FALCON

Clear-Vax Canopies

©

1/48 SCALE CANOPY SET No.52   USAF

USING REPLACEMENT CANOPIES

Trimming: Insert a new blade into your modelling knife or scalpel. To separate the canopy from its base, score very gently around the ledge moulded at the bottom. Do this very lightly at first, with minimum pressure. Repeat the process until the canopy pops away from the ledge. If you score too heavily at first you risk slipping and ruining the canopy. Finally, any rough edges can be cleaned up by lightly sanding with fine wet-and-dry paper. If you intend separating the canopy for display in the open position, we suggest cutting the break-lines before you cut the canopy from its base.

Gluing: Cyanoacrylate (superglue) can be used to fix the canopy to the kit. It gives a fast-setting permanent joint, but fumes given off when setting can cause frosting on clear parts. Where possible, mask around the joint with masking fluid or tape. PVA (white glue) is also useful as it is partly gap-filling, doesn't attack the plastic, and dries clear.

Painting: The best way to achieve crisp and convincing frame lines is by applying pre-painted strips of decal film. Paint part of a sheet of clear decal film, then cut strips of the correct width with a sharp blade and a straight-edge. Decal film sticks better to a painted surface than to bare plastic, so you will have to paint an undercoat on the frame lines marked on the canopy. This technique may not be suitable for canopies with large or irregularly shaped framed areas. For these canopies we suggest you mask the clear areas with clear adhesive tape and then remove the masking after painting.

Details: Most aircraft canopies are fitted with handgrabs, latches, locks and mirrors. Take note of these details when studying close-up photos of the cockpit area you are working on, and fabricate them from plastic card, stretched sprue or other materials. Some brass-etch manufacturers include such items in their ranges. In our endeavour to produce thin clear mouldings, it may happen that the edges of the canopy are in fact too thin for scale appearance. It is a relatively simple matter to build up the thickness from the inside using strips of adhesive cut to the width of the frames. We recommend adhesive vinyl sheet as used by signwriters and in the automotive industry for signage and striping on cars. The adhesive is very durable.

Which kit? Please note that where we suggest a certain kitset as suitable for our replacement canopy, the suggested kit is generally regarded as the most accurate model to the given scale. We cannot guarantee that our canopy will fit other kits of the same subject.

1. **Convair F-106A "blown" canopy.** *Suggested kit: Monogram F-106A.* The Clear-Vax canopy is sectioned for display in the open position. Note the two vertical framelines on the windscreen; these are internal and are best represented with strips of self-adhesive tape or decal film. *Suggested references: Detail & Scale vol.13; Bunrin-do 'Fighters of the World' No.129.*

2. **Lockheed F-80.** *Suggested kit: Monogram F-80C.* The Clear-Vax canopy directly replaces the kit item. Trim the side rails off kit part 15 and fit inside the replacement canopy rear. We recommend replacement of the kit ejection seat with the True Details set TD48402, which is also suitable for the T-33. *Suggested references: P-80/T-33/F-94 In Action No.40 (Squadron/Signal); Bunrin-do 'Fighters of the World' No.63.*

3. **Lockheed T-33.** *Suggested kit: Hobbycraft/Academy T-33 series.* The Clear-Vax canopy rear is slightly corrected for better accuracy. If fitting the canopy closed, trim the shaded area marked X from the kit fuselage. We recommend the excellent Verlinden update set No.854 for extra detail.

4. **Lockheed U-2.** *Suggested kit: Testors Hawk/Italeri U-2.* The Clear-Vax canopy directly replaces the kit item. On the drawing, we have included a template for the area that is painted inside the rear section. This can be cut out and used as a mask (in reverse) for painting. Alternatively, it can be duplicated from self-adhesive material (black or white) and fixed in place. *Suggested references: U-2 In Action No.86 (Squadron/Signal); Aerograph 3 (Aerofax Inc) – includes good detail photos.*

5. **McDonnell-Douglas F-15 (single-seat canopy).** *Suggested kits: Hasegawa F-15C & J.* The Clear-Vax canopy is sectioned for display in the open position, and directly replaces the kit item. True Details set TD48403 provides two nicely moulded Escapac ejection seats (also useful for the F-16). *Suggested references: Warbird Tech No.9 (Specialty Press); Aerodetail No.3 (F-15J); Detail & Scale vol.14.*

6. **Northrop F-5A.** *Suggested kit: Testors/Italeri F-5A.* The Clear-Vax canopy directly replaces the kit item, and is sectioned for display in the open position. *Suggested references: F-5 In Action No.38 (Squadron/Signal); Detail & Scale No.5 (F-5E); 'Northrop F-5/F-20' Modern Combat Aircraft No.5 (Ian Allen).*

7. **Northrop F-5E.** *Suggested kit: Revell/Monogram F-5E.* The Clear-Vax canopy directly replaces the kit item, and is sectioned for display in the open position. Cut the rails off kit part 10, carefully thin down the remainder, and fit to the Clear-Vax canopy rear.

8. **General Dynamics F-16A/C/D.** *Suggested kits: Hasegawa F-16 single seaters.* The Clear-Vax canopy directly replaces the kit item, and is sectioned for display in the open position. The canopy can be tinted with a mixture of Tamiya Smoke and Clear Yellow, depending on the shade required (there are variations in shade from aircraft to aircraft). Some aircraft have the rear section untinted – check your references. *Suggested references: F-16 Walkaround (Squadron/Signal); Detail & Scale vol.3.*

9. **North American F-100 Super Sabre.** *Suggested kit: Monogram F-100D.* The Clear-Vax canopy is sectioned for display in the open position, and directly replaces the kit item. *Suggested reference: Detail & Scale vol.33.*
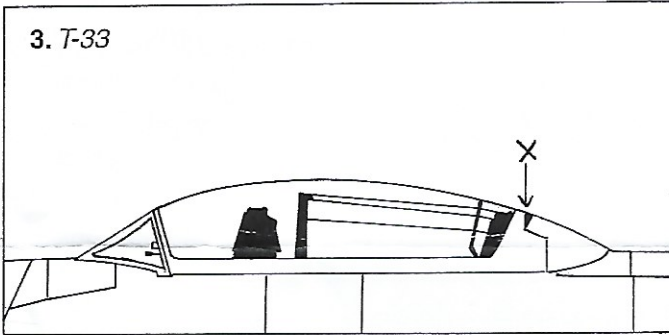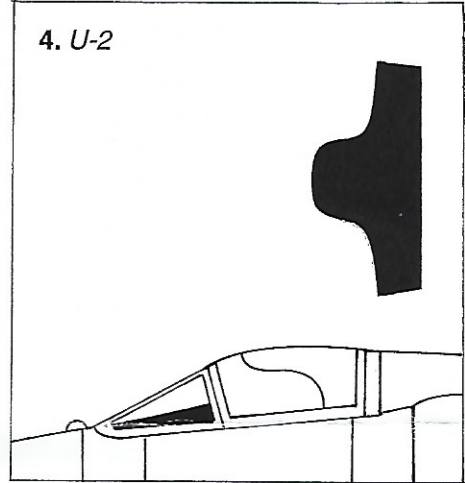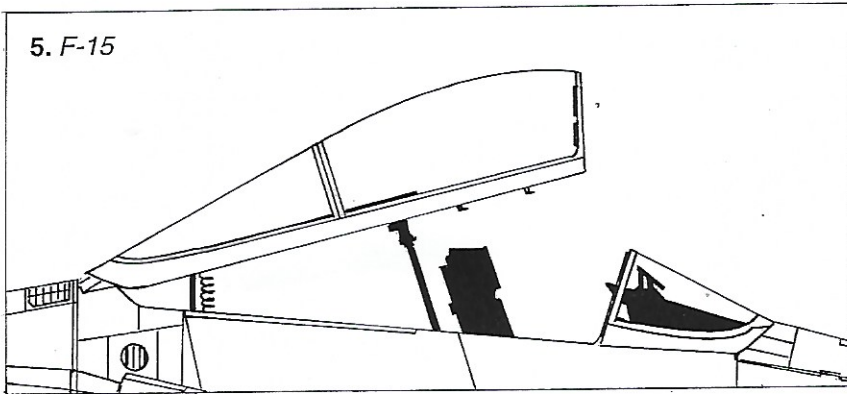
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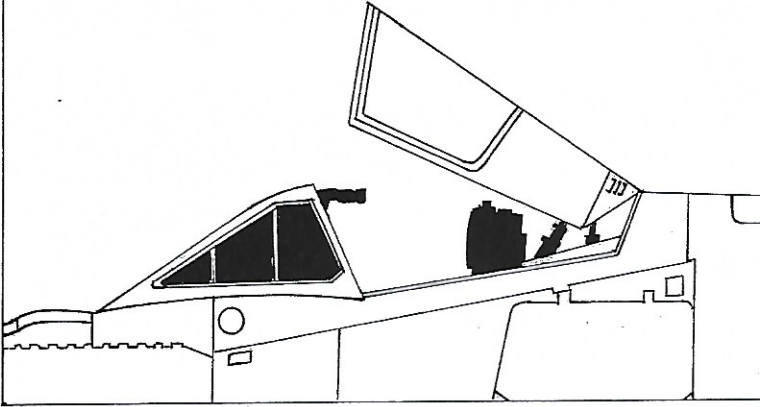
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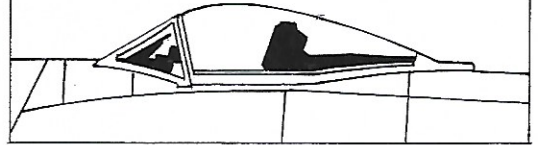
3. *T-33*

4. *U-2*

5. *F-15*

6 & 7. *F-5*
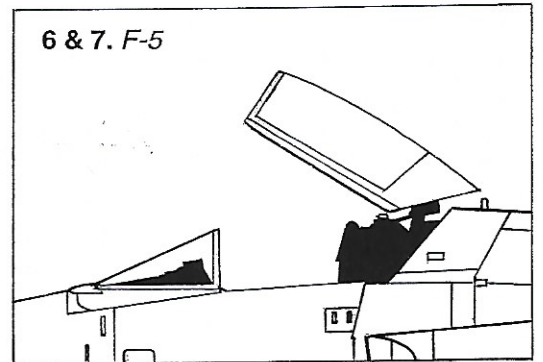
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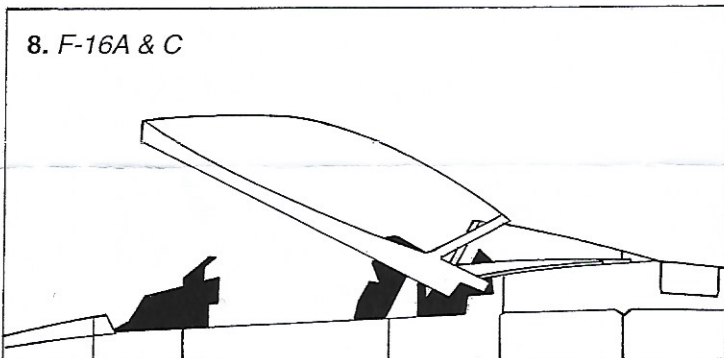
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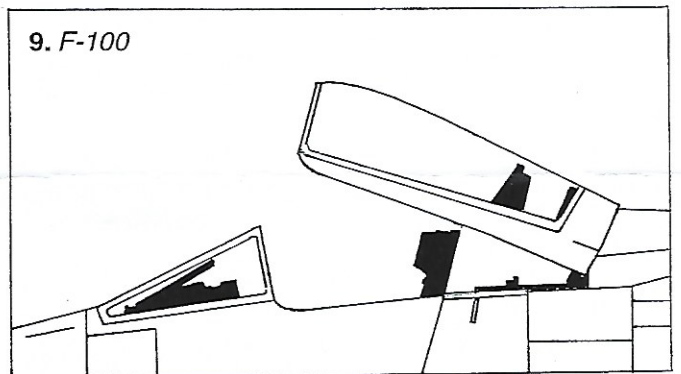
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