

Thrustmaster 2960812

Thrustmaster F/A-18 Grip Add-On (Model 2960812) for PC - User Manual

Brand: Thrustmaster | Model: 2960812

1. INTRODUCTION

The Thrustmaster F/A-18 Grip Add-On is a 1:1 scale replica of the F/A-18C Hornet flight stick handle, officially licensed by Boeing. Constructed with industrial-grade materials, including a metal structure, it is designed to replicate the original handling sensations for an immersive flight simulation experience. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your new flight stick grip.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

2.1. Key Features

- **1:1 Scale Replica:** Authentic reproduction of the F/A-18C Hornet flight stick handle.
- **Durable Construction:** Built with industrial-grade materials and a metal structure for extended product lifespan.
- **Extensive Controls:** Features 19 action buttons, including a realistic 2-step trigger, and one 8-direction "Point of View" hat switch.
- **Game Integration:** Native integration with DCS (Digital Combat Simulator) via the F/A-18C module, and compatible with other flight simulation games.
- **Base Compatibility:** Designed for use with Thrustmaster HOTAS Cougar* and HOTAS Warthog joystick bases (sold separately; *excluding implementation of button 19).

2.2. What's in the Box

- Thrustmaster F/A-18 Grip Add-On
- Instruction Manual

2.3. Product Images



Front-right view of the Thrustmaster F/A-18 Grip Add-On, showcasing its ergonomic design and button layout.



Left side view of the F/A-18 Grip, highlighting the trigger and other side-mounted controls.



Top view of the F/A-18 Grip, showing the hat switches and primary buttons.



Right side view of the F/A-18 Grip, detailing additional controls and the grip's contour.

3. SETUP

3.1. Physical Installation

The F/A-18 Grip Add-On is designed to be easily interchangeable with compatible Thrustmaster joystick bases, such as the HOTAS Warthog and HOTAS Cougar (sold separately). Follow these steps to attach the grip to your base:

1. Ensure your joystick base is powered off and disconnected from your PC.
2. Carefully align the F/A-18 Grip with the connector on your joystick base.
3. Gently push the grip down onto the base until it is fully seated.
4. Rotate the locking ring at the base of the grip clockwise until it is securely tightened. Do not overtighten.
5. Connect your joystick base to your PC.

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This video demonstrates the quick and easy process of attaching the F/A-18 Grip to a compatible Thrustmaster joystick base. It shows the alignment and locking mechanism for secure installation.

3.2. Software Installation and Configuration (T.A.R.G.E.T.)

To fully utilize the F/A-18 Grip Add-On and customize its functions, you will need to install the Thrustmaster Advanced pRogramming Graphical EdiTor (T.A.R.G.E.T.) software. This software allows for advanced button mapping, axis response curve adjustments, and creating complex macros.

1. Download the latest version of T.A.R.G.E.T. software from the official Thrustmaster support website.
2. Install the software by following the on-screen instructions.
3. Launch T.A.R.G.E.T. and ensure your F/A-18 Grip (connected to its base) is recognized.
4. You can choose between "Basic" and "Advanced" configuration modes.

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This video provides an overview of the T.A.R.G.E.T. software, demonstrating how to select existing configurations for specific games and how to add new configurations. It highlights the ease of use for basic setup.

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This video illustrates the advanced capabilities of the T.A.R.G.E.T. software, showing how to modify deadzones, adjust axis response curves, and assign multiple functions to a single button based on different states (in or out, up, middle, or down).

4. OPERATION

4.1. Button Layout and Functions

The F/A-18 Grip features a comprehensive set of controls designed for realistic flight simulation. Familiarize yourself with the layout:

- **Realistic 2-Step Trigger:** For primary weapon firing.
- **8-Direction "Point of View" Hat Switch:** For camera control or quick menu navigation.
- **Multiple Action Buttons (19 total):** Customizable for various in-game functions such as weapon selection, countermeasures, landing gear, and more.
- **Paddle Switch:** Often used for braking or other critical functions.
- **Pinkie Switch:** Typically used as a modifier for additional button functions.

Refer to your specific flight simulation game's control settings to assign these buttons to your preferred actions. The T.A.R.G.E.T. software provides an intuitive interface for this customization.

4.2. Customizing with T.A.R.G.E.T.

T.A.R.G.E.T. software allows you to:

- **Create Profiles:** Save different button and axis configurations for various games or aircraft.
- **Adjust Axes:** Fine-tune deadzones and response curves for precise control.
- **Map Buttons:** Assign keyboard keys, mouse clicks, or macros to any button on the grip.
- **Layer Functions:** Assign multiple functions to a single button based on its state (e.g., a short press vs. a long press, or when combined with a modifier button).

Detailed instructions for using T.A.R.G.E.T. are available within the software's help documentation and on the Thrustmaster support website.

5. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Thrustmaster F/A-18 Grip Add-On, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the grip. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or excessive moisture, which can damage the materials and electronics.
- **Storage:** Store the grip in a clean, dry environment away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Handling:** Avoid dropping the grip or subjecting it to strong impacts. While built with durable materials, excessive force can cause damage.
- **Connection Points:** Periodically check the connection point between the grip and the base for any dust or debris. Clean gently with compressed air if necessary.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your F/A-18 Grip Add-On, try the following solutions:

- **Grip Not Recognized:**
 - Ensure the grip is securely attached to the joystick base and the locking ring is tightened.
 - Verify the joystick base is properly connected to your PC's USB port.
 - Try a different USB port.
 - Restart your PC.
 - Update your joystick base drivers and T.A.R.G.E.T. software to the latest versions from the Thrustmaster website.
- **Buttons or Axes Not Responding:**
 - Check your in-game control settings to ensure buttons and axes are correctly mapped.
 - Use the T.A.R.G.E.T. software's "Test Controller" function to verify button and axis input.
 - If using T.A.R.G.E.T., ensure the correct profile is loaded and running.
 - Calibrate the joystick through your operating system's game controller settings.
- **Intermittent Connection:**

- Ensure all cables are firmly connected.
- Avoid connecting the joystick through unpowered USB hubs.
- Minimize electromagnetic interference by keeping the device away from other electronic equipment.

For further assistance, refer to the official Thrustmaster support resources.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	2960812
Product Dimensions	4.33 x 10.04 x 5.59 inches
Item Weight	2.9 Pounds
Release Date	July 25, 2019
Manufacturer	Thrustmaster VG
Compatibility	PC (Windows), Thrustmaster HOTAS Cougar and HOTAS Warthog joystick bases
Controls	19 action buttons, 1x 8-direction "Point of View" hat switch, 2-step trigger

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding warranty coverage, technical support, and additional resources, please visit the official Thrustmaster support website:

[Thrustmaster Support Website](#)

You can also find FAQs, driver downloads, and firmware updates on their support portal.