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FineMolds FZ05

FineMolds 1/48 A6M2b Carrier Fighter ZERO Model 21

(Mitsubishi, Early Production) "Aircraft Carrier Akagi" Plastic Model Kit FZ05

1. Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the FineMolds 1/48 scale Imperial Japanese Navy Zero Fighter Type 21 (Mitsubishi, Early Production) "Aircraft Carrier Akagi" plastic model kit, model FZ05. This kit allows you to recreate a historically significant aircraft that played a crucial role in early World War II operations. This manual provides essential information for the successful assembly and completion of your model.

The Zero Fighter, particularly the early production Type 21, was a pivotal aircraft in Japanese aviation history, achieving significant air superiority during the initial stages of the Pacific War, including the attack on Pearl Harbor.

2. Product Overview

This kit meticulously reproduces the aircraft flown by Major Shigeru Itaya (Commander of the First Attack Wave / Air Superiority Unit during the Pearl Harbor attack) and Petty Officer 1st Class Shinji Iwama, both belonging to the Akagi aircraft carrier fighter squadron. The kit features extensive new tooling and design to accurately represent the Type 21, distinguishing it from later Zero variants.



Figure 2.1: Kit box art showing the FineMolds 1/48 A6M2b Carrier Fighter ZERO Model 21.

Key Features:

- **Scale:** 1/48
- **Type:** Unpainted plastic assembly kit
- **New Design:** Almost entirely new design and new molds for main wings, front fuselage, cowling, first canopy, and vertical tail (rudder).
- **Selectable Wingtips:** Main wingtips can be assembled in either folded or unfolded positions.
- **Detailed Canopy:** Canopy frame and glass parts are separate for enhanced detail and easier painting.
- **Ease of Assembly:** Rear fuselage is a single piece utilizing slide molding technology for simplified construction.
- **Accurate Ailerons:** Reproduces the early Mitsubishi-made type with protruding mass balances (up to aircraft No. 326).

3. Safety Information

Warning: This product is a plastic model kit and not a toy. It contains small parts that may pose a choking hazard for children under 3 years old. Adult supervision is recommended for younger modelers.

- Always use modeling tools (hobby knives, nippers, files) with caution. Keep sharp tools away from children.
- When using adhesives and paints, ensure adequate ventilation. Avoid inhaling fumes.
- Read and follow the safety instructions provided with any glues, paints, and thinners used.
- Dispose of waste materials responsibly.

4. Package Contents

Before starting assembly, please check all parts against the parts diagram. If any parts are missing or damaged, please contact your retailer or FineMolds customer support.

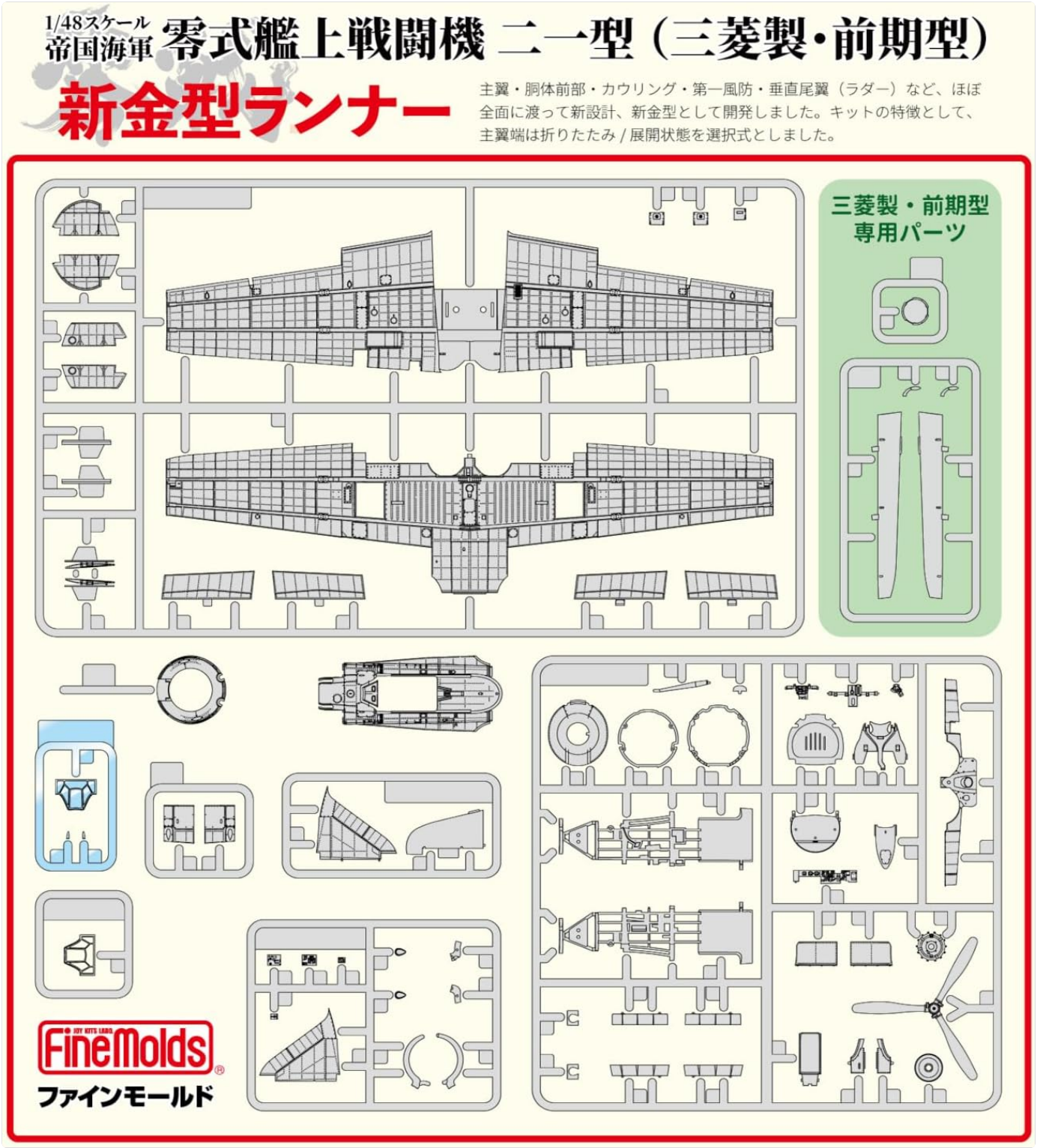


Figure 4.1: Sprue layout showing the various plastic parts included in the kit. Note the newly designed main wings, fuselage sections, and specialized parts for the Mitsubishi early production model.

The kit typically includes:

- Multiple plastic sprues (runners) containing aircraft components.
- Clear plastic parts for the canopy and other transparent elements.
- Decal sheet for markings and stencils.
- Instruction manual (this document or similar printed guide).

Note: Adhesives, paints, tools (nippers, hobby knife, files, tweezers), and paint brushes are**not included** and must be purchased separately.

5. Assembly Instructions

Follow the step-by-step diagrams provided in the kit's printed instruction sheet. The general assembly process involves:

1. **Part Preparation:** Carefully cut parts from the sprues using nippers. Trim any excess plastic (flash) with a hobby knife or file.
2. **Cockpit Assembly:** Assemble the cockpit interior, including the pilot's seat, instrument panel, and control stick. Paint these parts according to the color guide before assembly.
3. **Fuselage Assembly:** Join the fuselage halves. Ensure proper alignment before applying adhesive.
4. **Wing Assembly:** Assemble the main wing sections. Choose whether to display the wingtips folded or unfolded at this stage. Attach the wings to the fuselage.
5. **Tail Section:** Attach the horizontal and vertical stabilizers.
6. **Engine and Cowling:** Assemble the engine (if separate) and attach it to the front fuselage. Then, attach the engine cowling.
7. **Landing Gear:** Assemble and attach the landing gear struts and wheels. Ensure they are securely fixed and aligned.
8. **Propeller:** Assemble the propeller blades and spinner, then attach to the engine shaft.
9. **Canopy:** Carefully attach the clear canopy parts. Use a clear-parts adhesive to avoid fogging.
10. **Final Details:** Attach any remaining small parts such as antennas, pitot tubes, and external ordnance (if included).

Tip: Dry-fit parts before applying glue to ensure a good fit. Use plastic cement sparingly to avoid damaging the plastic surface.

6. Painting and Decal Application

Painting is crucial for bringing your model to life. Refer to historical references and the kit's color guide for accurate paint schemes.

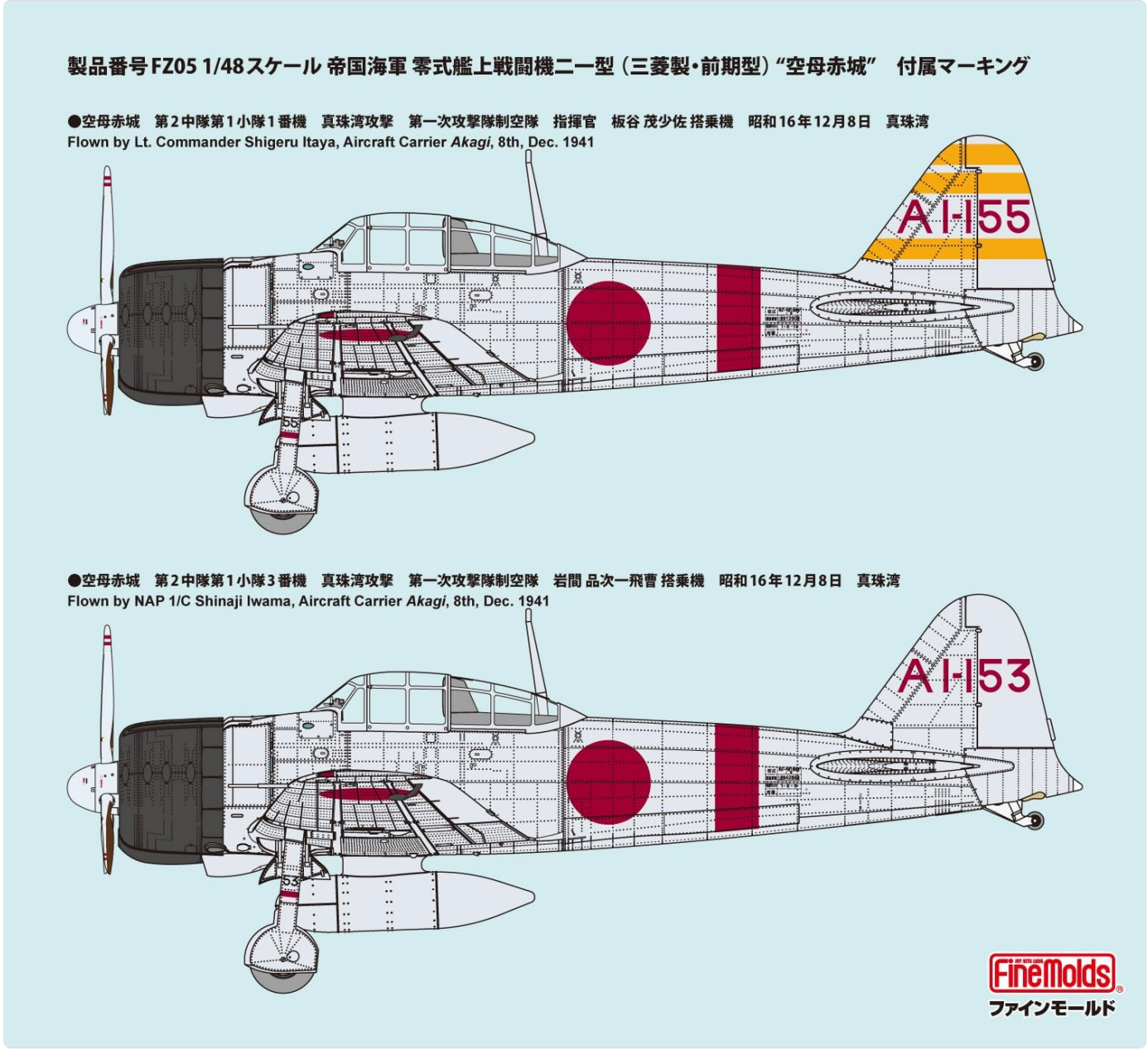


Figure 6.1: Decal sheet and marking guide for two aircraft: Major Shigeru Itaya's (AI-155) and Petty Officer 1st Class Shinji Iwama's (AI-153) aircraft from the Akagi carrier fighter squadron, Pearl Harbor attack, December 8, 1941.

Painting:

- Clean the model surface to remove any grease or dust.
- Apply a primer coat for better paint adhesion and a uniform finish.
- Paint the model using acrylic or enamel model paints. Apply thin coats to preserve surface detail.
- Mask off areas as needed for multi-color camouflage patterns.
- Apply a gloss clear coat before decals to prevent silvering.

Decal Application:

- Cut out each decal carefully.
- Dip the decal in lukewarm water for 10-20 seconds until it slides freely from the backing paper.
- Slide the decal onto the desired position on the model.
- Gently blot away excess water with a soft cloth or cotton swab.
- Use decal setting solutions to help decals conform to surface details and eliminate air bubbles.
- Once decals are dry, apply a final clear coat (matte, satin, or gloss) to protect them and unify the finish.



Figure 6.2: A fully assembled and painted model of the FineMolds Zero Fighter Type 21, showcasing the detailed landing gear and propeller.



Figure 6.3: Left side view of the completed model, highlighting the fuselage markings and overall finish.

7. Specifications

Attribute	Detail
Model Name	FineMolds 1/48 A6M2b Carrier Fighter ZERO Model 21 (Mitsubishi, Early Production) "Aircraft Carrier Akagi"
Model Number	FZ05
Scale	1/48
Material	Plastic
Product Dimensions (approx.)	23 x 20 x 7.5 cm (packaging)
Product Weight (approx.)	240 g (packaging)

Recommended Age	15 years and up

8. Maintenance

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

- **Cleaning:** Dust your model regularly with a soft brush or a can of compressed air. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cloths.
- **Display:** Display your model in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, which can cause paint fading and plastic degradation.
- **Handling:** Handle the model by its sturdy parts (e.g., fuselage) to avoid breaking delicate components like antennas or landing gear.

9. Troubleshooting

Most issues during model building can be resolved with careful attention to instructions and proper techniques.

- **Parts Don't Fit:** Ensure you are using the correct parts for the step. Trim any excess plastic (flash) that might be preventing a flush fit. Gently sand or file mating surfaces if necessary.
- **Gaps Between Parts:** Use plastic putty or filler to fill any noticeable gaps after assembly. Sand smooth once dry.
- **Paint Issues:** If paint is peeling or not adhering, ensure the surface is clean and primed. Apply paint in thin coats.
- **Decal Silvering:** This occurs when air is trapped under the decal. Apply a gloss coat before decals, use decal setting solutions, and ensure the surface is smooth.
- **Broken Parts:** Small broken parts can often be reattached with super glue. For larger breaks, consider reinforcing with a small pin (pinning).

10. Warranty and Support

FineMolds products are manufactured to high standards. If you encounter any issues with missing or defective parts, please contact the retailer where you purchased the kit or FineMolds customer support directly. Please retain your proof of purchase.

For further assistance, please visit the official FineMolds website or contact their customer service department. Contact information is typically provided on the kit box or their official website.

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