

Lockheed PV-1 GUNSHIP 1/72nd SCALE



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This is one of the kits I picked up at a Minicraft warehouse sale in 2006. So with so many kits to build I just grabbed this one off the shelf. I also had the Squadron In Action book for this aircraft which probably helped as a reference as I went along.. I started by giving all the plastics a good bath to get rid of any oils that would be left on the sprues.

As usual I started with the interior and cockpit which required a coat of Chromate Green on the side walls and the floor of the cockpit. I didn't add much detail to the cockpit area as this would be obscured by the canopy. The instrument panel came with a decal to go over it. After gluing in all the windows (6) I proceeded with putting the fuselage halves together. It called for putting the upper turret in place at this time. but after looking at the decal that would go over this area, I decided only to put only the base of the turret in at this time. The guns and cover would go on last, after the decal was put in place.

I spent some time masking the canopy and lower fuselage gun canopy before gluing them in place. The elevator and rudder assembly was added. Some time was spent putting the engine assemblies together, giving them some Chromate

Green, Engine Gray, Steel paint where appropriate. The instructions showed to add the prop assemblies at this time, but I left them off till the end.

The wing assemblies and engine nacelles went together well. There were 2 exhaust stacks that were drilled out and attached to the engines. Now was time to add the wings to the body of the aircraft. They fit pretty well, except that the right wing had a severe gap at the wing root. This had to be filled in and sanded. The left wing fit just fine.



Now came the fun part of painting the plane. Prior to painting I wiped down the plane with Plastic-Prep to get rid of any oils that attached themselves to the plane while I was assembling the kit. I gave it an overall coat of light grey to act as a primer since the bottom of the plane was to be White. After letting it sit for a day I masked off the plane to give a coat of white, which took 2 coats to make it look decent. Another day and I proceeded to give the upper body a coat of Intermediate Blue, masking the fuselage where necessary to not over spray the White. Next day I masked the upper fuselage and wings where the Dark Sea Blue was to go. The Dark Sea Blue looked almost black and I thought for a brief moment to cut it with some white and repaint it, but after looking at some pictures in the Squadron book and on line, I let it be. Finished it up by spraying a coat of Future on the upper wing surfaces and body.

Now was time to put on the decals, a total of 7 pieces. All went on well. The tricky part was the Octopus decal, which had to go over the upper turret. Before applying it I had to open up the area where the turret was to come through as it wasn't large enough of an opening. Of course it came apart in about four pieces. Luckily they were large enough to maneuver around with some Future added in those areas. A few bubble and ridges appeared that I could not get to sit down,

so I cut some slits to get rid of them. Gave the decal some setting solution and let it dry without touching it any more. Overall it came out okay.



The final step included attaching the wheel doors, which were painted at the same time as the lower fuselage. The struts were painted grey, with a little silver



where required. The tires were painted Flat Black I did not use the gun barrels supplied in the kit, instead I used some .050 diameter wire to simulate the gun barrels, the wire had a dark gray tone to it so it looked pretty close to Gun Metal. For the antenna wire I drill some tiny holes in the vertical stabilizers about where

the antenna wire would attach, then put the wire around the forward antenna mast. I used one piece of nylon thread for the wire. At this time I attached the props which were painted black with yellow tips and metal spinner. The final touch was to attach the auxiliary fuel tanks to the wings.

It took about 10 hours to put to kit together; I was well satisfied with the final results.

