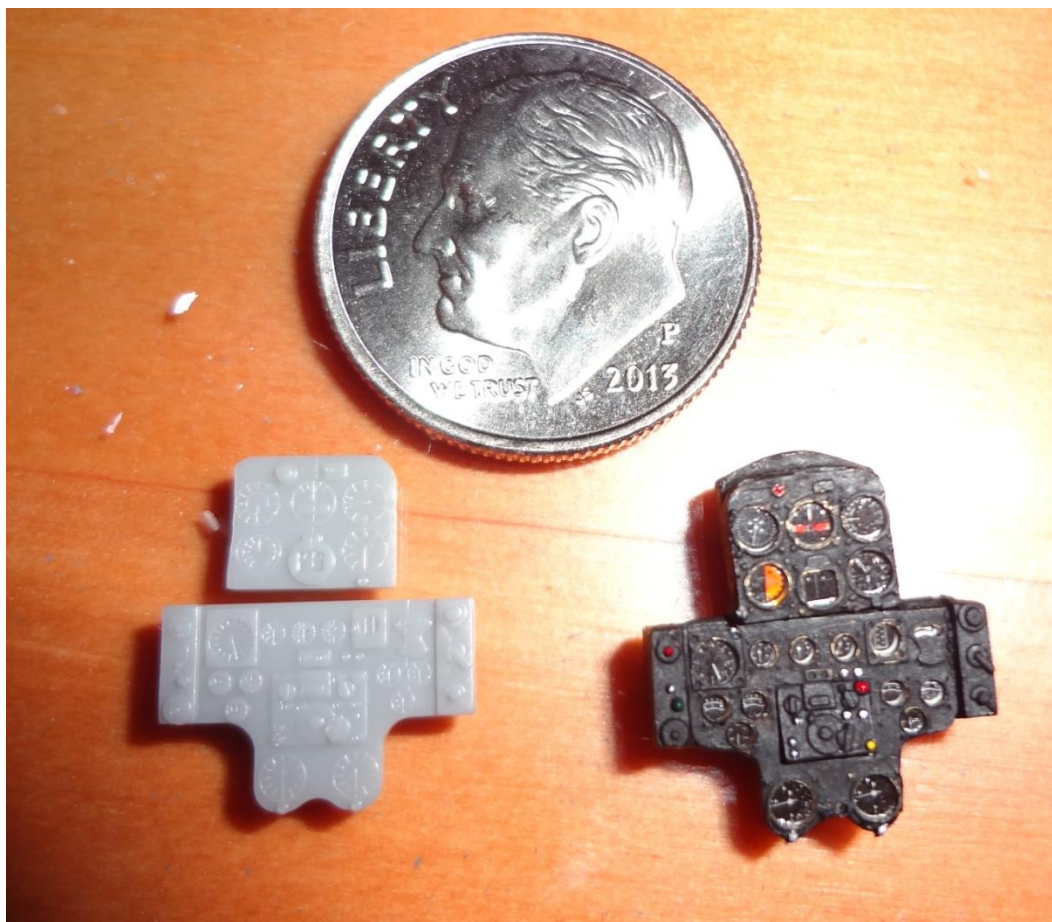


Nakajima Ki43-II Late Version Hayabusa (Oscar), 1/48, Hasegawa

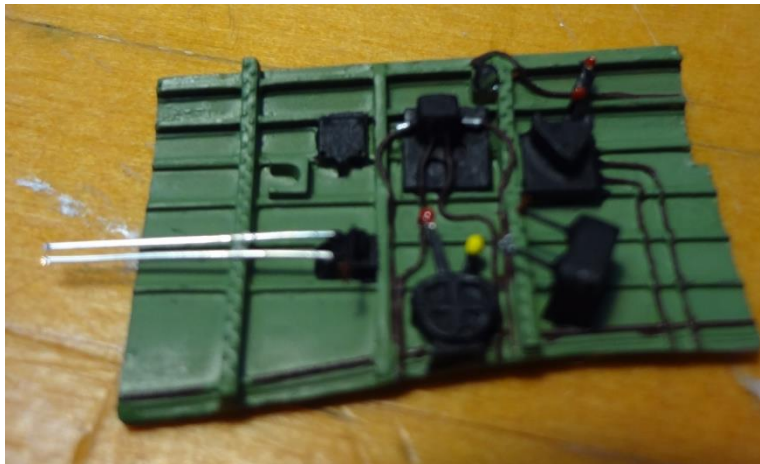
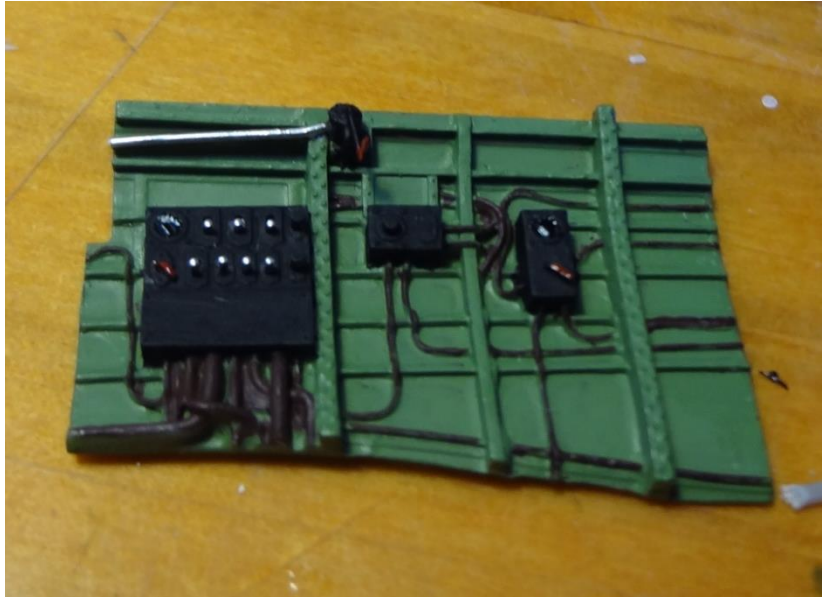
by David Kopielski



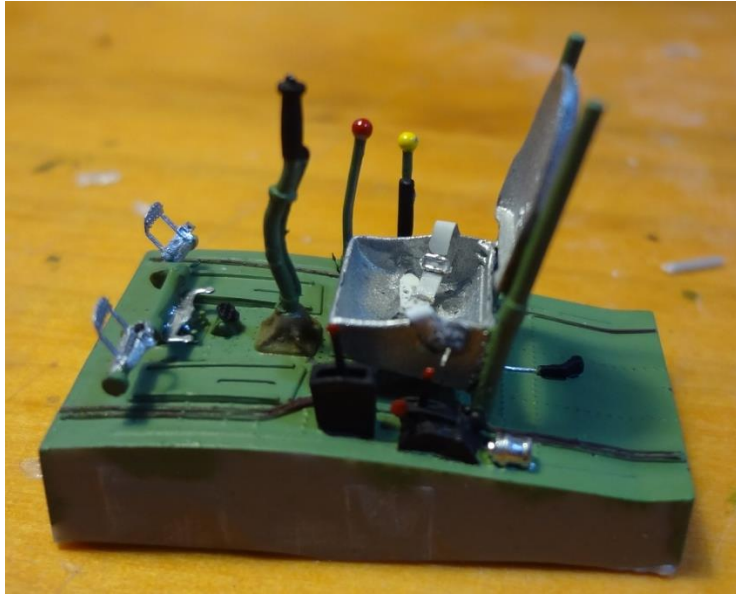
The Nakajima Ki43 Hayabusa was one of the Japanese Army's most successful fighters. Nicknamed "Oscar" by the allied forces, the aircraft fought in China, Burma, the Malay Peninsula, New Guinea, the Philippines, South Pacific islands and the Japanese home islands. Many referred to it as the "Army Zero" because it bore a certain resemblance to the Japanese Navy Mitsubishi A6M Zero. One of the interesting features of this aircraft was its combat maneuvering flaps on the inner trailing edge of the wings. These allowed the aircraft to pull tight high "G" turns without stalling giving it the ability to outmaneuver many other aircraft.



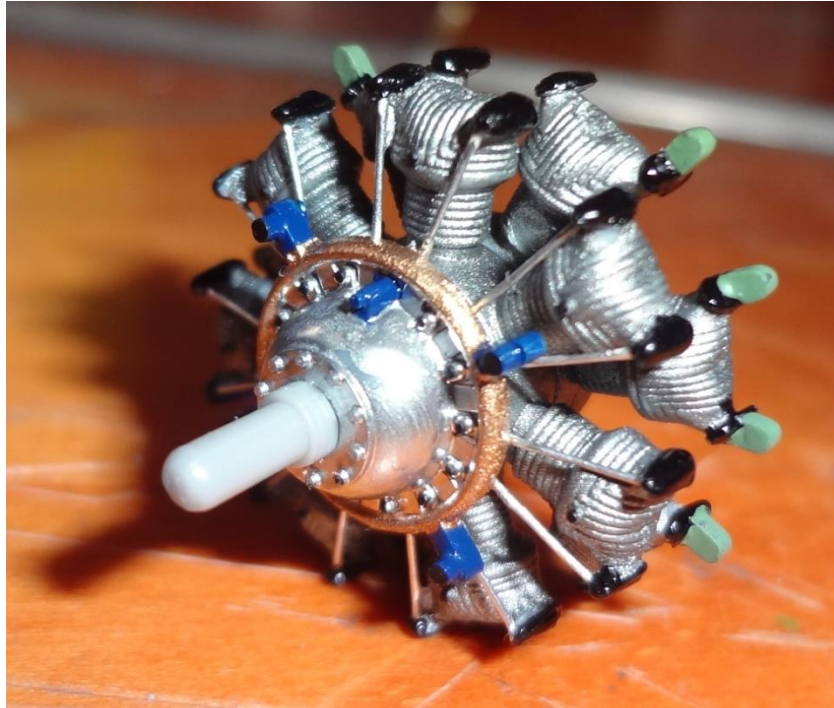
The kit is molded in light gray consisting of five sprue trees and one clear sprue tree. I also used the Eduard photo etch set (49202). Starting with the cockpit I used the Eduard parts. The left is the kit dash and the right is the Eduard completed dash.



The seat and sidewalls were then detailed and painted. I used some 32 AWG wire to add in more of the control rods and cables.



Moving forward the engine was then detailed using 32 AWG wire replacing the pushrods on the radial engine. The engine was then assembled and painted.



The fuselage was assembled and the fit was very good. Only minor filler was needed on the bottom section where the wings meet the fuselage. I mounted the combat maneuvering flaps in the open condition to highlight this interesting feature of the aircraft. The aircraft was painted with Tamiya Bare Aluminum Metal Silver (AS-12) and then I used Tamiya IJA green (XF-13) applied with several small various shaped pieces of cut up foam to create the mottled pattern depicted on the box art. The Tamiya Flat Yellow (XF-3) used on the leading edge of the wings was almost a perfect match to the yellow of the tail decals. I utilized the decals representing the 54th Flight Regiment 2nd Squadron, aircraft of Captain Yukinchi Kitakoga, June 1944, Kashiwabara Air Base Horomushiro Island . The decals for the tail and horizontal stabilizers were a little tricky to fit but once aligned and some microsolv decal solvent, laid down on the surface very well. The antenna rigging was done with EZ-Line thin. Overall I enjoyed building this interesting aircraft of the Japanese Army Air Force.



