

# RT

## Random Thoughts



By Modellers, For Modellers

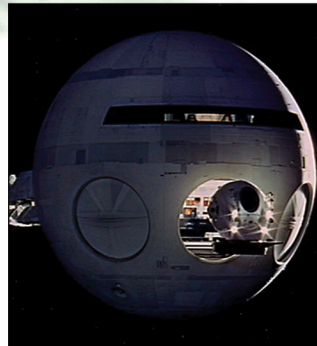
Volume 47 • Number 3 • Fall 2025



### Ed Davenport's Beaufighter TF. X, 404 Sqn, RCAF

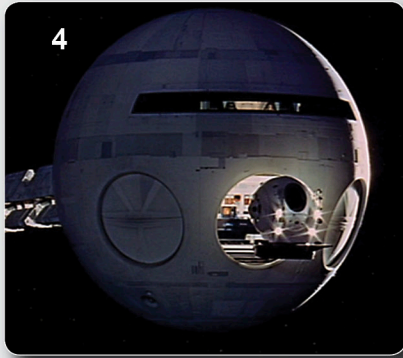
#### Also in this issue:

- **Discovery XD-1** from 2001: A Space Odyssey
- **Pilot Replicas 1:48 Vampire T.55**
- **XV-51 Nora Type**
- **A Canadian Ferret Mk 2** from the Airfix Kit



[ipmscanada.com](http://ipmscanada.com)

## Table of Contents



4



23



15



29



40

Editorial ..... 3

Lighting an Interior for the  
Discovery XD-1 from 2001: A Space Odyssey  
Geoff Heyland, IPMS London ..... 4

Tweaking the Pilot Replicas  
1:48 Vampire T.55  
Gerry Brennan, IPMS Toronto ..... 15

**Cover Comment:** Ed Davenport of Tabernacle, NJ took on the Tamiya 1:48 Beaufighter TF Mk X kit to produce a fine replica of a 404 Sqn strike aircraft. See page 23 for the build article.

1:48 Beaufighter TF Mk X, 404 Sqn  
Ed Davenport ..... 23

XV-51 Nora Type  
Peter Shanley ..... 29

A Tale of Two Ferrets, Part 2 - a Canadian  
Ferret Mk2 from the Airfix kit  
Mark Minnis ..... 40

Cartoons  
Dave Fletcher ..... 3

## Future RTicles...

Here are some articles that are coming down the **RT** pipeline. If you have something that might fit in with related topic to make it a theme, please contact the Editor. Heck, if you've got something on any modelling topic, get in touch!

CF-5 Aggressor Camo, 1:144 Discovery XD-1, 1/72 'What-if' J-21B, 1:32 post-war Lancaster, 1:72 VF18C Valknet, 1:35 M5A1 Stuart, 1:48 B-24 Liberator GR.V, 1:48 S-2G Tracker, 1:72 RCAF Bolingbroke, 1:700 HMCS Crescent,

*"I'm sorry, Geoff, I can't do that."*

1:144



## Lighting an Interior for the Discovery XD-1 from **2001: A Space Odyssey**

Geoff Heyland  
C#3729  
West Lorne, Ont.

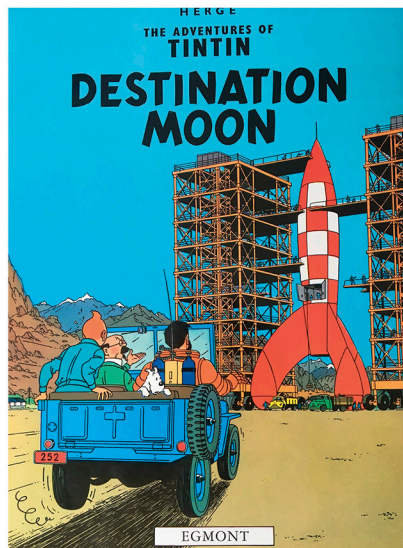


### A Confession

I started this project in 2019 - five years ago. It went gangbusters for a while then went onto the 'Shelf of Despair' as I wrestled with how to display it. I was writing the article as I was building it and our redoubtable **RT** editor was kind and patient, reminding me from time to time that it wasn't finished. Recently I was moved to do a couple of newer articles and the sheer embarrassment of the delay on this one pushed me to complete it. Shelf of Shame builds need something to kick their butts, so here is my story. You will easily see the point where old meets new, so come along with me....

### The objective – stark!

Before 1968, films included spacecraft with little connection to current or theoretical reality – mostly tail-sitting single-stage-to-orbit tubes with wings or something 'flying saucer-y.' Some looked very cool and were based on either a 1950's or earlier approach to rocketry, atmospheric rockets of the German A4/V2 variety, or on flying saucers based on... Roswell, I guess. I loved those films and those rockets - especially the Moon Rocket in Tintin, by Herge! I still have to find myself one of those in kit form!



*The shape of spaceships, B.K. (Before Kubrick).*

Then came Stanley Kubrick and Arthur C. Clarke's masterpiece – 2001: A Space Odyssey. Love the movie or hate it, the spacecraft were iconic game changers. In an instant, flying saucers and tail-sitting winged tubes were no longer believable as 'realistic' depictions of space travel. Kubrick created a clean, almost antiseptic vision of space travel, with ships clearly assembled in zero gravity and meant only for space travel. This 'clean' vision of the future lasted until 1977 when Star Wars initiated the concept of a 'used universe' (apart from the Empire ships, which were pretty much pristine, but I digress). I watched 2001 at least seven times in the theatre – trying to understand it, but also for the sheer exhilaration of being as close to actually flying in space as I could be at 12 years old. I defy anyone who has watched it to ever listen to Strauss' 'Blue Danube Waltz' and not immediately recall the docking sequence with Space Station 5!

The only plastic kits available early on were the Aurora 'Pan Am Space Clipper' and the 'Moon Bus' – both of which I grabbed and built (and both of which have since been reissued – yay!). But I always pined for the real hero ship: the Discovery XD-1. This amazing nuclear-powered Jupiter mission ship carried the most important character in the film from Earth to Jupiter, before he was foully murdered by mission leader David Bowman. Of course I speak of the HAL 9000 computer (which interestingly became operational on January 12, 1992, which would make him well into his 30s today!) He wasn't actually murdered, of course – he was simply put into an 'e-coma' in order to ensure a sequel!

# Tweaking the Pilot Replicas



## Vampire T.55



1:48

Gerry Brennan C#4324  
Woodbridge, Ont.

I.P.M.S.  
TORONTO

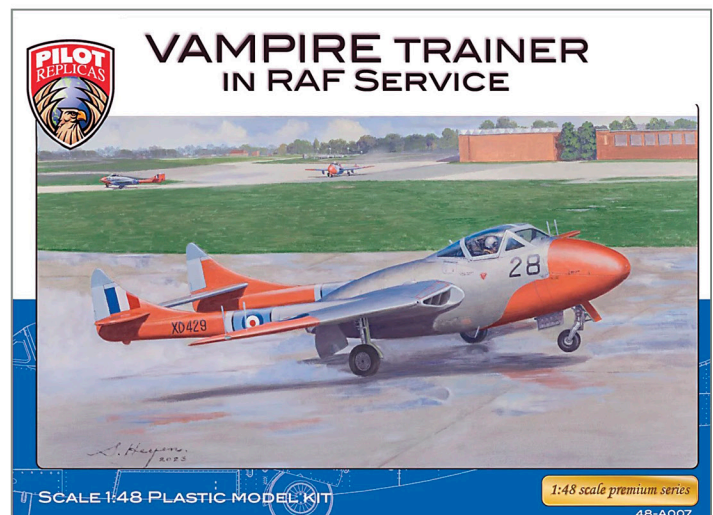
This is the Swedish company Pilot Replicas 2024 release of the de Havilland Vampire T.11, kit no. 48-A007.

### Background

I've wanted to build a model of this aircraft for years. This is probably the only aircraft that left an impression on my 7-8 year-old mind as I waited for a bus back in Dublin back in the early 1960s.

I remember clearly seeing two Vampire T.55's of the Irish Air Corps (in Irish: *An tAerchór*) flying quite low over the Nine Arches Bridge in Milltown, Dublin. The distinctive whistling sound and the unmistakable twin-boomed tails left an unforgettable impression on my young mind at the time, so since then building a Vampire trainer has been high on my to-do list.

I once attempted building the Classic Airframes Vampire many years ago but found the shape was not quite right. I also found that the Hobbycraft rendering is really off dimensionally and shape-wise. I briefly toyed with



attempting the ancient Aeroclub vacuform kit but decided that it would take too much of my time.

So I waited and waited, and then out of the blue came the announcement that Pilot Replicas was going to release their attempt at the trusty Vampire trainer. I waited patiently and eventually it finally appeared... the test builds that I saw online left me a little apprehensive as the build looked toy-like, with most noticeably the wings being way too thick. Alas, I bought the kit to see for myself and when the kit arrived my suspicions were correct; the wing is way too thick as well as it having a few other issues.

# Beaufighter TF Mk X

1:48



## 404 Sqn, RCAF



Ed Davenport  
IPMS/USA  
Tabernacle, NJ, USA



with the squadron commander's markings. To improve the base kit, I also added Quickboost's Bristol Beaufighter porcupine exhausts to my build (item QB 48 043).

## Project background

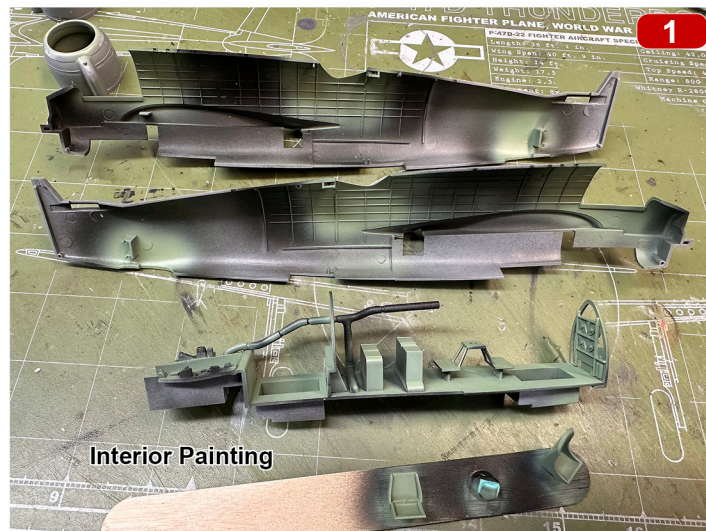
I was looking through my stash for a kit to build for a D-Day Group Build and chose the Tamiya Bristol Beaufighter TF Mk X in 1:48 scale (Kit No. 61067).

Since the kit decals were not in great condition, I opted for the XtraDecal set (sheet X48148) that includes markings for the aircraft of 404 'Buffalo' Squadron's (Sqn) commanding officer on D-Day, Wing Commander (W/C) Alfred Kitchener 'Ken' Gatward. Researching them, I came across a photo of a different aircraft in the squadron and was tempted to deviate from my original plan (see heading photo on next page), but knowing I was short on time, I decided to stick



## Interior Details

I began with construction of the cockpit and rear gunner's station. After cleaning and cementing the parts, I used Mr. Finishing Surfacer 1500 Black to prime all areas, followed by a coat of SMS British Interior Green (Fig. 1). Details





# XV-51 Nora Type



## prototype of a variable fighter thoroughbred

1:72

Peter Shanley  
IPMS(UK) 18115  
Stockport, England



(U.N.) Navy's VF-0A Phoenix and the Anti-U.N. Coalition's SV-51y 'Nora type'. Being the first of the 'variable fighters' the Phoenix was not yet capable of space flight, while its dogfight rival has a rather unique submarine launch capability; now try doing that with a real-world F-35!

The SV-51 itself is the product of an unlikely collaboration between design bureaus at Dornier, Sukhoi and Israel Aircraft Industries with the initial kit issue featuring an eye-catching (or perhaps eye-watering?) overall crimson with yellow flames 'camouflage'.

For fans of less-adventurous finishes the kit has since been re-issued with a much more restrained overall medium grey camouflage scheme. I decided to make the Anti-U.N. forces mount first but only after sourcing the markings for an XV-51 prototype machine as an alternative to the kit provided scheme.

### Adding details to the cockpit

Construction begins with a pilot figure but as this was not required for my build I skipped to step 2 which covers assembling the cockpit interior. This is well detailed but benefits from replacing the kit-supplied seat with a resin F/A-18 (Quickboost QB 72 126) alternative (Fig. 1).

The kit's ejection seat release mechanism was fitted in place and a dry fit of the components ensured that there was no clash with the cockpit canopy. The cockpit floor doubles as the base of the nose undercarriage bay but is somewhat lacking in detail, so various pieces of photo-etch and parts from the spares box were added to fill in

### Introduction

In order to control my spending but still make a good variety of models I try to focus on just two subjects at any one time, and that way I may even be able to avoid having to sell the house! My current areas of interest are aircraft operated by the Japanese Air Self Defence Force and kits based on the 'Macross' anime series. I was first made aware of Hasegawa's series of "Variable Fighter" kits when I found the wonderful artwork for their VF-1J/A 'Valkyrie Vermilion Squadron' kit release on the Scalemates website, see [scalemates.com/kits/hasegawa-mc02-vf-1j-a--966159](http://scalemates.com/kits/hasegawa-mc02-vf-1j-a--966159).



My first thought was, 'what strange looking Tomcats', only finding out later that the anime artists had in fact based aspects of the VF-1's design on the U.S. Navy's at-the-time frontline carrier jet fighter.

### 'Macross Zero': VF-0A vs. SV-51, dogfight opponents

Released in 2002 to celebrate the show's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 'Macross Zero' is a prequel to the original story, with the anime's two aerial opponents both kitted soon after by Hasegawa in 1:72 scale. These are the United Nations

# A Tale of Two Ferrets

## Part 2

### A CANADIAN FERRET MK2 FROM THE AIRFIX KIT



Mark Minnis  
C#3531  
St. Andrews, PEI



1:35

## Introduction

While Canada served on the peacekeeping mission in Cyprus in the 1960s and early-70s we used Ferret Mk 1's for patrolling, while the British Army based there used their Mk 2s. There is photographic evidence that at some point Canada borrowed some British Mk 2's for a period of time,



so with the 2023 release of the Airfix Ferret Mk 2 kit and some excellent decals released by Star Decals (Sheet 35-1391) ([star-decals.net/35-C1391.html](http://star-decals.net/35-C1391.html)) I decided to get right into it.

## The Kit

The Airfix kit is a quick build and unfortunately lacks much of the Ferret's interior details, with perhaps the most noticeable inaccuracy being the engine's rear air intakes. The real Ferret intakes are plates welded together, unlike the kit version that simply has elongated holes. Fortunately there are aftermarket replacements to correct this error. Some of the details are thick and a little clumsy, but as a modeller you can decide how much you want to fix.