



SMW
Telford
2023

I approached Scale Modelworld 2023 with some trepidation concerning an update on new products and releases, since we have had yet another bumper year, with many new Asian Air Arms-related releases spread throughout the last 10 months. It has often been quite difficult to keep track and/or add to my growing list of 'must do' projects.

Thankfully, in some ways, SMW'23 was relatively low key when it came to spotting new products or being appraised of forthcoming releases. I have no doubt some of this was due to the noticeable absence of South Korean manufacturer, Wolfpack Designs and Zoukei-Mura of Japan, both of which can normally be relied upon to announce or release new kits or accessories during the show.



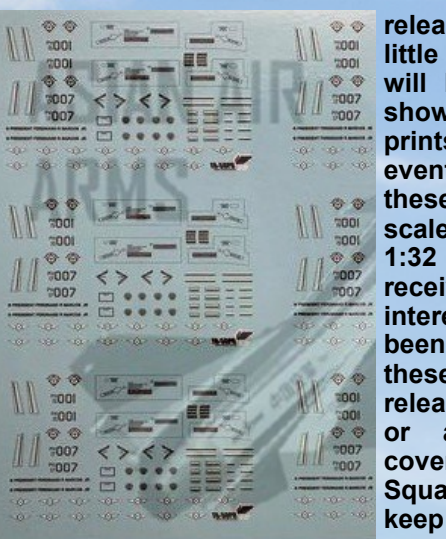
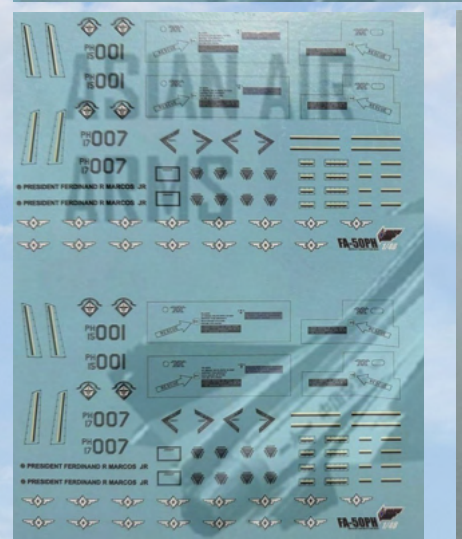
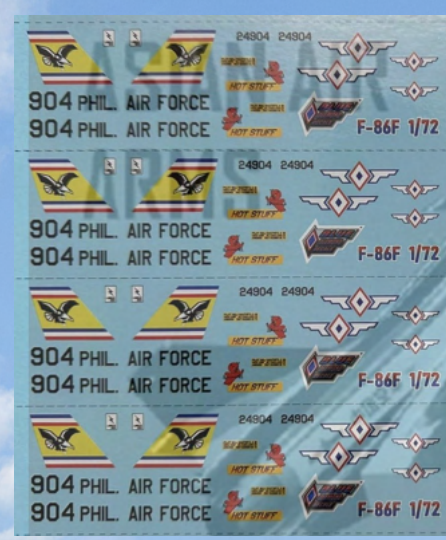
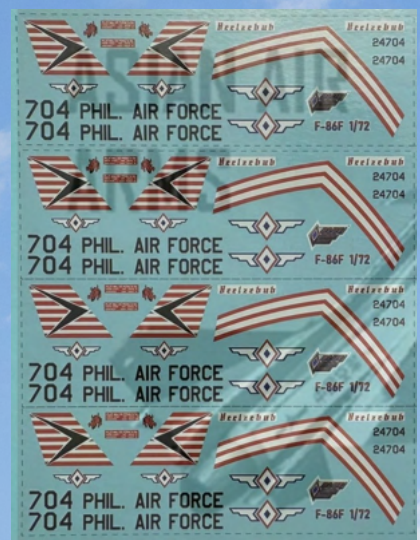
Kinetic, one of the other Asian powerhouses of model manufacturing did, however, attend SMW'23 and they did a roaring trade with a host of new releases, most of which were re-releases of older kits with new decal markings and/or parts. The one kit that would be of immediate interest to Asian Air Arm fans was the General-Dynamics F-16C Block 52 'Black Knights' release (Kit Reference K48-133), with decal markings for several Republic of Singapore Air Force aircraft including one of the Black Knights aerobatic display team as illustrated on the box top. I spotted at least one of our regular contributors purchasing this kit so I can confidently expect to see at least one of these models on our stand next year.

One other piece of kit news that I picked up over the weekend was related to the increasingly popular family of KAI F-50 Golden Eagle advanced trainer/light attack aircraft. Answer Models, a Polish company that is new to me, are set to release three different versions of the F-50 in 1:48 scale. The kit itself is the Academy moulding,

which is combined with high quality decals from Techmod decals and a full set of laser-cut seatbelts. Not surprisingly the first kit will feature the aircraft in Polish Air Force Service, but the next two (Kit Reference AA48022 & AA48003) cover the F-50I/TH with Indonesian and Royal Thai Air Force markings, and the F-50PH with Philippine and Iraqi Air Force markings respectively. There is no reference to new or revised parts so it must be assumed that the modeler will need to make the necessary adjustments to cater for each sub-variant in service with respective Asian Air Arms. Of course, Wolfpack may eventually get around to re-releasing their resin parts for the donor kit as standalone resin parts in due course, having previously cast these items for their release of the Academy kits. The Answer kits will be good news for European customers in particular since the previously released Wolfpack kits are actually quite difficult to source outside of the Asian market.

The only other news that I picked up at the show is with regard to new decals and in two cases, this was related to items manufactured by members of the Asian Air Arms SIG. Paul Fernandez of Blue Diamond Models stopped by the AAA SIG stand on Saturday to show me his forthcoming decal releases, all related to aircraft previously or currently operated by the

Philippine Air Force. The most exciting news from my perspective concerns the release of at least three different marking variations for the ever popular North-American F-86F Sabre. I believe that in at least two cases, these options have never been



released and I have little doubt that they will be popular. Paul showed me the initial prints and hopes to eventually release these in 1:72 & 1:48 scale and possibly 1:32 scale too if he receives sufficient interest. It has not yet been determined if these sheets will be released individually or as a full set, covering several Unit/Squadron options so keep an eye out for

more news via our Facebook pages. Paul is also set to release brand new decals for the KAI F-50PH Philippine Air Force Service. These decals will be available in both 1:72 and 1:48 scale and will definitely be of a better quality than kit supplied sheets.

SHEET #32 de Havilland Beaver,

Laos (1/72)

A few DHC L-20 Beavers were delivered in 1955/ 1957 as the Beaver short takeoff and landing capabilities were well suited it for the primitive conditions of Laotian airstrips. One or more of these L-20s arrived with a .50 calibre machine gun still mounted; the natural use for such an armed craft was as a gunship for strafing ground targets.



(source unknown)

Colour probably gloss light grey, plane code 16782.

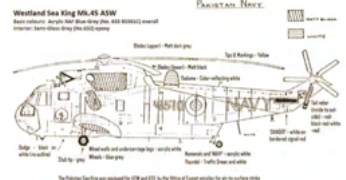
Unclear how many roundels were carried on the wing. (but 6 are provided)



Recommended 1/72 kit: Airfix (Vintage released 2023) or old rare kit Hobbycraft

Meindert de Vreeze, one of our Dutch SIG members and a regular contributor to our SIG newsletter also stopped by to introduce me to his range of custom-made decal sheets, many of which will be of interest to SIG members. Space precludes me from including information on the entire range, which continues to grow but I have included images of two examples of his Asian Air Arms range. As can be seen, these laser printed decals tend to cater for a single aircraft. Meindert's other main interest is aerobatic demonstration/ display team aircraft so he also has an extensive range of decals covering this genre and he is constantly adding to each range.

SHEET #29 Westland Seaking, Pakistan Navy (1/48)



Code white 4512

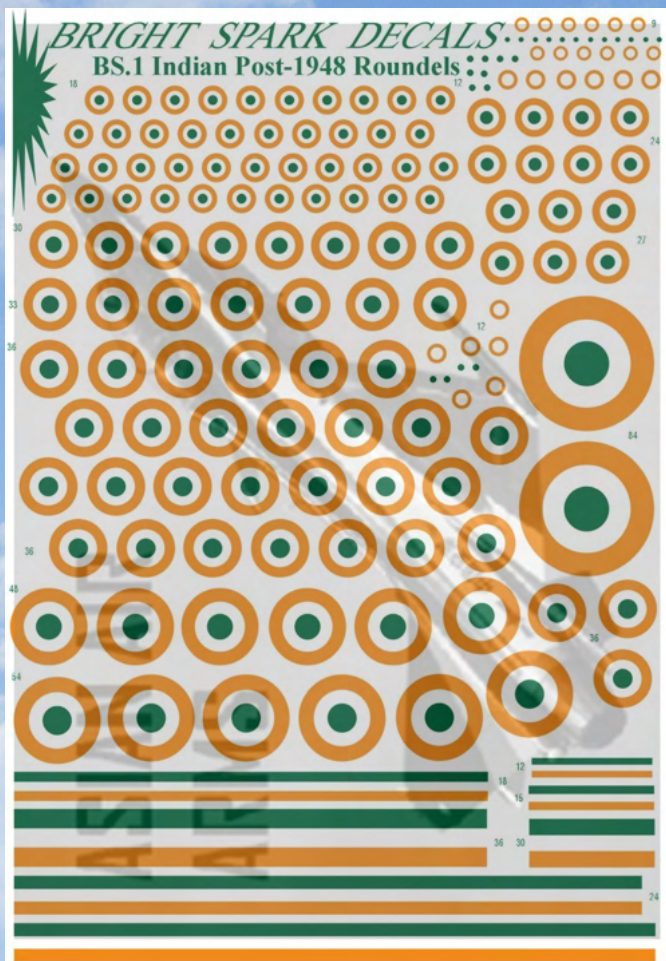
Source and credit: IPMS SIG Asian Air Arms (newsletter)



Recommended 1/48 kit: AIRFIX

individual commissions and/or suggestions for new items. For more information about the decals and internet links to appropriate reference photos for each decal release, visit the decal page at <https://aircraftinplastic.com/> or e-mail Meindert directly at meindert@aircraftinplastic.com.

Last but not least amongst all the news, Hannants were on hand at SMW'23 with a huge stock of all of their recent releases in their own Xtradecal range of decals. Their new decals included three Westland Sea King sheets, optimized for the recent or brand new 1:72 and 1:48 scale Airfix kits, and that will be of interest to Asian Air Arms fans. The 1:72 release (X72-351) includes decal markings for Indian and Pakistan Navy aircraft while two of the extensive range of 1:48 releases (Sea King Part 5 (X48-247) and Sea King Part 6 (X48-248)) include decals for an Indian Navy machine and two different Pakistan Navy aircraft. A full review of these sheets will be included in our next regular newsletter in early 2024.



Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a line of products that are not new but may be of interest to you for future modelling projects. Fellow AAA SIG member Mick Burton is the proprietor of Bright Spark Decals and he has an extremely useful range of generic decal sheets that extensively cover at least three of the principal Asian Air Arms. Mick is our resident expert on Indonesian military aviation so it should come as no surprise to discover that he has a number of sheets dedicated to the various Air Arms that operate with this country. The range also includes several sheets dedicated to India and Pakistan Air Arms from their foundation in the late 1940s to the present day. Although the majority of sheets are optimized for 1:72 scale models, the generic nature of the range does mean that some of the decals could be used on certain 1:144 and 1:32 scale subjects. The sale of these sheets does also benefit the SIG's finances as Mick generously donates a percentage of the profits to help with the running of the SIG. Mick is happy to take individual orders since some of the decal sheets need to be individually printed although most are normally in stock. If you are interested in seeing the entire range or ordering any of the sheets, please contact us through the normal e-mail contact address and we will forward your inquiry/order on to Mick.



A general view of the left-hand side of the Asian Air Arms SIG display, clearly showing the extensive array of 1:144 scale models produced and presented by our principal model show coordinator, Alan Smith.

Two aircraft, representing the rich history of the Royal Thai Air Force, dominate this central view of the AAA SIG display. The two 1:48 scale models, of a Curtiss BFC-2 Goshawk and a Fairchild AU-23 Peacemaker, were built by Colin Whitehouse.



Trumpeter's appropriately named Chengdu J-20A 'Mighty Dragon' in 1:48 scale, built by David Thomas, made a significant impression on the AAA SIG stand during SMW'23.

Gerry Doyle, one of our SIG members from the Republic of Ireland, displayed this very impressive Airfix 1:48 scale Supermarine Spitfire PR.XIX in the markings of the 1st Wing, Royal Thai Air Force. Gerry included a significant amount of extra detail in this model, including a superb rendition of the mighty Griffon engine and cockpit.





These three overhead shots clearly illustrate the breadth and depth of the Asian Air Arms SIG display for SMW'23. The fourteen members of this years 'Display Team' produced no less than 60 models representing 23 Asian nations and at least 30 different Air Arms. There can be little doubt that the assembled collection also represented a myriad of different aircraft and helicopter types with an equally varied range of colour schemes.





Many thanks are due to the Asian Air Arms SIG Display Team for SMW'23; Jon Bryon, Mick Burton, James Carr, Julien Dixon, Gerry Doyle, David Furness, Ian Gaskell, Andy Hardwick, Graham James, David Lonnen, Peter Shanley, Alan Smith, David Thomas, Nils Treichel, Colin Whitehouse and Mark Attrill.





ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
 Embraer EMB-312 Tucano
 Iranian Revolutionary Guard Air Corps
 1/48 Hobby Boss
 Caracal Decals
 Made by: David Thomas

As Deputy AAA SIG Leader, David Thomas set a fine example with the presentation of several impressive models at SMW'23, including this Hobbyboss 1:48 EMB-312 Tucano in the colours and markings of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Air Corps.

Julien Dixon, who joined the SIG after Scale Modelworld 2022, wasted no time in making a significant contribution to the SMW'23 display, with no less than six models on show including this neat little Hasegawa 1:72 scale Fuji T-1 trainer in JASDF markings.



Julien is also well-known in the UK modelling community for his expertise and interest in the North-American F-86F Sabre and all of its derivatives. It therefore came as no surprise when he delivered not one but four Sabres in a variety of colour schemes, including one of the lesser-known reconnaissance-configured RF-86Fs, all portrayed in JASDF markings.



The re-release of the Airfix 1:72 scale DHC-2 Beaver this year prompted your SIG leader to undertake a nostalgia build of an example operated by the Republic of China (Taiwan) Air Force, and this was accompanied by another model, by Mick Burton, of an Indonesian Army example which was completed using the slightly more recent Hobbycraft release of the DHC-2.

This image of a JMSDF HSS-2A (SH-3D) Sea King may be a little deceptive, since there are no reference points to indicate its size or scale. It is, in fact, a converted toy, estimated to be between 1:32 and 1:35 scale, so it is quite impressive. James Carr, who produced the original, will feature in the next edition of our regular newsletter and explain how he produced such an impressive display piece.



Graham James, who joined our SIG in 2022, has been a long-standing member of, and active contributor to, the Harrier SIG, and has a reputation for his prodigious output for both that SIG and now ours. It came as no surprise that he would provide several exhibits for the Asian Air Arms display including this rather colourful and interesting Zvezda 1:48 scale Yak-130 in Myanmar Air Force markings.

Alan Smith, our model show coordinator, has had a particularly busy year, which precluded the production of any new builds, but he can always be relied upon to provide some of his impressive 'back catalogue' for SMW, which included this lovely little Airfix 1:72 scale DH Vampire T.55 in JASDF markings.



ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
 de Havilland Vampire T.55
 JASDF Museum, Hamamatsu AB
 1/72 Airfix
 Pick n' Mix Decals
 Made by: Alan Smith

ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
 North American T-28D Trojan
 101st Composite Squadron, Laotian Air Force
 1/72 Heller Kit
 LF Decals
 Made by: Nils Treichel



Andy Hardwick, another of our regular contributors, has had another busy year at the workbench, although this rather smart 1:72 Hasegawa F-15E Strike Eagle, converted to portray a Republic of Singapore Air Force F-15SG in spectacular 50th Anniversary Markings, was not from the class of 2023.

This rather smart and unusual 1:72 scale PZL M-28 Skytruck by Aeroplast was made by Graham James for a 120-Day challenge on behalf of another SIG, and was finished in the markings of the Nepali Army Air Service. (A full build article appeared in our last SIG newsletter, no.38. – Ed)



Ian Gaskell's 1:48 scale Kinetic Lockheed F-104A Starfighter portrayed in Pakistan Air Force colours, and winner of an AAA SIG award during SMW'22, once again graced our display, contrasting nicely with the JASDF F-104DJ Starfighter prepared by Graham James.



ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
 Lockheed F-104A Starfighter
 9 Squadron, Pakistan Air Force
 1/48 Kinetic
 Illiad Decals
 Made by: Ian Gaskell



ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
Nanchang CJ6A
1st Training Regiment, PLANAF
1/48 Trumpeter
Kit/Home Made Decals
Made By: Jon Bryon

Another regular contributor to both the AAA SIG Stand at shows and the Newsletter is Jon Bryon, who displayed this rather smart Trumpeter 1:48 scale kit of the Nanchang CJ6A basic trainer, operated by the 1st Training Regiment of the Peoples' Liberation Army Naval Air Force. The original kit is quite basic, and Jon did some truly inspiring work to produce this masterpiece, complete with homemade decals.



ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
McDonnell- Douglas F-4D Phantom II
33 Tactical Fighter Squadron, IRIAF
1/48 Eschi
FCM Decals
Made by: David Thomas

David Thomas once again proved that a very respectable model can be produced from an old kit, in this case the rather basic but generally accurate Eschi 1:48 scale McDonnell-Douglas F-4D Phantom II, finished in the markings of the 33rd Tactical Fighter Squadron of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force.



ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
Hunting Jet Provost T.52
6 Squadron, Royal Ceylon Air Force
1/72 Airfix
Xtradecal Decals
Made by: Alan Smith

Another of Alan Smith's diminutive, little jet trainers, this time the recent Airfix 1:72 kit of the BAC Jet Provost T.Mk.52 in the markings of Number 6 Squadron of the Royal Ceylon Air Force.

David Furness' superb interpretation of the impressive Trumpeter 1:48 scale Chengdu F-8 Finback finished in the markings of an aircraft operated by the People's Liberation Army Air Force. The sheer size of this aircraft is impressive given that the JASDF Lockheed F-104DJ Starfighter, by Graham James, that sits alongside it, is quite a large aircraft too.



Alan Smith's well-known fascination with 1:144 subjects was amply demonstrated during SMW'23, with another outing for several of his more unusual types, including this Curtiss C-46 Commando portrayed in People's Liberation Army Air Force markings sourced from Taiwanese company Bestfong Decals.....



ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
Curtiss C-46 Commando
PLAAF 1949 Founding of PRC
1/144 Platz
Bestfong Decals
Made by: Alan Smith

.....and this rather neat JMSDF Douglas R4D-6Q Skytrain Electronic Countermeasures training aircraft, converted from the 1:144 Minicraft kit.



ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
Douglas R4D-6Q Skytrain
JMSDF Electronics Development Wing
1/144 Minicraft
MYK Decals
Made by: Alan Smith



Another impressive model from David Thomas, this time a Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM) Douglas A-4PTM Skyhawk, utilizing the Hasegawa 1:48 scale kit with decals from Asian manufacturer, VFA Productions.

This Hasegawa 1:200 scale Lockheed C-130H belonging to the 401 Hikotai, 1 Yuso Kokutai, JASDF, was built by Alan Smith, and was the winner of our Class 3 award for an AAA SIG member during SMW'22.



ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG
 Lockheed C-130H
 401 Hikotai, 1 Yuso Kokutai, JASDF
 1/200 Hasegawa
 Kit Decals
 Made by: Alan Smith



David Thomas produced a very impressive model from the old OEZ/KP 1:48 scale kit of the Sukhoi Su-25UB Frogfoot operational trainer, portrayed in markings of the 59th Mixed Aviation Brigade of the Uzbeki Air Force, and featuring a considerable amount of super detailing.



James Carr provided this Bronco 1:48 scale Chengdu JF-17 Thunder in Pakistan Air Force low-visibility markings.



The Mikoyan MiG-29 'Fulcrums' of the Bangladesh Air Force sport a highly colourful camouflage scheme based on several bright blue shades, which Graham James managed to replicate with his impressive rendition of the Academy 1:48 scale kit and a mix of commercial aftermarket and home-made decals.



As a member of the Harrier SIG, Graham James is known for his impressive production of this world-famous Vertical & Short Take Off and Landing (VSTOL) aircraft. This year our SIG benefitted once again with this excellent rendition of the two-seat BAe Harrier T.60 variant, resplendent in the markings of the Sea Harrier Operational Flying Training Unit of the Indian Naval Air Service.



This Hobbyboss 1:48 scale Sukhoi Su-27UB Flanker, built by Andy Hardwick, underlined the sheer size of this Russian fighter-bomber. Andy finished the model in the distinctive colour scheme and markings of the 604th Air Base Wing, Kazakh Air Force, sourced from a Linden Hill decal sheet.



This impressive Zvezda 1:48 scale Mil Mi-24V Hind, sporting an overall dark grey colour scheme and presented in Indian Air Force markings, was another of Andy Hardwick's contributions to the AAA SIG display table.

Alan Smith dropped down a scale with his presentation of a Hasegawa 1:200 scale Boeing E-767 AWACS (Airborne Early Warning) in the markings of the 602nd Hikotai of the JASDF.



This rather smart Leonardo M-346 Master is the Kinetic 1:48 scale kit, presented in the markings of 150 Squadron, Republic of Singapore Air Force, and built by Graham James.



This Monogram 1:48 scale Mikoyan MiG-15bis was the subject of a recent 120-Day challenge build undertaken by Graham James and finished, for the benefit of the AAA SIG, in the markings of the 1st Squadron, 821st GvIAP of the Korean Peoples' Army Air Force, using kit-supplied and homemade decals.



Out and About – The Competition and other Branch & SIG Stands



Two images of Andy Binks' impressive 1:48 scale Lockheed-Martin F-35A Lightning II of the JASDF presented on a simple yet effective diorama.



AAA SIG Member Ian Gaskell is also a member of the MiG SIG, and this very impressive and unusual Mikoyan MiG-19F 'Farmer' C, sporting markings for the Vietnamese Peoples' Army Air Force (North Vietnam), was spotted on their SIG stand.

Three Entries from the IPMS(UK) Main Competition



A very nicely presented Hasegawa 1:48 scale Mitsubishi F-2A of the JASDF in the traditional 'Sea Camouflage' colour scheme.



The F-104 Starfighter remains ever popular as a modelling subject. This highly colourful Eduard (Hasegawa) 1:48 scale example of the J-variant was finished in one of the special JASDF Tactical Air Meet schemes, in this case applied to a machine operated by the 203rd Hikotai (Tactical Fighter Squadron). The modeller made extensive use of aftermarket accessories to detail his competition entry.



The recent release of the Eduard 1:48 scale Hawker Tempest Mk.II proved to be particularly popular, with several examples observed during SMW'23, including this excellent example in the main competition, sporting the colourful 'desert' scheme applied to some Pakistan Air Force examples in the late 1940s. The model featured extensive super-detailing to the cockpit, engine compartment and cannon bays.



The JASDF are renowned for the variety of colour schemes they have applied to the McDonnell-Douglas F-15DJ Eagles operated by the Hiko Kyodotai (Aggressor Squadron) over the years. One of the most impressive in recent years was this 'tiger striped' pattern that was spotted on a Hasegawa 1:72 scale example on one of the club stands.



Another of Andy Binks' prodigious output of Japanese aircraft on the Japanese Aircraft Special Interest Group (JASIG) stand. A nicely finished Mitsubishi XF-2B 'Viper Zero' Test and Development machine, complete with high visibility AAM rounds.



It was nice to see a built example of the recent Kovozaovody Prostejov 1:48 scale model of the SIAI-Marchetti SF260TP light attack/COIN aircraft. This model features the unusual camouflage scheme applied to those aircraft operated by the Philippines Air Force.

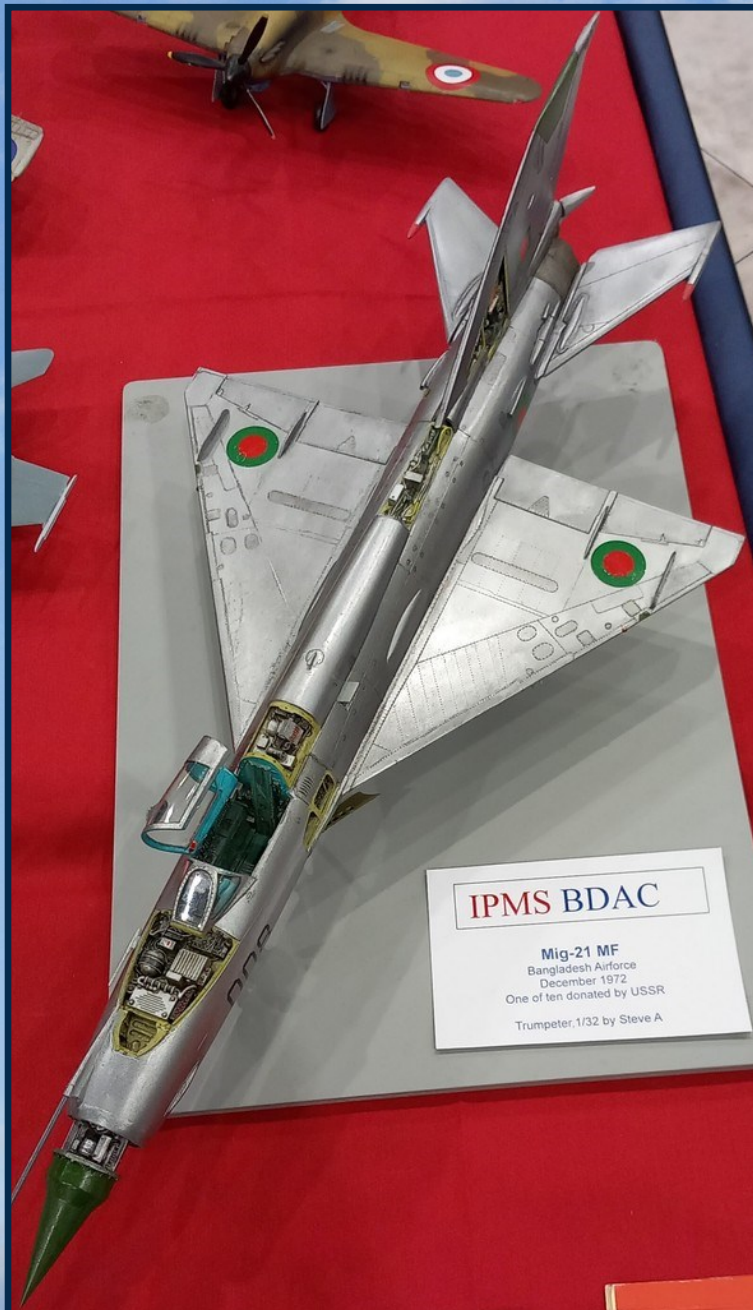


Huw Morgan, a fellow AAA SIG member and winner of our Class 3 prize at SMW'23 (See below), provided a wide range of Japanese themed models to SIG144, including this nice little trio of Mitsubishi-manufactured Advanced/Operational training aircraft, the F-1, T-2 and F-2B 'Viper Zero'.



The Indian Air Force hastily applied camouflage to some of their aircraft during the two air wars with Pakistan that took place in 1965 and 1971. One of the better-known schemes was this so-called 'tiger striped' scheme, applied to a Mikoyan MiG-21FL Fishbed E of 29 Squadron, and featured on this Academy 1:48 scale example seen on one of the many club stands at SMW'23.

A nicely presented Airfix 1:48 scale Supermarine Spitfire Mk.XIV in high-speed silver, and sporting Post-War Royal Thai Air Force markings.



This impressive Trumpeter 1:32 scale Mikoyan MiG-21MF Fishbed also sported a natural metal finish, which contrasted nicely with the vivid Red/Green colours of the Bangladesh Air Force national insignia.



The IPMS Ireland stand featured this 1:48 scale Fouga FM-170 Magister advanced trainer, which also sported a highly colourful Bangladesh Air Force scheme.

Another of Huw Morgan's superb 1:144 scale Japanese aircraft, this time a Lockheed UP-3C Orion operated by the 51st Air Development Squadron, JMSDF. It is understood that the kit originates from Tomytec of Japan.



This 1:72 Scale model of the Antonov An-2 'Colt' in Vietnamese People's Air Force markings was finished in an unusual 'Night Intruder' colour scheme.



A very nice example of a colourful Japanese Air Self Defence Force North American F-86F-40 Sabre in the markings of the JASDF 'Blue Impulse' Aerobatic Display Team.



This nicely built Hasegawa 1:72 scale Lockheed P-3C Orion (Block IIIA) portrays an aircraft from the 3rd Squadron of Fleet Air Wing 4 of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) in the more recent overall grey colour scheme.



This 1:48 scale model of the North-American F-86F Sabre in Imperial Iranian Air Force markings also features the distinctive 'UN' titles that were applied to those aircraft deployed to Africa as part of a UN Mission during the Congo crisis in the early 1960s. It is understood the decals were sourced from a Hi-Decal Line sheet manufactured by fellow AAA SIG Member, Diego Rogoz.



Several of our members contribute models across several SIGs in the interests of mutually supporting and promoting each group. Ian Gaskell has been a prolific modeller of MiG fighters, and this superb 1:48 scale Mikoyan MiG-29UB Fulcrum, in the markings of the Turkmenistan Air Force, was, on this occasion, displayed on the MiG Aircraft SIG tables.



In another example of cooperation, Mick Burton also provided models to the IPMS Portsmouth Branch Stand, including this highly colourful Hasegawa 1:72 scale UH-60J Rescue Hawk of the JMSDF, which also sported special 40th anniversary markings, including an impressive dragon motif running along the main fuselage.



Huw Morgan's Hasegawa 1:144 scale NAMC YS-11, finished in the markings of the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency, was another attractive addition to the SIG144 stand.

Another example of Mick Burton's impressive output during 2023 was this Airfix 1:48 scale Hawker Sea Fury, which received several modification and additions to portray it as one of the specialised TT.60 Target-Tugs operated by the Pakistan Air Force.



This 1:48 scale rendition of the ever-popular McDonnell-Douglas F-4D Phantom II was a slight variation on that presented by David Thomas on the AAA SIG, in that it featured an aircraft in the early delivery markings of the Imperial Iranian Air Force in the mid-1960s, when these aircraft were maintained in a very clean condition.



Despite the retirement of the McDonnell-Douglas F-4EJ Kai Phantom from JASDF Service, it remains a popular modelling subject, and this nicely finished 301 Hikotai example was one of several specially-marked Japanese Phantoms to be observed during SMW'23.

It was nice to see a finished example of the Kinetic 1:48 scale Northrop F-5A Freedom Fighter since these appear to be a rarity. This well-presented model in South Vietnamese Air Force markings was one of my personal favourites at SMW'23.



F-5A in Vietnamese service
Northrop F-5A
1/48 Kinetic Models kit
522 Sqn, VNAF
Bien Hoa, 1969
made by Mike Thompson
IPMS TELFORD



MiG-21 in N. Vietnamese service
MIG-21 MF
1/32 Trumpeter kit
made by Chris Davies
IPMS TELFORD

SMW'23 witnessed a resurgence in interest in the Trumpeter 1:32 scale Mikoyan MiG-21MF with several on display, including this nicely presented example sporting markings for the Vietnamese Peoples' Army Air Force (North Vietnam).



The attractive little WWII-era Grumman JRF-5 Goose amphibian is not a common sight at model shows, so I was delighted to see this nice example of a Post-War Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force example, created from the limited edition Czech Model mixed-media kit of the type.

The two-tone blue 'Sea Camouflage' previously applied to JASDF F-4EJ Kai Phantoms of 8 Squadron, and optimized for maritime attack operations, is one of my favourite F-4 Phantom schemes. This superb example, fashioned from the hugely popular Zoukei-Mura 1:48 scale kit, has been completed by well-known Phantom aficionado Colin Baillie of IPMS Edinburgh.



Another of Ian Gaskell's impressive collection of MiG aircraft, this time a Mikoyan MiG-21MF portrayed in an unusual Vietnamese Peoples' Army Air Force colour scheme, and seen on the MiG SIG Stand during SMW'23.



The Japanese manufactured Kawasaki T-4 two-seat tandem advanced training aircraft always makes for an attractive modelling subject, particularly when it is portrayed in JASDF 'Blue Impulse' markings as shown here.



The Kinetic 1:48 scale kit of the Leonardo M-346 Master advanced training aircraft has become quite popular, with several examples observed on stands at SMW'23, including this excellent model of a Republic of Singapore Air Force aircraft in a standard low-visibility colour scheme.



A nice example of the Airfix 1:72 scale kit of the BAe Hawk Mk.108, finished in the markings of No. 6 Skuadron of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM)



The attractive Dassault Mirage 2000 is another type that is gaining popularity among the modelling community, thanks to the availability of accurate examples in each of the major scales. This nice example, believed to be the Kinetic 1:48 scale kit, portrays a Mirage 2000-5EI variant in ROCAF markings.



The first-generation Mikoyan MiG-15 jet fighter is another popular subject, with several dozen examples on display at SMW'23, including this 1:48 scale model, resplendent in Korean Peoples' Army Air Force camouflage and markings from the early 1950s.



This superb 1:32 scale model of a McDD RF-4E Phantom II portrayed an aircraft operated by 501 Squadron of the JASDF, and sported the special markings applied to this aircraft to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the JASDF in 2004. The Revell donor kit is, by modern standards, quite basic, which makes this rendition particularly impressive.



Another very neat example of the Eduard/Special Hobby 1:48 scale Hawker Tempest Mk.II finished in the two-tone brown over PRU blue scheme applied to some Pakistan Air Force aircraft in the late 1940 and early 1950s. The Eduard/Special Hobby series of Tempest kits appear to have been very popular during SMW'23, with numerous examples on display.



The spectacular Double-Excellent (DXM) decals, manufactured in Taiwan, which portray an impressive digital camouflage scheme applied to a JASDF F-4EJ Phantom II of the Air Development and Test Wing, continue to inspire modellers, with at least three examples on show during SMW'23, including this superbly finished model on one of the IPMS Club Stands.



Another spectacularly-liveried Japanese aircraft on show during SMW'23 was this specially marked Boeing F-15J Eagle, operated by the 303rd Hikotai JASDF. The aircraft was known by the name 'Shiro Ruyu' and had a very large white Dragon motif emblazoned across a wide part of the upper fuselage and wing surfaces while participating in the 2003 edition of the annual JASDF TAC Meet.



The Korean Aviation Industries (KAI) F-50 Golden Eagle Advanced Trainer/Light Attack aircraft has enjoyed considerable export success, spawning a nice variety of colour schemes and markings among those Air Forces that have purchased the type. This Academy 1:48 scale KAI F-50I sported the light blue/grey camouflage scheme applied to Indonesian Air Force (TNI-AU) examples, which accentuates the attractive lines of this type.

One of several JASDF Test and Development aircraft spotted on the JASIG stand was this Hasegawa 1:48 scale example of the Mitsubishi XT-2 advanced trainer, which serves to underline the type's similarity with a certain Anglo-French design of the same era and shows why it is often referred to as the "Japanese Jaguar".



The Indian Air Force now have something of a reputation for developing spectacular special markings for some of their combat aircraft involved in Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT) and this has, over the years, included several dozen examples of the Mikoyan MiG-21 Fishbed. This example was fashioned from a limited-edition re-issue of the excellent Eduard

1:48 scale kit of the type which included these attractive red & black markings that extend along the spine and onto the rear surfaces of a MiG-21bis variant.

A nice pair of Airfix 1:72 scale Mikoyan MiG-15s, highlighting two of the many colour or camouflage schemes applied to North Korean aircraft during the Korean War of 1950-53.





AAA SIG Member Peter Shanley received the Class 1 – 1:48 Scale or Larger – award for his superb rendition of a JASDF North-American F-86D-26 Sabre Dog operated by the Air Proving Group, the forerunner to the Air Proving and Test Wing. Peter utilized the Revell 1:48 scale kit of the F-86D together with decals sourced from the kit and a Hasegawa F-86F Sabre. Unfortunately, Peter was only able to attend SMW'23 on the Saturday and was, therefore, unable to collect his award in person during our small ceremony on Sunday afternoon.



Mick Burton won the Class 2 award for the second year running, with his excellent 1:72 scale Hasegawa model of a Royal Thai Navy Aichi E13A-1 (BRN.3) 'Jake' floatplane, operated by the 1st Naval Wing from 1945. Mick utilized decals from Siam Scale and posed his model on a suitable slipway base, together with the beaching trolley and other ancillaries.



ASIAN AIR ARMS SIG

Aichi E13A-1 (BRN.3) 'Jake'
1st Naval Wing, Royal Thai Navy
1/72 Hasegawa
Siam Scale Decals
Made by: Mick Burton



AAA SIG Member Huw Morgan won the Class 3 award – 1:144 scale and smaller – for his superb replica of the Curtiss C-46ECM, an Electronic Warfare Training aircraft operated by the Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and derived from the C-46 Commando transport aircraft. This model is one of the 1:144 scale family of C-46 variants manufactured by Japanese manufacturer Platz, and was one of the many excellent models produced by Huw for SIG144.





Khawar Sarfaz, an AAA SIG member originally from Pakistan but currently living and working in Hong Kong, made the long journey to attend SMW'23. Khawar was well rewarded for his efforts, winning several trophies in the main IPMS(UK) Competition, where he also picked up the AAA SIG 'Phil Camp Memorial Ward' for his superb 1:72 Trumpeter Nanchang A-5C Fantan in Pakistan Air Force markings. The Phil Camp Memorial Award, presented to the best model of an Asian Air Arms subject in the main competition, was inaugurated several years ago to honour Phil Camp, a well-known expert on the Indian Air Force who had been a member of the SIG until his untimely death. We were delighted to discover that this year's award would go to a fellow SIG member, who received an appropriate certificate and prizes, including a brace of books charting the history of the Pakistan Air Force, generously presented by Tom Cooper, the Asia@War commissioning editor for Helion Books Limited.





Our fifth and last award of the annual AAA SIG competition during Scale Modelworld 2023 was the recently inaugurated Brian Griffin Award, in honour of our founding SIG Leader, who graced us with his presence over the weekend. This award, for the best Asian Air Arms subject by a non-AAA SIG member, was awarded to Malcolm Long for his Indian Air Force 1:48 Eduard Hawker Tempest Mk.II & Airfix Supermarine Spitfire Mk.XVIII pair, which appeared on the IPMS Kent Branch Stand. Brian Griffin was on hand to present Malcolm with his certificate and one of his prizes, while Tom Cooper of Helion Books Limited also presented an appropriate book from the Company's Asia@War series.





Asian Air Arms SIG

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