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Italeri 2834

Italeri 2834 1:48 P-38J E.T.O. Model Building Kit Instruction Manual

Model: 2834 | Brand: Italeri

Product Overview

The Lockheed P-38 Lightning was a distinctive heavy fighter aircraft of World War II, known for its revolutionary double-boom design. This 1:48 scale plastic model kit allows for the detailed construction of this iconic aircraft. The kit features precise individual parts designed for assembly, offering an engaging building experience for enthusiasts.



Image: Box art for the Italeri 2834 1:48 P-38J E.T.O. Model Building Kit, showing a completed model in flight.

Safety Information

Warning: Not suitable for children under 14 years.
This model kit contains small parts and requires the use of tools, glue, and paints, which may pose hazards if not handled properly. Adult supervision is recommended for younger builders. Always work in a well-ventilated area when using glues and paints. Keep all components out of reach of small children to prevent choking hazards.

What's in the Box

Your Italeri 2834 kit includes:

- Plastic kit components for the 1:48 scale P-38J E.T.O. aircraft.
- Illustrated assembly instructions.
- Decals for various versions (as indicated by included images).

Note: Tools, glue, and paints are not included and must be purchased separately.

Assembly Instructions

Follow these steps for the assembly of your model kit. Refer to the included illustrated assembly instructions for detailed diagrams.

1. **Preparation:** Carefully remove all plastic components from their sprues using a hobby knife or sprue cutters. Smooth any rough edges with a fine file or sandpaper. Identify all parts according to the assembly diagram.
2. **Sub-Assemblies:** Begin by assembling smaller sections such as the cockpit, landing gear, and engine nacelles. Ensure parts fit together correctly before applying glue.
3. **Main Fuselage Assembly:** Join the main fuselage halves, ensuring proper alignment. Allow glue to dry completely before proceeding.
4. **Wing and Tail Assembly:** Attach the wings and tail booms to the main fuselage. Pay close attention to the alignment to ensure a straight and accurate model.
5. **Detailing:** Add smaller detail parts such as antennas, guns, and clear canopy pieces. Use appropriate glue for clear parts to avoid fogging.
6. **Final Checks:** Before painting, inspect the entire model for any gaps, misalignments, or excess glue. Fill gaps with putty if necessary and sand smooth.



Image: Example of model kit components, showing sprues with various parts before assembly.

Painting and Decals

Once assembly is complete, prepare your model for painting. Refer to the included decal guides for specific color schemes and decal placement.

1. **Priming:** Apply a thin, even coat of primer to the entire model. This helps paint adhere better and reveals any surface imperfections.
2. **Base Coats:** Apply the main camouflage colors according to your chosen version. Use multiple thin coats for a smooth finish.
3. **Detail Painting:** Paint smaller details such as landing gear, propellers, and cockpit interior.
4. **Gloss Coat:** Apply a clear gloss coat over the painted model. This provides a smooth surface for decal application and prevents "silvering."
5. **Decal Application:** Carefully cut out each decal. Dip it in water for a few seconds until it slides freely from the backing paper. Position the decal on the model and gently slide the backing paper away. Use decal setting solutions to help decals conform to surface details.
6. **Sealing:** Once decals are dry, apply another clear coat (gloss or matte, depending on desired finish) to seal and protect them.

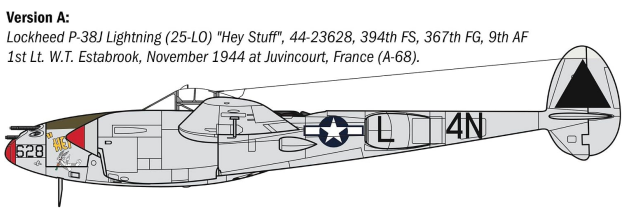

Image: Decal placement guide for Version A, Lockheed P-38J Lightning "Hey Stuff!", 394th FS, 367th FG, 9th AF, November 1944.

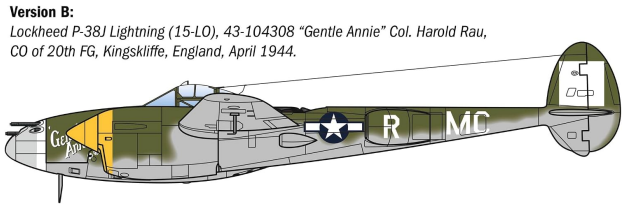

Image: Decal placement guide for Version B, Lockheed P-38J Lightning "Gentle Annie", 20th FG, April 1944.

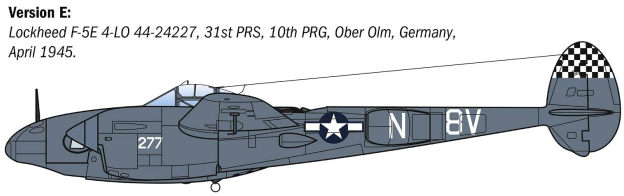

Image: Decal placement guide for Version E, Lockheed F-5E 4-LO, 31st PRS, 10th PRG, April 1945.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	Italeri
Model Number	2834
Scale	1:48
Theme	Military Aircraft (Lockheed P-38J Lightning)
Material	Plastic
Recommended Age	14 years and up
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	2.4 x 13.66 x 9.57 inches
Item Weight	15.5 ounces

Maintenance

To preserve the quality and appearance of your completed model:

- **Cleaning:** Dust your model regularly with a soft brush or a can of compressed air. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive materials.
- **Storage:** Store the model in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight to prevent fading or warping of plastic and decals.
- **Handling:** Handle the model carefully, especially delicate parts like antennas or landing gear.

Troubleshooting

Common issues and solutions during model assembly:

- **Parts Not Fitting:**
  - Ensure you have the correct parts for the step.
  - Carefully trim excess plastic (flash) from the parts.
  - Lightly sand mating surfaces for a better fit.
- **Decal Silvering:**
  - Apply decals over a glossy surface.
  - Use decal setting solutions to help decals conform and eliminate air bubbles.
- **Paint Issues (e.g., uneven coat, brush marks):**
  - Apply paint in thin, multiple coats rather than one thick coat.
  - Ensure paint is properly thinned for airbrushing or brush painting.
  - Allow sufficient drying time between coats.

Warranty and Support

For questions regarding missing parts, manufacturing defects, or assembly assistance, please contact Italeri customer support directly. Refer to the contact information provided on the product packaging or the official Italeri website.
This product is a model kit and does not typically come with an operational warranty. Please inspect all parts upon receipt.

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Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

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