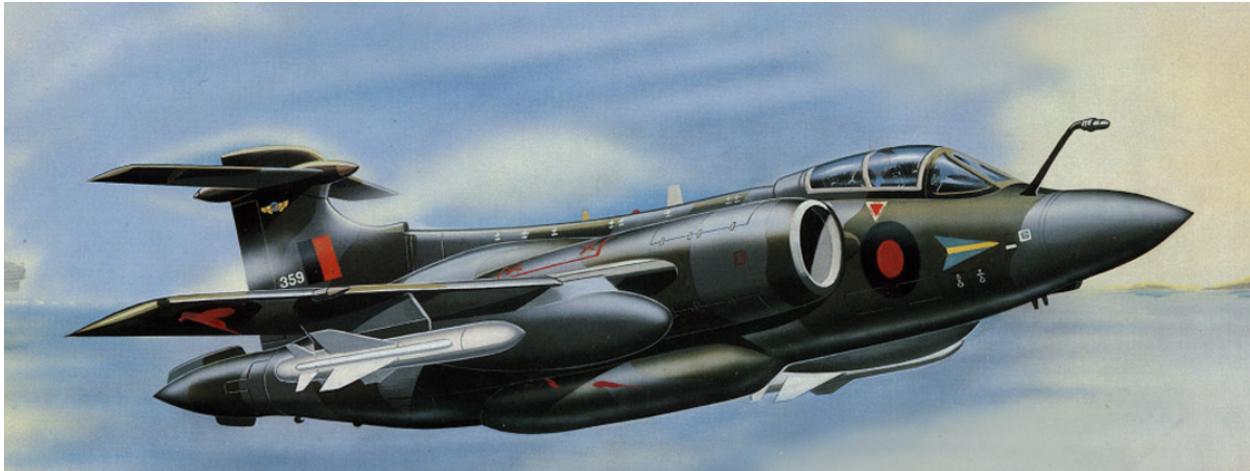


Hawker Siddeley Buccaneer S.2B Airfix 1/72 # 3055



By Paul Gasiorowski

Conceived as a carrier based bomber for the Royal Navy, the prototype Blackburn NA 39 first flew in April 1958. It was designed to fly at high sub-sonic speeds, over long ranges. It was strongly designed and gave the two crew members a comfortable ride. The first operational version the S.1 entered service with the Royal Navy in 1962. It was soon followed by the S.2 in the late 1960's. This version was designed for the RAF, and No 12 Squadron received the type in 1970. It was assigned a maritime role based out of Lossiemouth. Its speed was 645 MPH, its length was 63.6 ft. and the wingspan was 43.9 ft. It was retired in 1994. It saw action in the 1ST Gulf War and the African Border war in the late 1970's and early 1980's



The kit consists of four light gray sprues, plus one clear sprue. The instruction sheet was a threefold (6 pages). Humbrol paints were indicated by number, but there was no reference in the sheet. So the codes had to be looked up.

I started with washing the sprue in a soapy solution; rinsed and let them air dry. Starting with the cockpit assembly, which consisted of 2 seats and an instrument panel? The seats were painted and detailed a little. I highlighted the seat belts with a light tan and the headrest red. The cockpit tub was an integral part of the upper fuselage. The interior was painted DK. Sea Gray, the instrument panel and front of the panel was painted matte Black. The fan blades were installed in the upper fuselage assy. and painted Aluminum and Matte Black. Also the bomb bay door was installed. Two were supplied depending on the type of weapon to be carried. I just picked one of them as it didn't indicate what the difference was. Prior to assembling the fuselage halves weight was to be added to the nose (5 Grams). I forgot to do this, so the weight would be added later by putting them in the nose and also by drilling a hole in the forward bulkhead and inserting some fishing weights.



The wings were assembled next along with the vertical tail. The horizontal assembly would wait till later in the build, because there wasn't much of an attachment point. I wanted to make sure the vertical stabilizer was really vertical.

The nose assembly was put together along with some weights. As previously mentioned I forgot to add them earlier. I also assembled the extra fuel tanks, but did not assemble any of the weapons that came with the kit. I opted not to add them. I did not spend a lot of time on the seams. What was nice about the kit was that the fuselage halves were top and bottom, rather than left and right. This would make getting rid of the seams a lot easier. The canopy was dipped in Future and then added to the fuselage. Then I used Micro-Mark masking solution to cover the glass that was not to be painted. This worked out well, because when the paint was dry the mask came off pretty easily.



Prior to painting I wiped down the model with Plastic-Prep. The interior of the wheel well and covers were painted Pale Gray Gloss. The aircraft was to be painted a two tone color camo. One color was Dark Sea Gray and the other was Dark Green Satin. I painted the entire model Dark Sea Gray first and let it dry for a couple of days. I then cut out some random patterns using Tamiya tape and filling in the gaps with just plain paper, before applying the Dark Green Satin. Again letting it dry for a few days, I gave it some light coats of Future before applying the decals.

I assembled the wheel assemblies which seemed to be over built and heavy looking. Maybe because it was designed for carrier use or Airfix just decided to make them too thick. One advantage would be they wouldn't collapse very easily after being attached.

The decals went on very easily and came off the paper after some extra soaking. The leading edges of the wings were hand painted with decanted Aluminum paint from a can, along with the edges of the exhaust nozzles.

After finally finishing the model I noticed the some of the Dark Sea Gray seeped into the right side of the canopy. I was thinking about pulling of the canopy and trying to fix the overspray and said nope, let it be.

All in all not a bad kit, but I just wanted something quick to build and decrease my stash. I wish AIRFIX would have added a list of Humbrol codes instead of having to go on line and find out what colors were needed. I used Model Master Acryl paints, trying to find as close a match as I could.

