

## F9F-2 PANTHER

Hobby Boss 1/72 No. 87248



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The F9F-2 Panther was Grumman's first jet fighter and the U.S. Navy's first successful carrier based jet fighter. It flew about 78,000 missions during the Korean War and scored the first air to air kill by the U.S Navy was a North Korean Yakovlev-9 by Lt. JG Leonard Plog. It also accounted for the first MiG-15 brought down by Lt. Cmdr. William Amen of VF-111 Sundowners. A total of 1,382 were built. It was also the first jet used by the Blue Angels.

Some of the well known names that flew the Panther during this time period was, John Glenn, Ted Williams and Neil Armstrong. By the time 1956 came around the type was withdrawn from front line service. They went to US Navy and US Marine reserve units until 1958. They were kept in service in small numbers into the 1960's.

The Argentine Navy bought 24 ex US Navy aircraft, but were land based. The carrier the Argentines had was not capable of catapult launching this type. It wasn't powerful enough.

The kit consisted of a 2 page color sheet, depicting the U.S.Navy and the Argentine Navy 1960. One sprue of clear plastic with foam protection for the canopy. Three sprues of light color grey plastic. A trifold 6 page 6 page instruction sheet with colors spelled out with Mr. Hobby numbers. Also color numbers from Vallejo, Model Master, Tamiya and Humbrol are listed.

While looking at the 3 sprues, there is very nice detail on all pieces. Pluses are fins for the rockets, cockpit detail very good. The fuselage has recessed panel lines. The wheels wells and doors have very good detail for this scale. The wheels have good detail. The minus is that the sprue connections on the small parts are very thick.

Washed all the parts in a soapy solution and rinsed them let them air dry. Looking at the instruction I took the parts that were to be painted white a coat of light grey. I started with the cockpit, painted the side painted dark grey, not black as indicated because of the small scale. The seat was painted dark grey with silver on the ejection rails. The tub was painted field green.

Finished the cockpit tub, with highlights and added the decal to the instrument panel. The front wheel well was painted white and the exhaust nozzle titanium which is dark and probably close to burnt iron.



Dry fitted the cockpit tub, the exhaust nozzle and the front wheel well.

The down side of the wheel well is that the front nose gear is very fragile and broke off later in the assembly of the model. After dry fitting was complete, all the assemblies were glued in place, to the left side of the fuselage. Before adding the right side some weight was added to both sides at the nose position. The right side was then attached to finish the assembly. The lower wing is one piece and requires that the intakes be glued in place. Again dry fitting was required before attaching the lower wing to the fuselage. After I was satisfied that



everything was okay, I glued the lower wing to the fuselage. The upper wings were then dry fitted and glued to the lower wing. The horizontal stabilizers were dry fitted and then attached to the fuselage. The wing tip fuel tanks were added to the wings.

Any additional small parts were primed with a light grey along with the fuselage. The inside of the wheel well doors were painted white and any other parts that needed white paint. After letting the parts dry for a few days the fuselage was painted Dark Sea Blue FS 15042. The wheel well doors were also painted Dark Sea Blue, along with the rocket pylons.

A couple of coats of Future were applied and let dry for a couple of days. The decals were applied with a little silvering showing. The decals went on very well. I added some Bare-Metal foil along the leading edges of wing.

I was very happy with the fit of the parts, especially along the wing roots. A little white glue was used to fill the gaps and this worked well. I spent about 15 hours on and off building this model over about 4 months. A nice little model to my collection, but it is time to move some of the models from the display cabinet to storage or to the grandsons.