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Monogram’s 1/48 scale Devestator was the basis of a scene set 6,500 feet below the ocean’s surface
Wake Wildcats were brand new, delivered just a couple of days before the Japanese attack and actually were freshly repainted during the deployment, to comply with the latest camouflage directive. Engines and propellers were masked with tarps, which overlapped the cowlings a bit, leading to a non-standard camouflage line typical for this squadron.

I chose the old Hasegawa model over the Airfix kit for its more delicate panel lines and surface details, and a more accurate shape of fuselage top behind the cockpit.

One thing I don’t like about the Hasegawa kit is its canopy, which is visibly small, and flush with the fuselage, which would make it impossible to slide backward. I solved this issue with a small aftermarket item of my own making.

Given the bland camo and no weathering, I had to focus solely on a clean build and nice details to have a remote chance to impress anyone with this model. While the Hasegawa kit itself is excellent and would be trivial to assemble on its own, properly incorporating all the aftermarket parts—mainly the resin wheel wells and cockpit—took some effort. I think the result has been worth it and I like it, simple as it is.

Wildcats at Wake Island were brand new, and on top of that were freshly painted to comply with recent camouflage directives. Vladimir shows that a simple paint scheme can still build an interesting model, especially with the addition of a few detail sets.
Painting a Pacific pilot

A few tricks can go a long way toward making your figures more realistic

JOE HUDSON

This is a 120mm resin figure from Verlinden Productions. Verlinden, which has been out of business a few years now, was ahead of its time when it came to resin kits and the now popular 120mm scale.

Beautifully cast with minimal cleanup and easy assembly, this figure is a good representation of the U.S. Navy pilots who served during the Pacific war.

While researching this figure, I saw that the box art was taken from a picture in the book U.S. Navy Uniforms In World War II Series Volume 2: US Naval Aviation Flying Clothing and Gear by Jeff Warner (2007 Schiffer Military Books).

The figure came in eight parts, and the only issue was the cast-on cigar had broken off. It was not in the kit, so once all the parts were removed from the resin carrier blocks, my first step was to create a replacement.

I assembled the kit using superglue, then primed it with Tamiya sky gray (XF-19) applied with an airbrush.
I painted the engine cylinders Tamiya metallic gray (XF-56) and crankcase dark gray (XF-24) with details picked out with flat black (XF-1) and flat aluminum (XF-16). Tamiya black panel line color highlighted detail.

Superglue set with accelerator and sanded smooth took care of gaps that sanding alone failed to eliminate.

The wings fit pretty tightly into recesses in the fuselage. I squeezed a little Vallejo Plastic Putty, an acrylic filler, along the seams for a clean finish.

In order to keep the nose wheel on the ground, I filled the front gear bay, lower part of the nose, and the forward part of each engine nacelle with fishing sinkers held in place with JB Weld.

After protecting surrounding detail with strips of tape, I sanded the fuselage seam. Poor fits produced gaps and steps in a couple of places.

A fine razor saw guided by tape engraved panel lines lost to sanding. It takes only a light touch and a few strokes to replace this kinds of lost detail.
The supplied interior parts for the driver compartment are detailed and well molded, with a transmission, steering levers, seats, instrument panel, fuse boxes, air filters, and more all included in the kit. Hardly any of this can be seen when the compartment is closed up, but in order to populate the inside, it is worth doing, especially if you intend to pose the hatches open.

The internal side walls of the driver compartment need to be painted before final assembly. These are the forward portions of the hull (parts C11 and C12). I masked off the relevant areas, sprayed them with Tamiya gray primer, and later airbrushed the parts flat white.

I prepped the individual interior components with Tamiya primer using an airbrush.

I sprayed the interior parts white. To add variation, I used Hobby Color off white (H21) on some components such as the transmission. Once dry, the major subassemblies were attached. The compartment floor (B43) is not white, but the same color as the remainder of the vehicle. I used lightened olive drab.