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Italeri 1065

Italeri 1/72 MH-53E Sea Dragon Model Kit Instruction Manual

Model Number: 1065

Overview Safety Kit Contents Tools Paints Assembly Decals Maintenance Troubleshooting Specifications Support

1. Product Overview

This manual provides instructions for assembling the Italeri 1/72 MH-53E Sea Dragon plastic model kit (Model 1065). The MH-53E Sea Dragon is a large helicopter primarily used for naval mine countermeasures. This kit allows enthusiasts to build a detailed replica of this impressive aircraft at a 1:72 scale.

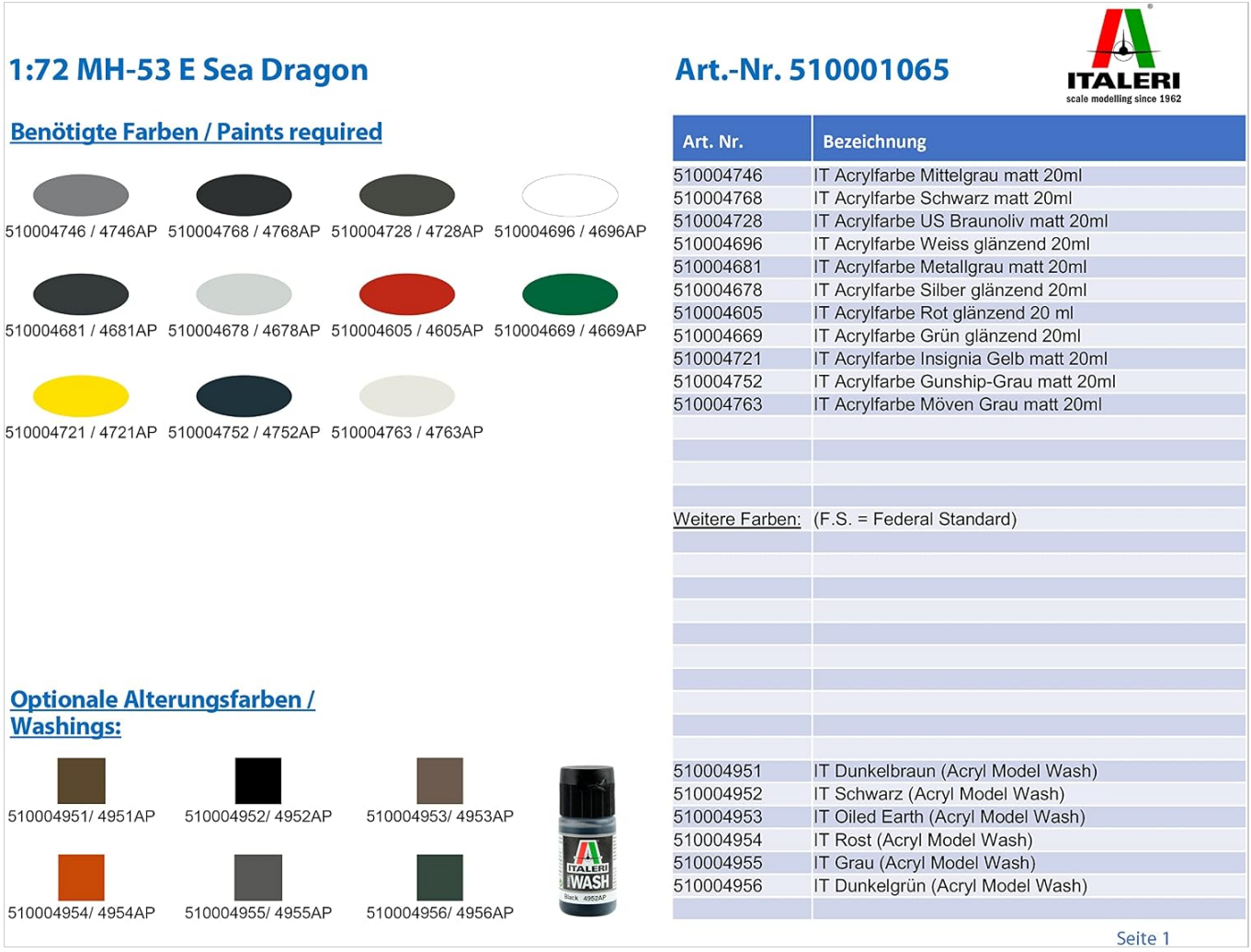


Image 1.1: Front view of the Italeri 1/72 MH-53E Sea Dragon model kit box. This image displays the kit's packaging, featuring artwork of the MH-53E helicopter in flight.

2. Safety Information

WARNING! This product is not suitable for young children. It contains small parts which may pose a choking hazard. Adult supervision is recommended for users under 14 years of age. Always use tools and adhesives in a well-ventilated area. Avoid contact of adhesives and paints with skin and eyes. Refer to the specific safety instructions provided with any glues or paints used.

3. Kit Contents

The Italeri 1/72 MH-53E Sea Dragon model kit typically includes:

- Plastic sprues containing all the necessary parts for assembly.
- Clear plastic parts for windows and cockpit canopy.
- Decal sheet for markings and insignia.
- Instruction booklet (this manual provides general guidance; refer to the kit's specific booklet for detailed steps).

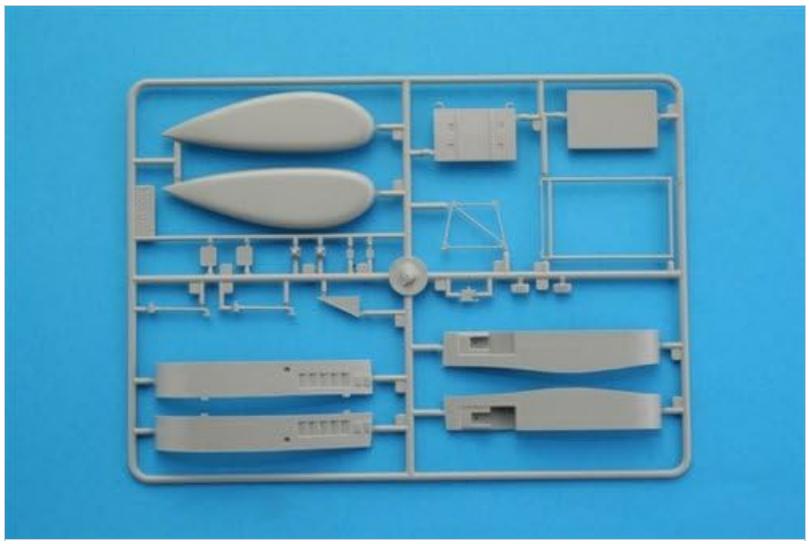


Image 3.1: A grey plastic sprue containing various parts for the MH-53E Sea Dragon model. This sprue includes fuselage sections, rotor components, and other structural elements.

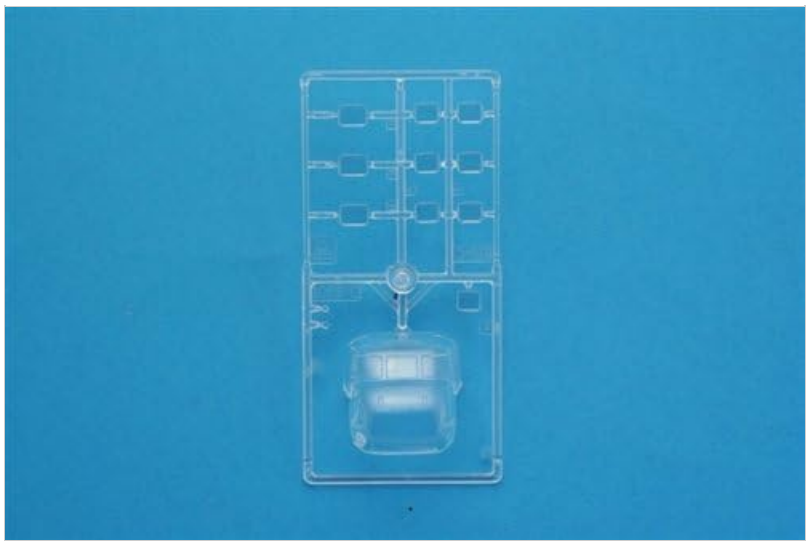


Image 3.2: A clear plastic sprue containing transparent parts, likely for the cockpit canopy and windows of the MH-53E Sea Dragon model.



Image 3.3: A decal sheet featuring various markings, insignias, and stencils for the MH-53E Sea Dragon model, including "NAVY" text and aircraft numbers.

4. Recommended Tools

Successful model assembly requires a few basic tools. The following are recommended for the Italeri MH-53E Sea Dragon kit, as typically suggested in the kit's instruction manual:

- **Plastic Cement/Glue:** Essential for bonding plastic parts. Italeri offers specific plastic cement (e.g., Art. Nr. 510003990).
- **Side Cutters/Nippers:** For cleanly removing parts from the sprues.
- **Hobby Knife/Craft Blade:** For trimming excess plastic and fine detailing.
- **Tweezers:** Useful for handling small parts and applying decals.
- **Sanding Sticks/Files:** For smoothing rough edges and seams.
- **Masking Tape:** For painting precise lines or protecting areas during painting.
- **Cutting Mat:** To protect your work surface.
- **Hand Drill with Bits:** For creating small holes if required for detailing.

Refer to the kit's original instruction manual for specific Italeri tool product numbers and recommendations.

5. Required Paints and Washings

To achieve an accurate finish for your MH-53E Sea Dragon model, specific paint colors are required. Optional washings can enhance realism by highlighting panel lines and adding weathering effects. The kit's instruction manual typically provides a detailed list of recommended paints and washings.

Commonly Required Paints (Italeri Acrylfarbe 20ml examples):

- Medium Grey Matt (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004746)
- Black Matt (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004768)
- US Brown Olive Matt (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004728)
- White Gloss (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004696)
- Metal Grey Matt (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004681)
- Silver Gloss (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004678)
- Red Gloss (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004605)
- Green Gloss (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004669)
- Insignia Yellow Matt (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004721)
- Gunship Grey Matt (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004752)
- Gull Grey Matt (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004763)

Optional Washings (Italeri Acryl Model Wash examples):

- Dark Brown (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004951)
- Black (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004952)
- Oiled Earth (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004953)
- Rust (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004954)
- Grey (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004955)
- Dark Green (e.g., Italeri Art. Nr. 510004956)

Always consult the specific paint guide provided in your kit's instruction manual for the most accurate and up-to-date color recommendations.

6. Assembly Instructions

Follow the step-by-step diagrams provided in your kit's specific instruction booklet. General assembly steps include:

1. **Preparation:** Carefully remove parts from the sprues using side cutters. Clean any flash or mold lines with a hobby knife or sanding stick.
2. **Dry Fit:** Before applying glue, dry fit parts to ensure proper alignment and fit.
3. **Gluing:** Apply plastic cement sparingly to the mating surfaces. Hold parts together firmly until the glue sets.
4. **Sub-assemblies:** Build smaller sections (e.g., cockpit, landing gear, rotor blades) before combining them into the main fuselage.
5. **Painting:** Paint parts as indicated in the instruction booklet, either before or after assembly, depending on accessibility.
6. **Clear Parts:** Attach clear parts (windows, canopy) using a clear-drying adhesive designed for clear plastics to avoid fogging.
7. **Final Assembly:** Combine all sub-assemblies and main components.

Always refer to the detailed diagrams and part numbers in the instruction booklet included with your Italeri kit for precise assembly sequences.

7. Decal Application

Decals add the final markings and realism to your model. Follow these steps for best results:

1. **Surface Preparation:** Ensure the surface where the decal will be applied is clean, smooth, and preferably has a gloss finish. A gloss coat helps prevent "silvering" (air trapped under the decal).
2. **Cutting Decals:** Carefully cut out each decal from the sheet using a sharp hobby knife or scissors, getting as close to the edge of the design as possible without cutting into it.
3. **Soaking:** Dip the decal in lukewarm water for 10-20 seconds until it begins to slide freely on its backing paper.
4. **Placement:** Gently slide the decal off the backing paper onto the model surface. Use tweezers or a soft brush to position it accurately.
5. **Removing Excess Water:** Dab away excess water with a soft, lint-free cloth or cotton swab.
6. **Setting Solutions:** For irregular surfaces or to help decals conform, apply a decal setting solution (e.g., Micro Sol, Solvaset) after initial placement. Follow the product's instructions.
7. **Sealing:** Once decals are dry and set, apply a clear coat (gloss or matt, depending on the desired finish) to protect them and blend them into the model's surface.

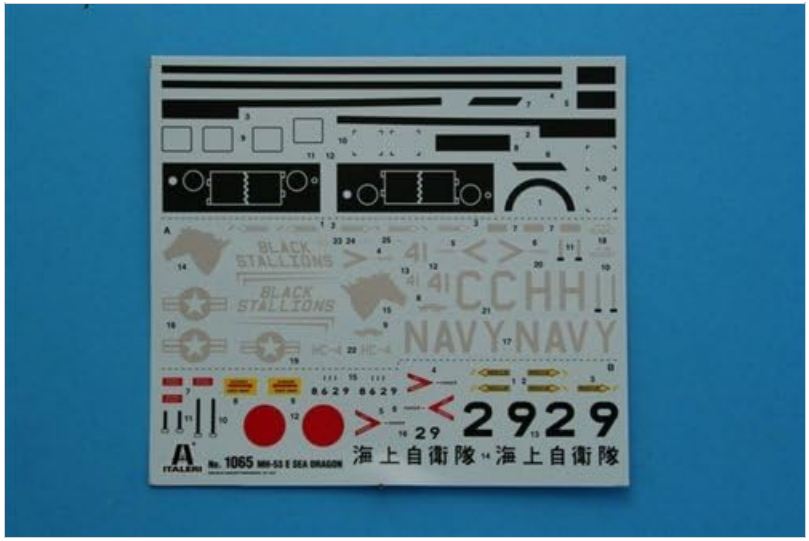


Image 7.1: The decal sheet provided with the kit, illustrating the various markings, numbers, and insignias to be applied to the MH-53E Sea Dragon model.

8. Maintenance

Once assembled and painted, your model requires minimal maintenance to preserve its appearance:

- **Cleaning:** Dust your model regularly with a soft, dry brush or a can of compressed air. Avoid using water or chemical cleaners, as these can damage paint and decals.
- **Storage:** Store your model in a display case or a dust-free environment away from direct sunlight. Prolonged exposure to sunlight can cause paint to fade and plastic to become brittle.
- **Handling:** Handle the model by its sturdy parts, such as the fuselage, to avoid damaging delicate components like antennas or rotor blades.

9. Troubleshooting Common Issues

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

- **Parts Don't Fit:**
    - Ensure you are using the correct parts as per the instruction diagrams.
    - Check for excess plastic (flash) on the mating surfaces and carefully remove it with a hobby knife or sanding stick.
    - If parts are slightly warped, gentle heat (e.g., from warm water) can sometimes help reshape them, but proceed with caution.
- **Gaps Between Parts:**
    - Small gaps can be filled with plastic putty or stretched sprue dissolved in liquid cement.
    - Sand smooth once dry.
- **Decal Silvering:**
    - Ensure the surface is glossy before applying decals.
    - Use decal setting solutions to help decals conform and eliminate trapped air.
    - Prick tiny bubbles with a sharp needle and reapply setting solution.
- **Paint Issues (e.g., brush strokes, uneven finish):**
    - Ensure paint is properly thinned.
    - Apply multiple thin coats rather than one thick coat.
    - Allow sufficient drying time between coats.

10. Product Specifications

Brand:	Italeri
Model Name:	1/72 US MH-53E Sea Dragon
Model Number:	1065
Scale:	1/72
Skill Level:	4
Recommended Age:	14 years and up

Material:	Plastic
Included Components:	Plastic model kit pieces
Product Dimensions (L x W x H):	12.8 x 0.04 x 0.04 inches (packaging)
Item Weight:	10.6 ounces
UPC:	885879862948

11. Warranty and Support

This Italeri model kit is designed for hobbyists and is generally not covered by a specific warranty for individual parts once assembly begins. However, if you encounter missing or defective parts upon opening the kit, please contact Italeri customer support or the retailer from whom you purchased the product. Keep your proof of purchase.
For further assistance or inquiries regarding Italeri products, please visit the official Italeri website or contact their customer service department. Contact information is typically found on the product packaging or their official website.

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