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FineMolds FZ06

FineMolds 1/48 IJN A6M2b Carrier Fighter ZERO Model 21 (Nakajima Production) "Air Battle Over the Solomons" Plastic Model Kit FZ06 Instruction Manual

Model Number: FZ06

1. Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the FineMolds 1/48 scale Imperial Japanese Navy A6M2b Carrier Fighter ZERO Model 21 (Nakajima Production) plastic model kit. This kit accurately reproduces the distinctive features of the Zero Fighter Model 21 manufactured by Nakajima Aircraft, specifically those deployed during the intense "Air Battle Over the Solomons" in 1943. This manual provides essential information and step-by-step guidance for the assembly, painting, and decal application processes to help you create a historically accurate replica.



Figure 1.1: Kit box art depicting the Nakajima-produced Zero Fighter Model 21 in flight over the Solomon Islands.

2. Product Overview

The A6M2b Zero Fighter Model 21 was a pivotal aircraft for the Imperial Japanese Navy during the early stages of World War II. While Mitsubishi was the primary manufacturer, Nakajima Aircraft also produced a significant number of these fighters, incorporating subtle differences in design and manufacturing processes. This kit highlights these distinctions, offering modelers a unique opportunity to build a specific variant.

2.1 Key Features of Nakajima Production Model 21:

- **Spinner Shape:** Nakajima-produced Zeroes featured a slightly sharper spinner profile compared to Mitsubishi-produced aircraft.
- **Aileron Mass Balances:** Early Nakajima production models often lacked the protruding mass balances on the ailerons.
- **Fuselage Hinomaru:** From mid-1942, Nakajima-built aircraft typically had a white border painted around the fuselage Hinomaru (national insignia).
- **Advanced Molding:** This kit utilizes slide molding for the rear fuselage, ensuring a seamless, one-piece construction. The canopy frame and transparent parts are separate for easier painting and detailing.



Figure 2.1: Front 3/4 view of the fully assembled and painted FineMolds Zero Fighter Model 21, showcasing its distinctive camouflage and markings.



Figure 2.2: Top view of the assembled model, highlighting the wing camouflage pattern and national insignia.

3. Package Contents

Before beginning assembly, please verify that all parts are present and undamaged. Carefully open the plastic bags containing the sprues (runners) and compare them with the parts layout diagram provided in this section.

3.1 Kit Components:

- Plastic sprues (runners) containing all aircraft components.
- Clear plastic sprue for canopy and other transparent parts.
- Decal sheet for various marking options.
- Instruction booklet (this document).

Note: This kit requires assembly and painting. Adhesive, hobby tools (nippers, hobby knife, files), and paints are NOT included and must be purchased separately.

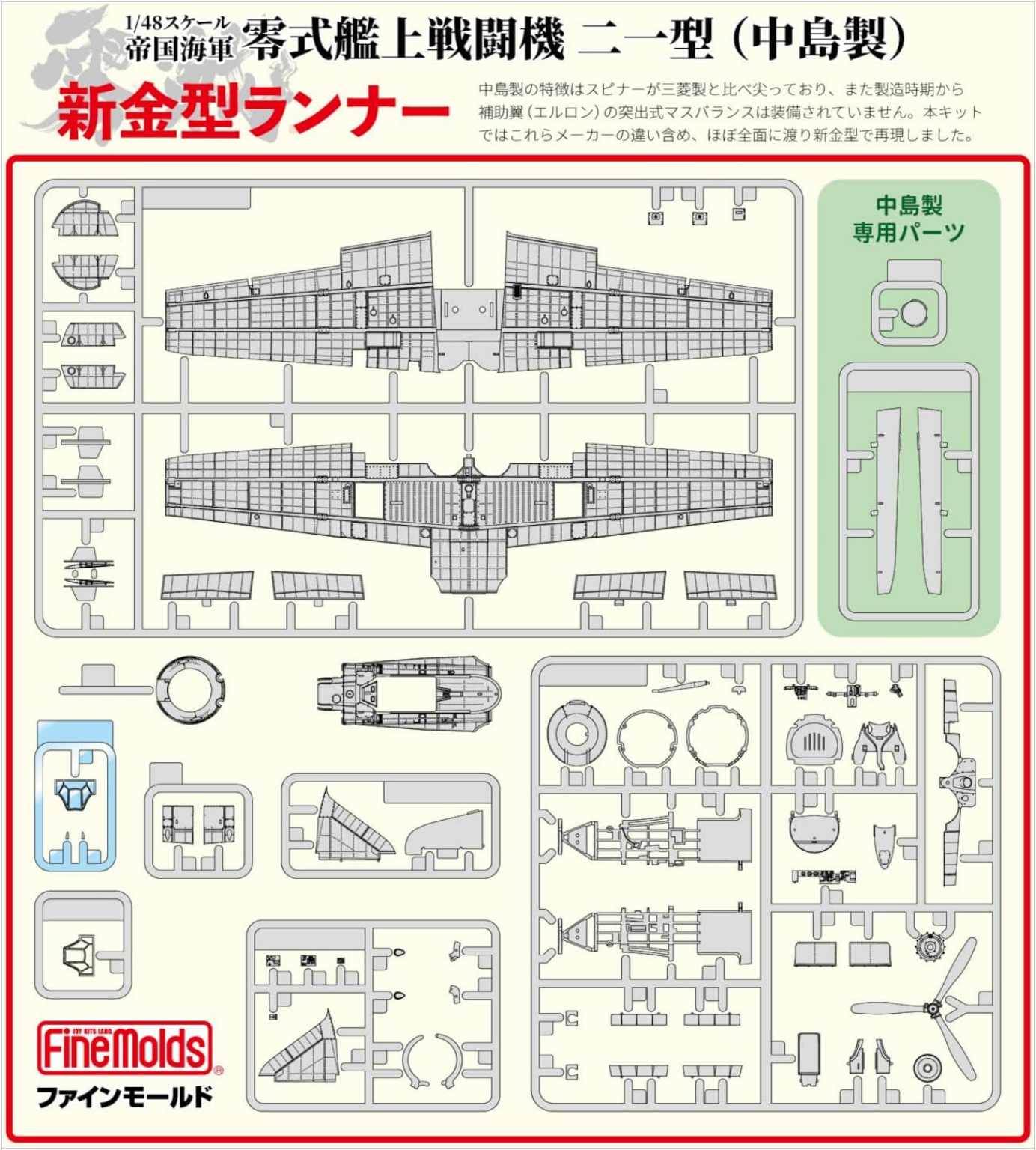


Figure 3.1: Detailed layout of the plastic sprues (runners) included in the kit. Verify all parts are present before starting assembly.

4. Assembly Instructions (Setup)

Follow these steps carefully. Refer to the diagrams in the original kit instructions for precise part placement. Always test-fit parts before applying adhesive.

4.1 Tools Required:

- Plastic cement (liquid or tube type)
- Sprue nippers or side cutters
- Hobby knife or craft blade
- Sanding sticks or fine-grit sandpaper

- Tweezers (for small parts)

4.2 General Assembly Tips:

1. Carefully remove parts from the sprues using nippers, cutting slightly away from the part to avoid damage.
2. Trim any remaining sprue gates (nubs) with a hobby knife and smooth the area with sandpaper.
3. Always test-fit parts together before applying glue. This helps identify any fit issues that may require trimming or sanding.
4. Use plastic cement sparingly. Too much glue can damage the plastic or create unsightly marks.
5. Allow sufficient drying time for adhesive before handling assembled sections.

4.3 Assembly Sequence:

1. **Cockpit Assembly:** Assemble the cockpit interior components (floor, seat, instrument panel, control stick). Paint these parts according to the color guide before gluing them into the fuselage halves.
2. **Fuselage Assembly:** Join the left and right fuselage halves, ensuring the cockpit assembly is properly seated. Secure with adhesive and allow to dry.
3. **Wing Assembly:** Assemble the upper and lower wing sections. Attach the main wing assembly to the fuselage. Ensure proper alignment.
4. **Tail Section:** Attach the horizontal stabilizers and rudder to the rear fuselage.
5. **Landing Gear:** Assemble the main landing gear struts, wheels, and tail wheel. These can be attached after painting the main airframe, or temporarily fitted for painting and then permanently secured.
6. **Propeller and Engine Cowling:** Assemble the propeller blades and spinner. Attach the engine cowling.
7. **Canopy:** Mask and paint the canopy frame. Attach the clear canopy parts after the main airframe painting is complete.
8. **External Stores:** Assemble and attach any external fuel tanks or ordnance as desired.

5. Painting and Decal Application

Achieving a realistic finish requires careful painting and decal application. Refer to historical references and the provided marking guide for accuracy.

5.1 Painting Guidelines:

1. **Surface Preparation:** Ensure the model surface is clean, smooth, and free of dust or grease. Wash parts with mild soap and water if necessary.
2. **Primer:** Apply a thin, even coat of primer to the entire model. This helps paint adhere better and reveals any surface imperfections.
3. **Base Coats:** Apply base colors in thin, even layers. For the Nakajima-produced Zeroes during the Solomon campaign, typical camouflage involved dark green over light gray-green or overall light gray-green.
4. **Detail Painting:** Paint smaller details such as landing gear, propeller blades, cockpit interior, and exhaust pipes.
5. **Weathering (Optional):** Apply weathering effects (e.g., panel line washes, exhaust stains, chipping) to enhance realism.

5.2 Decal Application:

1. **Gloss Coat:** Apply a clear gloss coat over the painted surface where decals will be placed. This provides a smooth surface for decals and prevents silvering.
2. **Cutting Decals:** Carefully cut out each decal as close to the edge of the design as possible.
3. **Soaking:** Dip the decal in lukewarm water for 10-20 seconds until it slides freely on its backing paper.

4. **Placement:** Slide the decal onto the model surface using tweezers or a brush. Position it carefully.
5. **Setting Solution:** Use decal setting solution to help the decal conform to surface details and eliminate air bubbles. Gently blot excess solution with a soft cloth.
6. **Sealing:** Once decals are dry, apply a final clear coat (gloss, satin, or matte, depending on desired finish) to protect them and unify the surface.

5.3 Marking Options:

This kit includes decals for several historically significant aircraft from the Solomon campaign, including:

- Aircraft from carrier-borne units (e.g., from carriers Shokaku, Hiyo).
- Aircraft from land-based units, such as the 202nd Naval Air Group, often featuring a light gray-white scheme.

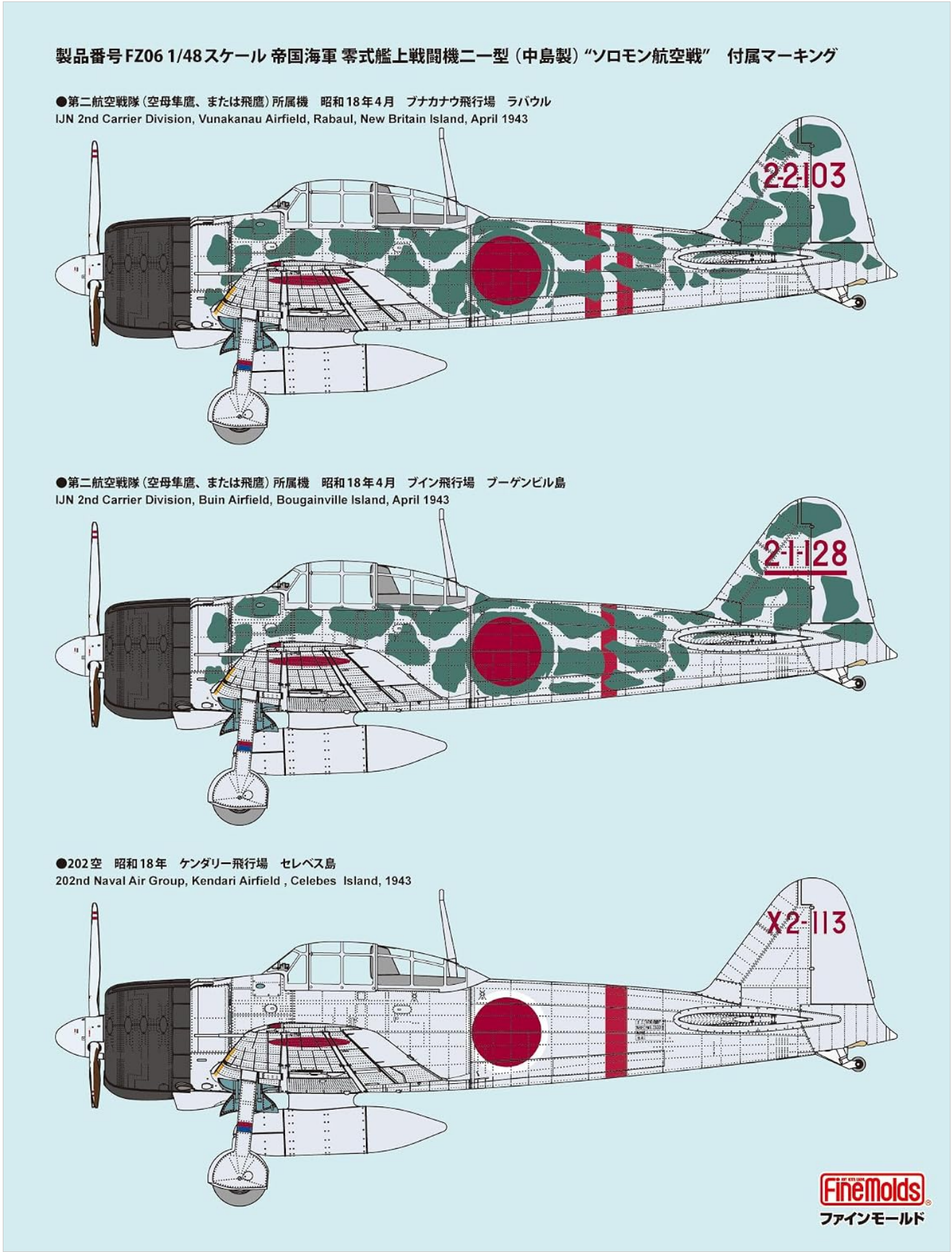


Figure 5.1: Decal and painting guide showing various marking options for the Nakajima-produced Zero Fighter Model 21, including carrier-based and land-based units.

6. Care and Display (Maintenance)

Proper care will ensure your model remains in excellent condition for years to come.

- **Handling:** Handle the model by its sturdy parts (e.g., fuselage, wings) to avoid damaging delicate components like antennas, landing gear, or propeller blades.
- **Cleaning:** Dust the model regularly with a soft, dry brush or a can of compressed air. Avoid using water or chemical cleaners, as these can damage paint and decals.
- **Display Environment:** Display your model in a stable, dust-free environment away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. UV light can fade paint and decals over time.
- **Storage:** If storing the model, place it in a sturdy box with soft packing material to prevent movement and damage.

7. Common Assembly Tips (Troubleshooting)

Here are solutions to common issues encountered during model assembly:

- **Poor Part Fit:** If parts do not fit perfectly, gently sand or trim the mating surfaces. Test-fit frequently. Clamps or masking tape can help hold parts together while glue dries.
- **Gaps Between Parts:** Small gaps can be filled with plastic putty or stretched sprue dissolved in liquid cement. Sand smooth once dry.
- **Silvering Decals:** This occurs when air is trapped under the decal, making it look silvery. Ensure a gloss surface before applying decals and use decal setting solutions. Prick tiny bubbles with a sharp needle and apply more setting solution.
- **Paint Runs/Uneven Coats:** Apply paint in multiple thin coats rather than one thick coat. Ensure each coat is dry before applying the next.
- **Lost Small Parts:** Work over a clean, well-lit surface. If a part is lost, check the floor carefully. Sometimes, a replacement can be scratch-built from plastic card or stretched sprue.

8. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Product Name	IJN A6M2b Carrier Fighter ZERO Model 21 (Nakajima Production) "Air Battle Over the Solomons"
Brand	FineMolds
Model Number	FZ06
Scale	1/48
Type	Plastic Model Kit (Assembly Required)
Main Material	Polystyrene Plastic
Recommended Age	15 years and older
Product Dimensions	Approximately 23 x 20 x 7.5 cm (packaging)
Product Weight	Approximately 300 g (packaging)

9. Safety Information

- **Small Parts:** This kit contains small parts that may pose a choking hazard. Keep out of reach of young children.
- **Sharp Edges:** Plastic parts may have sharp edges. Use caution when handling and trimming parts.

- **Adhesives and Paints:** Use plastic cement and paints in a well-ventilated area. Avoid inhaling fumes. Follow the safety instructions provided by the manufacturers of your chosen adhesives and paints.
- **Hobby Tools:** Use hobby knives, nippers, and other tools with care to prevent injury. Always cut away from your body.
- **Disposal:** Dispose of waste materials (sprue, empty paint cans) according to local regulations.

10. Support

For any questions regarding the assembly or parts of this FineMolds kit, please refer to the contact information provided on the kit packaging or visit the official FineMolds website. Please note that FineMolds is a registered trademark of FineMolds Co., Ltd.

Ask a question about this manual

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

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Details

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