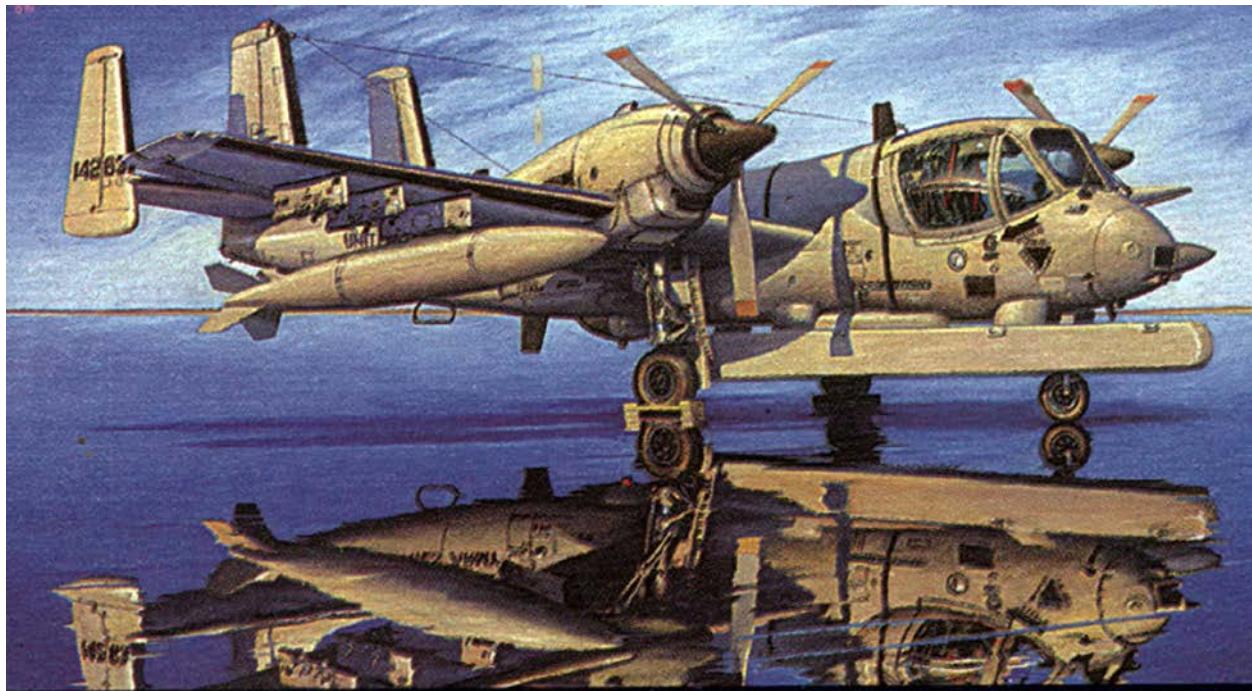


Roden Grumman OV-1D Mohawk 1/48th scale



By Dick Smith

Modelers have two kits available of the Grumman OV-1D, one in 1/72nd scale from Hasegawa of Japan and a second, in 1/48th scale, from Roden from Ukraine. Roden also produces the earlier OV-1A and OV-1B/C kits all of which are complex and not for the beginner. Roden's 1/48th scale "D" offering starts with the 30-piece cockpit that is highly visible through the large bubble-type canopy.



The two Martin Baker J5D ejection seats are made up of 10 individual pieces. These seats are substantial, draw a great deal of attention and will benefit from careful painting in various shades of dark green, flat black and olive drab. The overall cockpit floor and walls are flat light gull gray, FS-36440. The pilot's instrument panel part is molded in clear plastic with a unique "reverse printed" decal that is positioned on the back of the piece. The effect is quite convincing and results in a realistic panel.



The electronics reconnaissance officer's instrument cluster is dominated by a large scope. Molded in clear plastic, an active screen can be duplicated by painting the back of the piece medium green. Another option might be to paint the back of the screen black as the unit would most likely be inoperative when the aircraft is on the ground when all "systems are down." The remaining parts of the cockpit are accurately reproduced with even a tiny fire extinguisher painted red, that is positioned on the rear wall of the crew compartment.

Several sub-assemblies of the fuselage and wings are tackled next. The exhaust ports of the Lycoming T53-701 turbo-prop are glued together; the horizontal stabilizers are assembled along with the vertical tail parts which then completes the tri-tailed empennage.

The top and bottom wing pieces are cemented together and then the engine cowlings are carefully glued into place. Since this kit has parts for earlier models of the Mohawk, be sure to follow the instructions and make certain you select the correct version pieces especially when attaching the wingtip panels.

There are optional extended range fuel tanks provided in the kit. These tanks are painted the same colors as the rest of the aircraft but a little white added to the gray will give some contrast to the overall monotone of the model.

There are two versions of the SLAR (Side Looking Airborne Radar) pod that is mounted on the starboard side of the fuselage. The larger of the two in the kit (parts 5E and 11E) are correct for the "D" model. Before assembling the SLAR, glue as many BBs as possible in the front of the pod. (This will aid in keeping the model from becoming a "tail sitter.") Assemble the pod and carefully follow the instructions on how to attach SLAR to the fuselage. Getting the SLAR to sit parallel to the ground is very important and the most difficult part of building this model.



With the sub-assemblies complete, attach the wings, the empennage and the landing gear with its many doors. The nose section of the fuselage is molded in clear plastic to accommodate a forward-looking electronics package "eye." Paint the inside of the "eye" and then add as many BBs as possible to this part to aid in the model's final stance. Before cementing the fuselage parts together, pack more weight into the area under the cockpit floor between the nose gear bay and the fuselage sides. (All of this weight added to the model didn't prevent the Mohawk from becoming a "tail sitter" but a scratch-built tail stand solves the problem.)

The fuselage is painted in light gull gray overall. The anti-icing panels on the leading edge of the wings and those of the vertical and horizontal tail are masked and painted flat black. The propellers are flat aluminum tipped with yellow. Complete the model by attaching the canopy parts with white glue and applying the kit's markings.