

Easy Warbird Makeover

THE CARBON-Z T-28 TROJAN GETS A NEW LOOK

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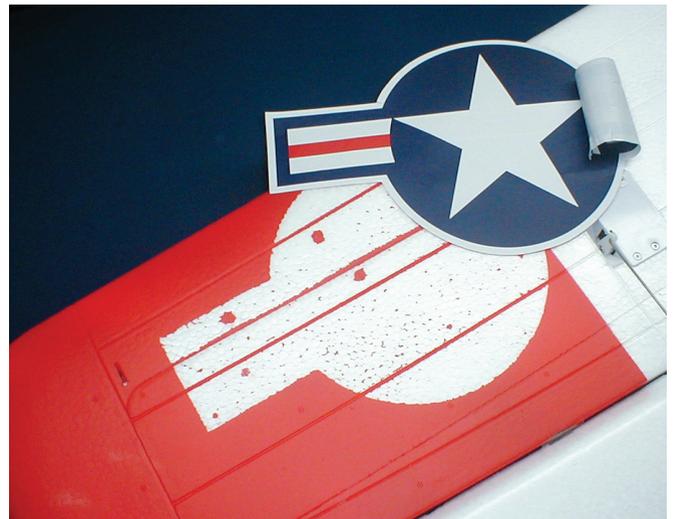
This aircraft could be taxiing in Thailand in the late '60s. The camo scheme definitely adds to the warbird image of the T-28, along with all those neat external ordnances the author added to the basic Carbon-Z kit.



As a subject, the T-28 has clearly been a sleeper over the years, with only a small number of kits being available. Well, the lightning bolt must have hit a large number of people at the same time as the market now has Trojans in all sizes—from micro to ginormous! Why? Because in nearly any size, the subject works and flies well. New techniques in foam material and fabrication have provided us with some fabulous flying models that go together quickly and have us in the air in virtually no time. About the only downside is that they all come out of the box looking exactly like the next one. A particular model, if popular enough, sometimes can make it difficult to pick yours out on the flightline because everybody has one!



Accumulate your documentation before embarking on the project. Gather as many images as you can on the specific subject you plan to replicate.



The materials used for the project are shown here. Four colors of latex paint were color-matched to Federal Standard 595.

The first step is the removal of all the preapplied kit markings. Start by lifting an edge and pulling the marking back on itself.

CHANGING THE LOOK

The process I used for this project is very easy and inexpensive, and produces attention-getting results in a fairly short period of time. The changes in final appearance are dramatic. The first step in the process is simply to remove all the factory-applied markings. In the case of the T-28, these are stick-on Mylar, which adhere tenaciously and will remove most of the painted area underneath the marking when peeled away. It also disrupts the smooth surface of the unpainted foam. Apparently the molding process of some newer-generation foams creates a very smooth surface, which eliminates the "alligator skin" look. Unfortunately, that smooth surface to which the markings are adhered will be taken away when you remove them, leaving a textured surface noticeably different from the surrounding area.

Because the red painted areas of my T-28 were going to be difficult to cover with any kind of paint, I decided to prime the areas with a white latex primer brushed on with a foam-pad brush. To eliminate the "textured" areas created by the marking removal, I also covered those areas with the primer. Another coat or two to get a uniform white color to the surface and a light pass with 600-grit sandpaper to level things out and I was ready for color coats.

SCALE COLORS

As this is a scale model, I prepared a documentation package for a

specific, full-scale Trojan that I wanted to duplicate and gathered as many pictures and color information that I could locate of the actual airplane. One of the many images that I found online captured my attention, and I decided that it was the one. It is a restored Trojan painted as a "D" model in the Southeast Asian scheme of four colors of the period. Armed with my Federal Standard (FS) 595 color deck, I headed off to my local Home Depot paint department to get some paint. You can buy small (7.2-oz.) sample sizes of any



The transparent areas of the canopy are masked with tape and paper.



One coat of white latex primer was applied overall with two more coats over the red/orange surfaces to even things up and improve color-coat adhesion.



All the color is in place, with separation edges softened using an airbrush. The paint covers extremely well.

color paint you want, and my store already had the FS-595 colors in its database! About half an hour and only \$16 later, I had all the colors needed for my project.

APPLICATION

The paints were used straight out

of the bottle, with no thinning required. I applied the bottom gray (two coats) first to all the undersurfaces, followed by the upper surface tan (two coats), and set the model aside to dry for 24 hours. The color demarcation line depicted in my documentation

was roughly approximated as I knew I would be “cleaning it up” later. Again referring to my documentation, I used a soft pencil to draw the camo pattern color-separation lines directly on the surface of the model. I then applied the two remaining colors—the

edges done using a quality brush and a foam-pad brush filling in the larger areas.

Some areas might require a second coat depending on the kind of coverage you’ve achieved. After the basic scheme had been applied, I went back over all the



Part of this makeover included the replacement of the single supplied pilot with a pair of Williams Bros. items, which I reworked to improve the realism.



I made up artwork to duplicate the markings for my chosen T-28 and sent it off to Callie Graphics for conversion to self-adhesive vinyl. They did an amazing job!



Close-up of tail group camouflage prior to “weathering.” Compare this to the post-weathering image.



The “weathering” of the vertical fin includes chipping of the fairing edges, along with highlighting the fasteners and “fading” the colors.

separation lines with an airbrush to “soften” the edges. I used alcohol rather than water to thin the paint to the viscosity needed to properly get it through the airbrush. This took a bit of experimentation with ratios to achieve the result that

I wanted. I also discovered that low-tack blue masking tape can be used for sharp color edges if the paint has been allowed to dry thoroughly. I’d suggest using a test area that can be easily touched up if the paint ends up separating

from the surface.

Because the T-28 that I chose had some unique markings, I prepared some artwork and sent it off to Callie Graphics (callie-graphics.com) to produce a set of new self-adhesive Mylar

markings for my model. The company did an outstanding job, and in short order, I had the sheets back and ready to apply. I have to say that Callie duplicated to perfection what I had sent, and it was very reasonably priced for custom work!

After applying the markings, I used a water-based satin clear urethane, again applied using a quality brush to minimize streaks, followed by all the weathering, chipping, dirtying up, and streaking, which adds so much to the overall realism of the model. Exhaust stains were added with an airbrush.

When I was happy with the final look, I applied a light coat of flat acrylic spray to unify the finish of all the surfaces. As big as this model is, I still have enough of each color left to do another complete airframe! I was so pleased with the final result that I went a little further and made up a number of “underwing things”—like external fuel tanks, rocket pods, and machine-gun gondolas—to impart more of that “warbird” look. With all these additions and the new paint scheme, the big T-28 retains its great flying and handling qualities, and has become one of my favorite airplanes in my stable.

Go ahead and make your foamie unique and individual; this method should work on any of them! ✈



In addition to being a great flying model, the Carbon-Z T-28 responds well to personalization, with many scale schemes available.