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› [TAMIYA](#) /

› [TAMIYA Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vb Model Kit Instruction Manual](#)

TAMIYA TM61033

TAMIYA Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vb Model Kit Instruction Manual

Model: TM61033

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the assembly, painting, and decal application of your TAMIYA Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vb Model Kit (Model Number TM61033). Please read all instructions carefully before beginning assembly. This kit is designed for modelers aged 12 years and up.

The Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vb is a highly detailed 1/48 scale aircraft model, replicating the iconic World War II fighter. This kit allows for the creation of a historically accurate representation of the aircraft.

SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: This kit contains small parts which may pose a choking hazard. Keep out of reach of small children. Adult supervision is recommended during assembly, especially for younger modelers.

- Always use modeling tools (e.g., hobby knife, nippers) with caution.
- Work in a well-ventilated area when using paints, glues, and thinners.
- Read and follow the safety instructions provided with all paints, glues, and other consumables.
- Dispose of waste materials responsibly.

KIT CONTENTS

Before starting, verify that all parts are present and undamaged. Refer to the parts diagram (usually found on the first page of the physical manual) to identify all components.

- Plastic sprues with aircraft components
- Clear parts for canopy
- Decal sheet
- Instruction booklet

Note: Cement and paints are not included in this kit and must be purchased separately.

SETUP AND PREPARATION

Proper preparation is key to a successful model build.

1. **Workspace:** Set up a clean, well-lit, and well-ventilated workspace. Protect your work surface with a cutting mat or newspaper.
2. **Tools:** Gather necessary tools, which typically include:
 - Hobby knife or sprue cutters
 - Tweezers
 - Sandpaper or sanding sticks (various grits)
 - Plastic cement (liquid or tube)
 - Paints (acrylic or enamel, as per color guide)
 - Paintbrushes (various sizes) or airbrush
 - Decal setting solution (optional, but recommended)
3. **Part Identification:** Familiarize yourself with the parts layout on the sprues and the assembly diagrams in the instruction booklet.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Follow the numbered steps in the instruction booklet. Each step typically involves cutting parts from the sprue, cleaning them, and then cementing them together.

General Assembly Tips:

- **Part Removal:** Use sprue cutters to carefully remove parts from the sprue. Avoid pulling or twisting, which can damage parts.
- **Cleaning Parts:** Trim any excess plastic (flash) from the parts using a hobby knife or sandpaper. Test fit parts before applying cement.
- **Cementing:** Apply a small amount of plastic cement to one of the mating surfaces. Hold parts firmly together until the cement sets. Avoid using too much cement, which can melt the plastic or create unsightly marks.
- **Painting Sub-Assemblies:** For best results, paint smaller sub-assemblies (e.g., cockpit interior, landing gear) before attaching them to the main airframe.
- **Clear Parts:** Use a clear parts cement (e.g., white glue) for canopies and other clear components to avoid fogging.

Key Assembly Stages:

1. **Cockpit Assembly:** Assemble the pilot's seat, instrument panel, control stick, and other interior details. Paint these components according to the color guide.
2. **Fuselage Assembly:** Join the fuselage halves, ensuring proper alignment. Secure with cement.
3. **Wing Assembly:** Assemble the wing sections. Attach the wings to the fuselage, paying close attention to the dihedral angle.
4. **Tail Section:** Attach the horizontal and vertical stabilizers.
5. **Landing Gear:** Assemble and attach the landing gear. Decide whether to build the model with landing gear extended or retracted.
6. **Propeller and Spinner:** Assemble and attach the propeller and spinner.
7. **Canopy:** Attach the clear canopy parts. Mask the canopy before painting the main airframe.



Image: An assembled Tamiya Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vb model, showcasing the completed aircraft with camouflage paint scheme and markings. This image illustrates the final appearance of the model after successful assembly and painting.

PAINTING AND DECAL APPLICATION

Painting:

- **Surface Preparation:** Ensure the model surface is clean, dry, and free of dust and grease before painting.
- **Primer (Optional):** A thin coat of primer can improve paint adhesion and reveal surface imperfections.
- **Color Guide:** Refer to the painting guide in the instruction booklet for recommended colors and camouflage patterns. TAMIYA provides specific paint numbers for accurate historical representation.
- **Thin Coats:** Apply multiple thin coats of paint rather than one thick coat to avoid obscuring details and to achieve a smooth finish.
- **Drying Time:** Allow adequate drying time between coats and before handling.

Decal Application:

- **Gloss Coat:** Apply a gloss clear coat over the painted surface before applying decals. This helps prevent "silvering" (air trapped under the decal).
- **Cutting Decals:** Carefully cut out each decal from the sheet using a sharp hobby knife or scissors.
- **Soaking:** Dip the decal in lukewarm water for a few seconds until it can slide freely from the backing paper.
- **Placement:** Slide the decal onto the model surface using tweezers or a paintbrush. Position it carefully according to the decal placement guide.
- **Removing Excess Water:** Gently blot away excess water with a soft, lint-free cloth or cotton swab.
- **Setting Solution (Optional):** Apply a decal setting solution to help the decal conform to surface details and eliminate air bubbles.
- **Matte/Satin Coat:** Once decals are dry, apply a final matte or satin clear coat to protect the decals and unify the finish.

TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

- **Parts Not Fitting:**

Ensure you are using the correct parts for the step. Check for excess plastic (flash) on the mating surfaces and carefully trim it away. Test fit parts before applying cement.
- **Visible Seams:**

After cementing, allow the joint to fully cure. Fill any gaps with plastic putty, then sand smooth once dry. Re-prime and paint the area if necessary.

- **Paint Issues (e.g., uneven finish, brush strokes):**

Ensure paint is properly thinned. Apply multiple thin coats instead of one thick coat. Allow sufficient drying time between coats. For brush strokes, try using a softer brush or switching to an airbrush for larger areas.

- **Decal Silvering:**

Apply decals over a gloss surface. Use decal setting solutions to help decals conform to surface details and eliminate trapped air. Puncture small air bubbles with a sharp needle and apply more setting solution.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	TAMIYA
Model Name	Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vb Model Kit
Model Number	TM61033
Scale	1/48 Scale Aircraft
Item Length (Assembled)	7.4 inches
Material	Plastic
Recommended Age	12 years and up
Included Components	Plastic parts (sprues), clear parts, decal sheet, instruction booklet
Required (Not Included)	Plastic cement, paints, modeling tools

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

TAMIYA model kits are manufactured to high-quality standards. Due to the nature of model kits, which involve assembly and painting by the user, specific warranties on the finished product are not typically offered.

If you encounter missing or defective parts upon opening the kit, please contact TAMIYA customer support or the retailer where the kit was purchased. Provide your proof of purchase and details of the issue.

For general modeling tips, techniques, or further assistance, please refer to TAMIYA's official website or reputable modeling communities online.

TAMIYA Official Website: www.tamiya.com



[Tamiya 1/24 Peugeot 307 WRC Monte Carlo '05 Model Kit Assembly Instructions](#)

Detailed assembly instructions and painting guide for the Tamiya 1/24 scale model kit of the Peugeot 307 WRC, which competed in the 2005 Monte Carlo Rally. Includes parts list, tool recommendations, paint codes, and decal application tips.



[Tamiya 1/72 Mitsubishi A6M2b Zero Fighter Model Kit Instructions](#)

Comprehensive guide for the Tamiya 1/72 scale Mitsubishi A6M2b Zero Fighter model kit, featuring assembly instructions, painting schemes, decal application, and historical background of the iconic WWII aircraft.



[Tamiya 1/72 De Havilland Mosquito FB Mk.VI/NF Mk.II Model Kit Instructions](#)

Detailed assembly and painting instructions for the Tamiya 1/72 scale De Havilland Mosquito FB Mk.VI and NF Mk.II model kit, featuring historical context, step-by-step assembly guides, and decal application information.



[Tamiya 32410 German 3.5 Ton Truck \(aHN\) with 3.7cm Flak 37 Model Kit Assembly Instructions](#)

Detailed assembly instructions and historical overview for the Tamiya 1:35 scale model kit of the German 3.5 Ton Truck (aHN) equipped with the 3.7cm Flak 37 anti-aircraft gun. Includes parts identification, assembly steps, painting, and decal application guidance.



[Tamiya 1/12 Yamaha SRX600 Model Kit Assembly and Painting Guide](#)

Comprehensive guide for assembling and painting the Tamiya 1/12 scale Yamaha SRX600 motorcycle model kit. Includes pre-assembly checks, tool list, paint color references, detailed step-by-step assembly instructions, and decal application tips.



[Tamiya German King Tiger \(Ardennes Front\) 1/35 Scale Model Kit Instructions](#)

Detailed assembly instructions and painting guide for the Tamiya 1/35 scale model kit of the German King Tiger tank, featuring the Ardennes Front 'Einsatz-Kommando Ardennes' variant, and including instructions for the DKW NZ350 motorcycle.

