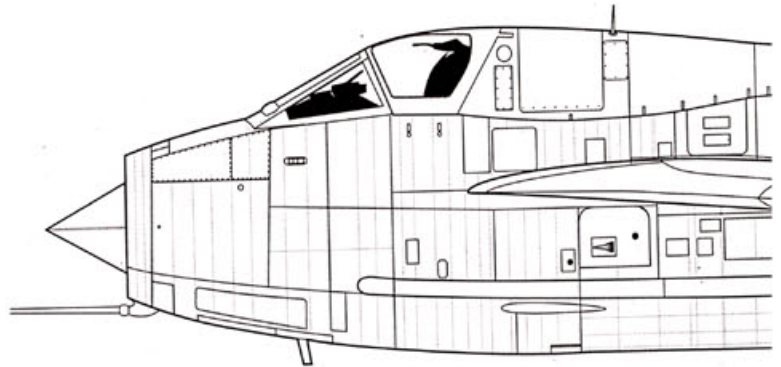
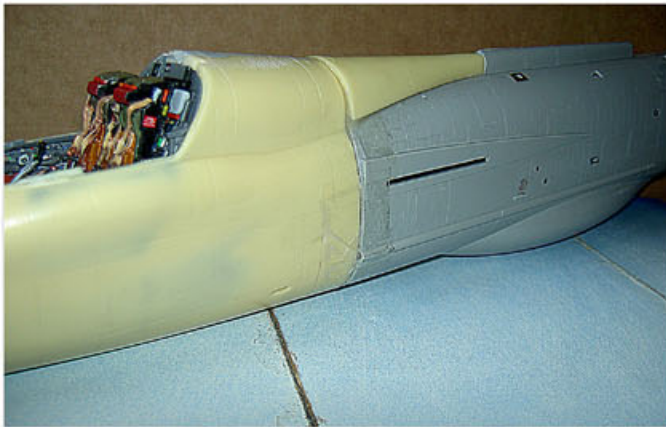


ENGLISH ELECTRIC LIGHTNING T Mk.4

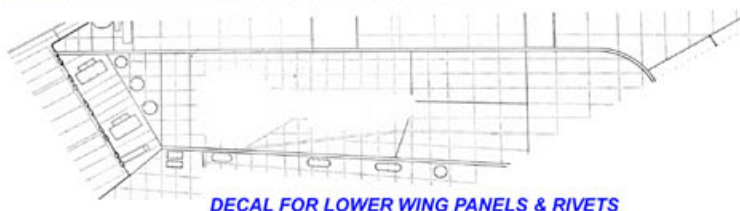
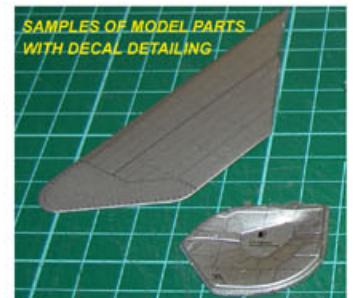
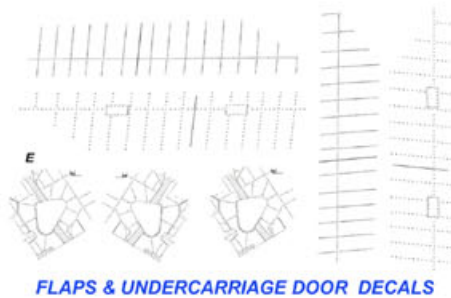


WHIRLYBIRD CONVERSION OF TRUMPETER 1:32 F1/3 KIT

The Lightning is one of my favourite jet fighters and two-seaters have always attracted me. Seeing a £97 kit fuselage in half gave pause for thought but I took the plunge and committed my modelling skills to the task. A massive resin nose casting was offered up to the sacrificed kit fuselage. The fit was not perfect and the spine casting was not a good fit but after epoxying the parts to the kit fuselage and using lashings of Humbrol filler, some hours later I was reasonably satisfied with the results.



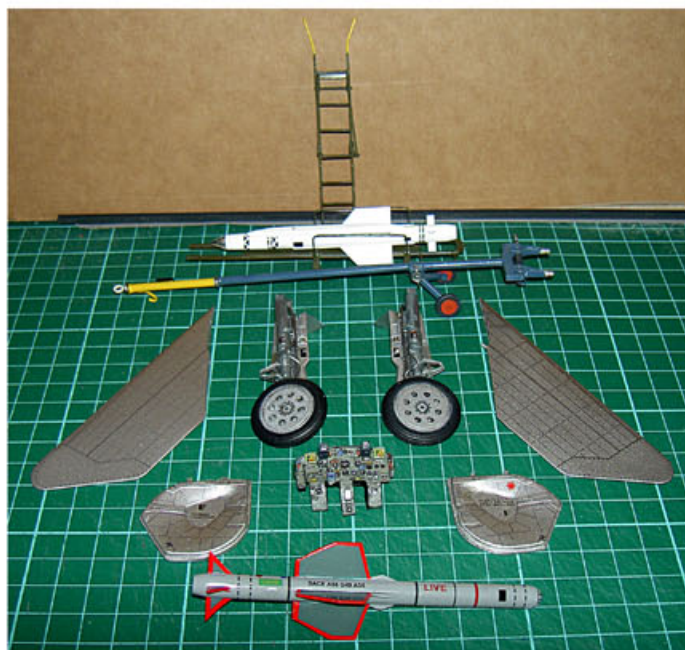
I produced panel lines and rivets onto decal paper as the detailing on the resin parts was sparse and basic. This action was taken over all the models surfaces and many hours were spent on the computer generating hundreds of rivets and panels using excellent plans as a guide.



The cockpit and ejector seats are provided by Whirlybird and very acceptable they are, with careful detailed painting and a few added scratch-built parts, it makes for a good representation of the real thing. The instrument panel was enlarged and dials sharpened up and improved.



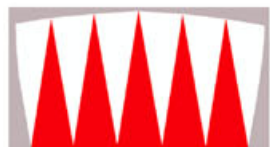
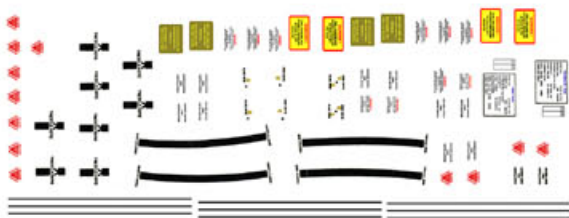
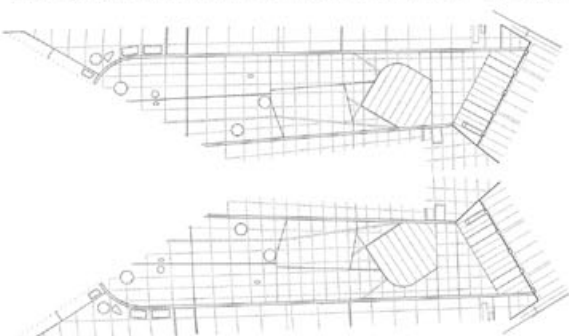
The ejector seats are well reproduced in 32nd scale, seat belts are incorporated into the mouldings and look good when painted. I added some data panels to the seats and cockpit area, these also were produced on my computer using Adobe Photoshop and a six colour printer.



Sub-assemblies including Red Top and Firestreak missiles, access ladder, towing bar and undercarriage parts were painted and decals added.

About 75 percent of the model are from kit parts. I used Aires resin detailed parts for the undercarriage, rear jet cans and afterburner and excellent parts they are!

The yellow trainer bands and the vast majority of data, panel lines and rivets were computer generated.



The undercarriage legs were shortened to pose model 'loaded'

