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› Italeri F/A-18E Super Hornet Model Kit Instruction Manual

TAMIYA 550083

Italeri F/A-18E Super Hornet Model Kit Instruction Manual

Model: 550083

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1. INTRODUCTION

This instruction manual provides detailed guidance for the assembly and care of your Italeri F/A-18E Super Hornet Model Kit (Model 550083), distributed by TAMIYA. The F/A-18E Super Hornet is a highly capable multirole fighter aircraft, and this 1/72 scale model kit allows for the construction of a detailed replica.

Please read all instructions carefully before beginning assembly to ensure a smooth and enjoyable building experience.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: SMALL PARTS.

This model kit contains small parts which may pose a choking hazard for young children. Not suitable for children under 3 years. The manufacturer recommends this kit for ages 14 years and up due to the complexity and the use of tools and adhesives.

Always work in a well-ventilated area when using paints, glues, and other modeling chemicals. Keep all materials out of reach of pets and small children.

3. KIT CONTENTS

Your Italeri F/A-18E Super Hornet Model Kit includes the following components:

- Plastic model parts for the F/A-18E Super Hornet (approximately 112 pieces).
- Finely engraved panel lines and rivet details on parts.
- Authentic markings (decals) for the aircraft.
- Components for positionable leading-edge inlets and speed brakes.
- Instruction sheet.

Note: Paint and glue are not included and must be purchased separately.

4. ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these steps for the assembly of your 1/72 scale F/A-18E Super Hornet model kit. Refer to the included instruction sheet for detailed diagrams and part numbers.

4.1 Preparation

1. **Unpack Components:** Carefully remove all plastic parts from their sprues. Inspect for any damage or missing pieces.
2. **Clean Parts:** Wash plastic parts in mild soapy water to remove any mold release agents, then rinse and air dry.
3. **Gather Tools:** Ensure you have essential modeling tools such as a hobby knife, plastic cement, tweezers, sandpaper, and paints.

4.2 Main Assembly Steps

1. **Cockpit Assembly:** Assemble the cockpit components, including the seat, instrument panel, and control stick. Paint these parts according to the color guide before gluing them into the fuselage halves.
2. **Fuselage Assembly:** Join the fuselage halves, ensuring proper alignment. Use plastic cement sparingly. Allow sufficient drying time.
3. **Wing and Tail Assembly:** Attach the wings and tail sections to the main fuselage. Pay attention to the fit of the positionable leading-edge inlets and speed brakes.
4. **Landing Gear:** Assemble and attach the landing gear components. Decide whether to build the model with landing gear extended (for display on a surface) or retracted (for in-flight display).
5. **External Stores:** Assemble and attach any external fuel tanks, missiles, or bombs as desired.
6. **Canopy:** Carefully attach the clear canopy. Use a clear-parts adhesive to avoid fogging.

4.3 Painting and Decals

1. **Painting:** Apply primer, then paint the model according to the recommended color scheme for the F/A-18E Super Hornet. Multiple thin coats are preferable to one thick coat.
2. **Decals:** Once paint is fully dry, apply the authentic markings (decals) using water and decal setting solution as per the decal instructions.
3. **Finishing:** Apply a clear coat (matte or gloss) to protect the paint and decals.



Figure 1: An example of the fully assembled Italeri F/A-18E Super Hornet model kit, depicted in an in-flight configuration. The model showcases the detailed fuselage, wings, and external ordnance.



Figure 2: The Italeri F/A-18E Super Hornet model kit in a dynamic flight pose, with another aircraft visible in the background, illustrating its scale and detail.

5. MAINTENANCE

Proper care will preserve the appearance of your model for years.

- **Cleaning:** Dust your model regularly with a soft, dry brush or a can of compressed air. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cloths, which can damage paint and decals.
- **Storage:** Store the model in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight to prevent fading and warping. Consider a display case to protect it from dust and accidental damage.
- **Handling:** Handle the model by its main body or sturdy sections to avoid breaking delicate parts like antennas or landing gear.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

Here are solutions to common problems encountered during model kit assembly:

- Parts Not Fitting:**
Ensure parts are correctly oriented. Use a hobby knife or sandpaper to carefully trim excess plastic (flash) from mating surfaces. Test fit parts before applying glue.
- Gaps Between Parts:**
Small gaps can be filled with plastic putty or stretched sprue. Sand smooth once dry.
- Paint Issues (e.g., uneven finish, brush strokes):**
Ensure surfaces are clean before painting. Apply multiple thin coats rather than one thick coat. Allow each coat to dry thoroughly. Use appropriate thinners for your paint type.
- Decal Silvering:**
Apply decals over a glossy surface. Use decal setting solutions to help decals conform to surface details and eliminate air bubbles underneath.

7. PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	TAMIYA
Model Name	F/A-18E Super Hornet Model Kit
Model Number	550083
Scale	1/72
Material	Kunststoff (Plastic)
Number of Pieces	112
Recommended Age	14 years and up
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	10 x 7.45 x 2.67 inches
Item Weight	0.01 ounces (approx. 0.27 grams)
GTIN (Global Trade Item Number)	08001283800839
Manufacturer	ITALERI

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Information regarding specific warranty terms or direct customer support contacts for this Italeri model kit, distributed by TAMIYA, was not provided in the product details. For assistance with missing parts or manufacturing defects, please refer to the contact information typically found on the product packaging or visit the official TAMIYA or ITALERI websites for customer service details.

For general modeling tips and community support, various online forums and hobby groups are available.

9. RELATED VIDEOS

No official product videos from the seller were provided in the available data for this model kit.

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