

ARCTIC AND DESERT CATS

Luke Flynn builds
the latest 1:48
Airfix SEPECAT
Jaguar GR.1



none of which had any remnants of flash or burring but did have some traces of oil on the surface, which was cleaned off with some soapy water. After cleaning up, it was time to start cementing pieces together.

Starting with the cockpit, I focused on assembling the detailed instrument panel and ejection seat. Airfix provides decals for the instrument panel, which, when applied over a gloss base, give a realistic appearance. The cockpit sidewalls are moulded into the fuselage halves, adding to the overall detail. I painted the cockpit components with Mr Color paints, using

black-basing techniques to create depth and variation. The ejection seat was carefully painted and detailed with stencils, bringing it to life. The fuselage halves fit together well, encapsulating the cockpit and nose wheel bay. The kit includes options for different nose configurations, with a jig provided to assist in accurate cutting and fitting. The airbrake bays are detailed and can be posed open or closed, adding to the model's versatility. The engine exhausts and afterburner rings are finely moulded, and the gear bays are well-detailed, reflecting Airfix's attention to detail in this kit. A real highlight of this kit for me was the exceptional fitment of parts throughout. The separate overwing design clicked into place, and you would be hard pushed to identify this as a separate sub-assembly



SEPECAT JAGUAR GR.1/1A

MANUFACTURER: Airfix

SCALE: 1:48

KIT TYPE: Plastic injection moulded

KIT NUMBER: A11010

Few modern kits have been as hyped as Airfix's 1/48 SEPECAT Jaguar GR.1. With years of anticipation and Airfix's recent run of excellent releases, expectations were sky-high, and I'm happy to say, they've absolutely nailed it. The kit uses the new standard for Airfix plastic, which is slightly hard mid-grey and features high-quality surface details throughout. The kit, of course, came with an instruction booklet featuring Airfix's usual high-quality 3D CAD drawings as an easy-to-follow step-by-step building guide, and a decal sheet manufactured by Cartograf with four varying marking options and relevant stencil

data. This build was going to be straight-from-the-box, with no extras to enhance the model. So, I followed the construction of the kit as the instructions required. I started by cleaning the parts,



AIRFIX'S JAGUAR GR.1 ISN'T JUST THE BEST JAGUAR KIT ON THE MARKET, IT'S ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING STRAIGHT-FROM-THE-BOX BUILDS I'VE DONE



on the final model. On the topic of the wings, it was a nice touch to have all of the slats and flaps separately moulded, but an odd choice to only have them displayed in the extended position.

After a very positive experience building up the kit, I could move on to painting. Like in the cockpit, everything was based in Mr Finishing Surfacer 1500 Black to give a durable base. Inspired

by the striking visuals from Operation 'Granby', I chose the RAF Desert Pink for my first build. But I couldn't resist revisiting the Jaguar for its Arctic deployment camouflage, perhaps one of the most unique paint jobs ever worn by the aircraft. Both finishes offered their own challenges in shading and weathering but made for two strikingly different finished models. So, the first colour I used was MRP's RAF Desert Pink. This was black-based onto the airframe and slowly built up through uniform passes. After this had dried, I added a few drops of white and went over a few panels to highlight them and give a faded effect to the paint, which was ever so present on the jags. I was so impressed in how this looked that I built up another one and used the same processes to do the iconic arctic camouflage present on many of their visits to Norway. All paint work would then be sealed using GX100 Gloss.



Here you can see the iconic 'Desert Sand' colour to good effect



Nearest the camera is a Jaguar GR.1A with recce pod in formation with a GR.1 and Tornado GR.1 in the build-up to Operation Desert Storm

PHOTO FEATURE

DESERT CATS



XZ119/Z 'Katrina Jane'



XZ733/R 'Baggers'



XZ356/N 'Mary Rose'



XZ962/X worn on the opposite side to the 'Fat Slags' artwork...



...as seen here



XZ367/P became 'White Rose'...



...which was painted over its original 'Debbie' artwork



Mission markings on XZ367/P



INSPIRED BY THE STRIKING VISUALS FROM OPERATION 'GRANBY', I CHOSE THE RAF DESERT PINK FOR MY FIRST BUILD

Applying the Cartograf decals brought the model to life. They conform well to the underlying details, especially when using Mr. Mark Softer and Setter. After drying overnight, I protected the decals with another coat of GX100 Gloss. For weathering, I kept it subtle. An Ammo Mig Black Night Panel Line Wash was used to pick out all the rivets and panel lines, before using a black Ammo Mig Oilbrusher to do some more exaggerated and local grime. Everything could now be sealed in using VMS's Satin varnish. Bringing all of the subassemblies together now once again highlighted how advanced this kit is. The landing gear is an especially complex shape – yet they were beautifully detailed and to my joy had rugged and secure



locating pins ensuring I had none of the dreaded landing gear 'sag'! The wheels themselves also come pre-flattened, so I had to take care when positioning them onto the airframe. Once the external stores were secured on the build was completed. Airfix's Jaguar GR.1 isn't just the best Jaguar kit on the market, it's one of the most rewarding straight-from-the-box builds I've done. With excellent engineering, crisp details, and bold marking options, it's a must for RAF jet fans. Thanks again to Airfix and the PAM team for making this review possible. **PAM**



Taking off from Bardufoss



PHOTO FEATURE

ARCTIC CATS



A braking chute is very welcome here



A No.41 Squadron Jaguar with BAe recce pod fitted