

Tom Grossman

Model Kit Report

The Jet is Close To Completion

Part 2 puts a scalelike finish on Tom Grossman's Czech Models Shooting Star.

My previous Model Kit Report was built around the Czech Models 1/32-scale F-80C Shooting Star from Squadron and Military Model Distributors, along with the True Details set of Misawa Wing Tip Tanks and a stunning Avionix Cockpit Set. New to the list of upgrades for the Shooting Star are True Details Wheel Well Sets and 1000-Pound Bomb Sets.

The Czech Models F-80C is a multimedia kit. Styrene kit for the most part, the Shooting Star includes resin and photo-etch parts. Aftermarket sets add complexity and challenge to the build, as well as higher detail levels and greater accuracy for the finished model. They can also be builds in themselves. More mediums in a kit call for a variety of tools and supplies.

Multimedia kits and aftermarket sets call for a broad range of modeling techniques. Less experienced builders are often intimidated by such possibilities, but it's really just a matter of some new tools and tricks to make the job easier.

It's hard to overplay the importance of dry-fitting; testing the parts fit before applying adhesives. This is particularly true with a complex model like the Czech Models F-80C. Parts that fit together well take less glue and less filler, and the finished model usually looks better. The trick to getting the best fit is removing flash and sprue points effectively. For styrene parts, good sprue cutters like the new model from Xuron get builders started correctly.



Multimedia kits benefit from different tools and techniques to get a great looking model of a historically significant aircraft..

Then, sprue and flash can be removed safely with sanding sticks like the Excel #55678; blue and green are the ideal grits. A short, curved blade like the Excel #12 works well for shaving sprue points and scraping (adzing) flash.



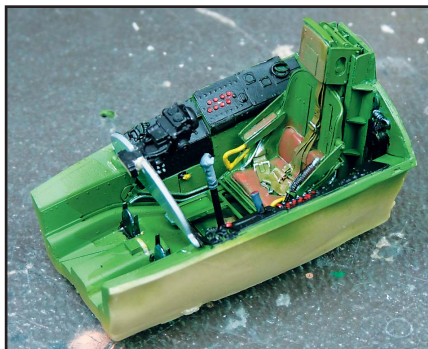
Gloss paint and metalizers require smooth surfaces, so base coat, sand, then coat again.

Clean the parts and check the fit. Look for whatever keeps things from fitting neatly — as many times as it takes. Parts shouldn't have to be forced together to get them to fit.

Of the instrument panels in the Czech Models kit and the Avionix Cockpit Set, the Czech is the better representation with the least amount of required detail work. The kit panel has a top layer with the instrument bezels, text and other surface details.

The middle layer has the faces, and the back layer is a blank styrene carrier. This assembly calls for cutting delicate metal parts from their carriers and gluing them to each other and to the plastic backer.

Photo-etch parts are best cut away over a hard surface. Use a fresh Excel #12. Smaller parts can often go flying into space without precaution, so cut them away inside a plastic



The details in the Avionix F-80C Shooting Star Seat and Cockpit Tub really pop when painted. It's a super accurate representation, along with the Czech Models instrument panels.

bag. Once cut, CA glues are best for attaching them. The F-80C build will conclude next month. **HM**