

Eduard Rafale B

Eduard 1/72 Rafale B Aircraft Model Photo-Etch Detail Set

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

1. Introduction

This instruction manual provides detailed guidance for the proper use and integration of the Eduard 1/72 Rafale B photo-etch detail set. This set is designed to enhance the realism and detail of a 1/72 scale plastic model kit of the Rafale B aircraft. It includes precisely manufactured metal parts, many of which are pre-painted and self-adhesive, simplifying the assembly process.

Please read all instructions carefully before beginning assembly to ensure optimal results and avoid damage to the delicate components.

2. Assembly Instructions

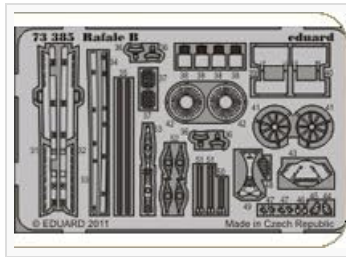
The photo-etch set requires careful handling and precise application. Ensure you have a clean, well-lit workspace and the necessary tools before starting.

2.1 Required Tools

- Fine-tipped tweezers
- Sharp hobby knife or razor blade
- Photo-etch bending tool (recommended for complex bends)
- Cutting mat
- Magnifying glass (optional, but recommended for small parts)

2.2 Part Identification

Refer to the included diagram (or the photo-etch fret itself) to identify each part. Each component is numbered to correspond with the assembly steps.



This image displays the Eduard 1/72 Rafale B photo-etch fret, containing numerous small, precisely etched metal parts designed to enhance the detail of a plastic model kit. The parts are numbered for identification and include components for the cockpit, landing gear, and other external details. The fret is marked '73 385 Rafale B' and 'Made in Czech Republic'.

2.3 Removing Parts from the Fret

1. Place the photo-etch fret on a cutting mat.
2. Using a sharp hobby knife, carefully cut the attachment points (gates) that connect the part to the fret. Apply light pressure and make multiple passes if necessary to avoid bending the part.
3. Once removed, gently clean any remaining burrs from the attachment points using the knife or fine sandpaper.

2.4 Bending Photo-Etch Parts

For parts that require bending, use a photo-etch bending tool for crisp, straight folds. If a bending tool is unavailable, two flat, rigid objects (e.g., razor blades, metal rulers) can be used to carefully create the bend. Always bend slowly and incrementally to prevent metal fatigue and breakage.

2.5 Applying Self-Adhesive Parts

Many parts in this set are self-adhesive. To apply:

1. Ensure the surface of the plastic model where the part will be applied is clean, dry, and free of dust or grease.
2. Carefully peel the photo-etch part from its backing using tweezers. Avoid touching the adhesive side.
3. Align the part precisely with its intended location on the model.
4. Once aligned, gently press the part into place, applying even pressure to ensure full adhesion.
5. For non-adhesive parts, use a small amount of cyanoacrylate (CA) glue, applied with a toothpick or fine applicator, to secure them.

3. Integration and Finishing

After assembling the photo-etch parts, they need to be integrated seamlessly with your plastic model kit.

3.1 Painting Considerations

Many parts in this set are pre-painted. For unpainted photo-etch parts, it is recommended to prime them with a suitable metal primer before painting to ensure paint adhesion. Use acrylic or enamel paints compatible with your model kit.

3.2 Handling

Always handle the model with care, especially after photo-etch parts have been applied, as they can be delicate. Avoid excessive force or accidental bumps that could dislodge or bend the parts.

4. Maintenance

Maintaining your finished model ensures its longevity and appearance.

4.1 Cleaning

Dust can accumulate on models over time. Use a soft, dry brush or a can of compressed air (held at a safe distance) to gently remove dust. Avoid using wet cloths or harsh cleaning agents, as these can damage paint or delicate photo-etch parts.

4.2 Storage and Display

Store or display your model in a stable, dust-free environment, away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. A display case is recommended to protect the model from environmental factors and accidental damage.

5. Troubleshooting

Encountering issues during assembly or with the finished model can often be resolved with simple steps.

5.1 Parts Not Adhering

- **Issue:** Self-adhesive parts do not stick properly.
- **Solution:** Ensure the model surface is thoroughly clean and dry before application. If adhesion is still weak, a tiny drop of CA glue can be used as a reinforcement.

5.2 Bent or Damaged Parts

- **Issue:** Photo-etch parts bend or break during removal or handling.
- **Solution:** Always use a sharp blade and light pressure when removing parts. For bending, use a dedicated photo-etch bending tool. If a part is slightly bent, it can often be carefully straightened with tweezers. Severely damaged parts may require replacement if available.

5.3 Lost Small Parts

- **Issue:** Small photo-etch components are easily lost due to their size.
- **Solution:** Work over a light-colored, contained surface (e.g., a tray or a piece of paper with raised edges) to make dropped parts easier to find.

6. Specifications

Brand	Eduard
Model	Rafale B
Scale	1/72
Product Type	Photo-Etch Detail Set
Features	Painted, Self-Adhesive
Part Number	73 385
Manufacturer	EDUARD

7. Warranty and Support

For specific warranty information or technical support regarding your Eduard photo-etch set, please refer to the official Eduard website or contact their customer service directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof

of purchase.

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