATO (rocket assisted take-off) packs which could be attached under the fuselage.

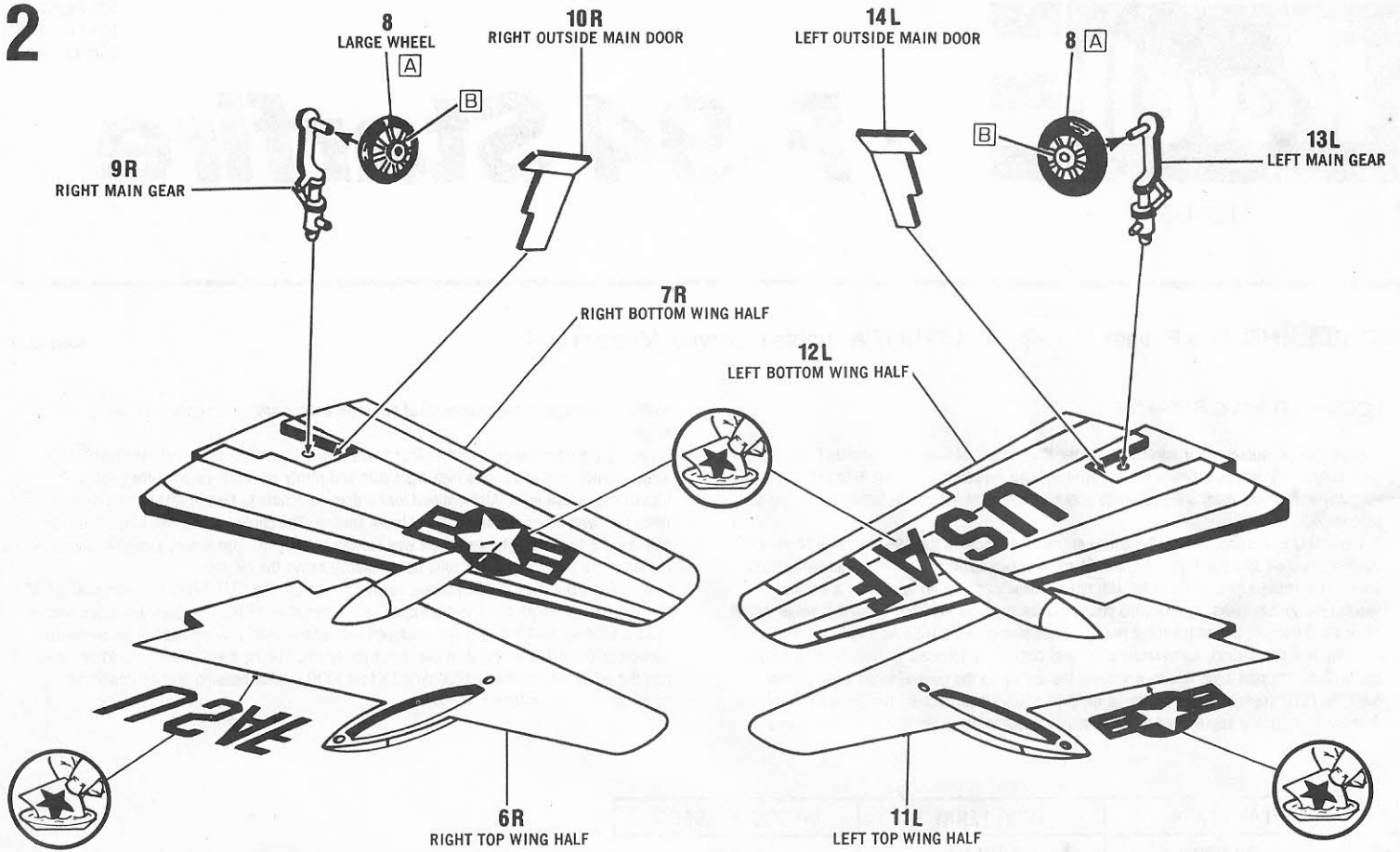
A	FLAT BLACK	NOIR TERNE	NEGRO APAGADO
B	SILVER	ARGENT	PLATA
C	OLIVE DRAB	VERT OLIVE	ACEITUNADO
D	WHITE	BLANC	BLANCO
E	RED	ROUGE	ROJO
F	BLUE	BLEU	AZUL
G	GLOSS BLACK	NOIR LUSTRE	NEGRO BRILLANTE



DECAL (DIP IN WATER)
DECALCOMANIE (À PLONGER DANS L'EAU)
DECALCOMANIA (MOJE CON AGUA)



2



3

