Fw 190F-8

eduard

GERMAN WWII FIGHTER-BOMBER

1/72 SCALE PLASTIC KIT

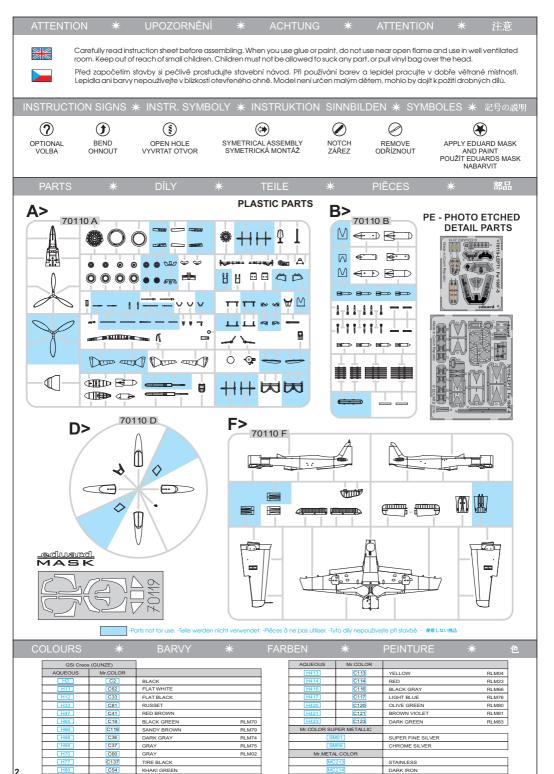
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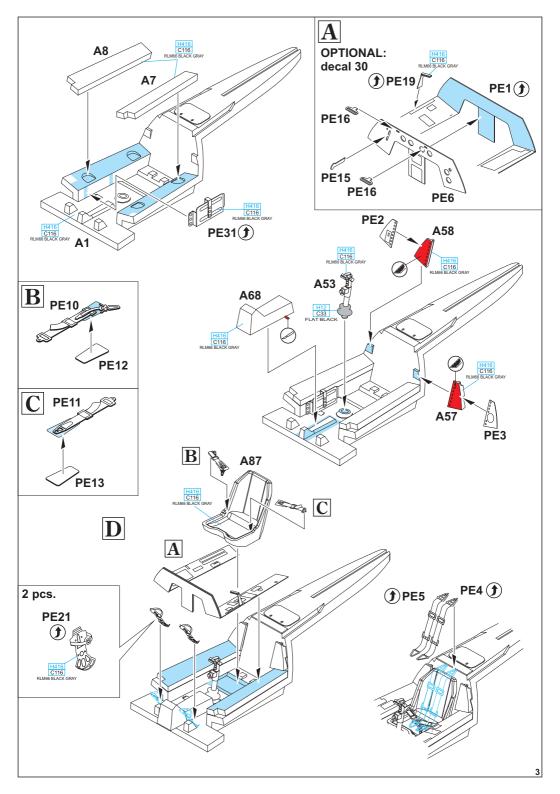
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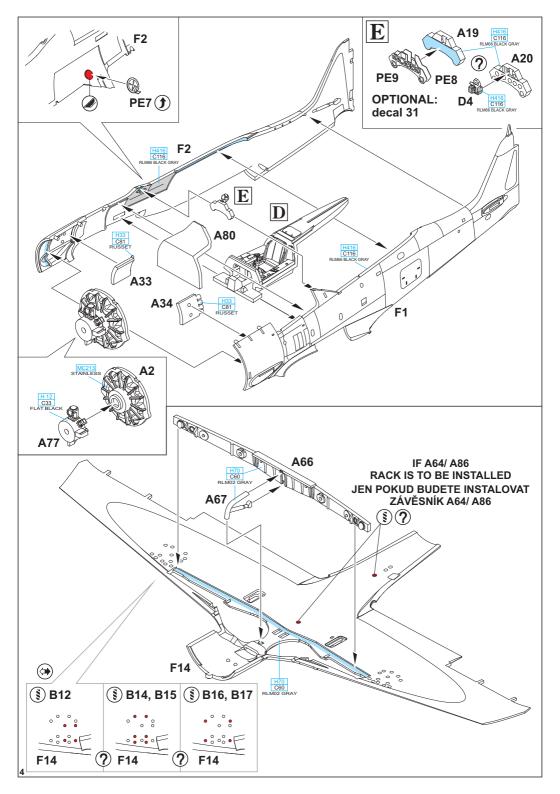


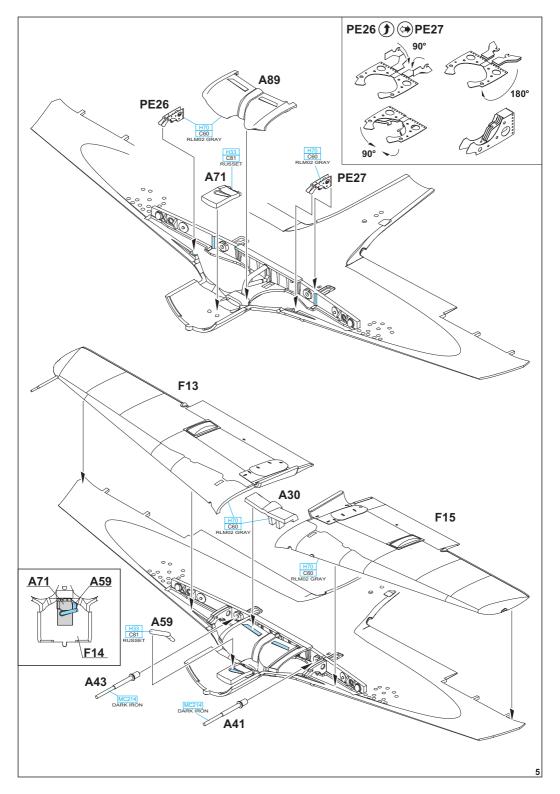
INTRO

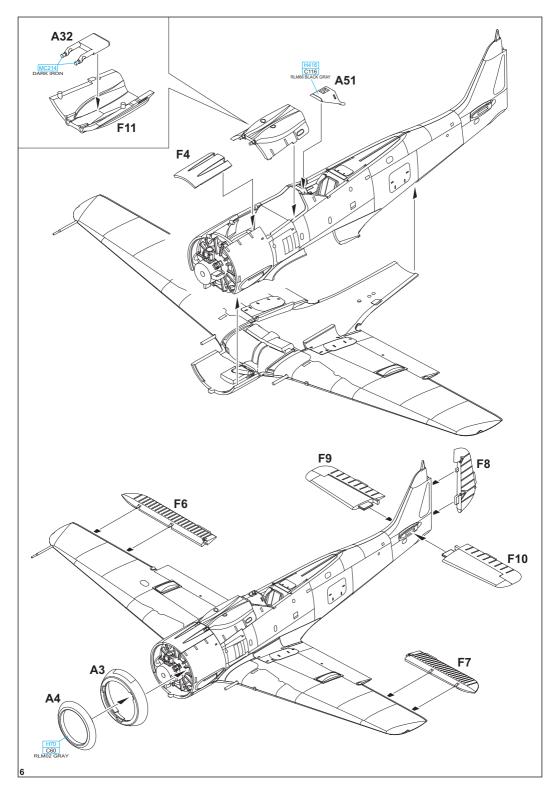
The second half of the Second World War saw the Focke-Wulf Fw 190, in its various forms, emerge as the best of what was available to the Luftwaffe. The dedicated fighter version was a high performance, heavily armed machine. Its development had a precarious beginning, against a 1938 specification issued by the Technisches Amt, RLM. The first prototype took to the air on June 1, 1939. After a series of improvements and even radical changes, the design culminated in the fall of 1940 in the pre-series version Fw 190A-0 to the tune of twenty-eight pieces. Six of these were retained by the test unit Erprobungsstaffel 190 at Rechlin, which was tasked with conducting service trials. These revealed a wide range of flaws to the point where the RLM halted further development. Despite this, on the basis of urgings from the test unit staff, the aircraft was not shelved. After a series of some fifty modifications, the RLM gave the go ahead for the Fw 190 to be taken into inventory of the Luftwaffe. In June 1941, the Luftwaffe accepted the first of 100 ordered Fw 190A-1s, armed with four 7.9 mm MG 17s. By September 1941, II./JG 26 was completely equipped with the type operating on the Western Front. November saw the production of the next version Fw190A-2, powered by a BMW801 C-2, and armed with two 7.9 mm MG 17s and two MG 151s of 20 mm caliber in the wings. Part of this series received an additional pair of 20 mm MG FFs, thus attaining an armament standard of later types. Asignificant advancement to the design came in the spring 1942, when the BMW 801D-2 became available, who's installation gave birth to the Fw 190A-3. July saw the development of the improved A-4. Both were armed with what became the standard two fuselage mounted MG 17s, two wing mounted MG 151 cannons, and two MG FF cannons, placed inboard of the wheel wells. During 1942, production had intensified, and a production facility was set up under license at Fieseler. Thanks in part to this, production rose in 1942 to 1,878 units as opposed to 224 in 1941. Large-scale production of the A-5 was initiated in April, 1943, with an identical wing to the A-4, but with a nose extension that would become standard on all subsequent Fw 190A versions up to the A-9, and also on the corresponding F types. July saw the development of a new, strengthened wing, which incorporated MG 151s instead of the MG FFs in the outer position. The adoption of this wing developed the A-6 version. Further changes developed the A-7, produced during the end of 1943. This version came about with the replacement of the fuselage mounted MG 17s with 13mm MG 131s. Further improvements led to the Fw 190A-8, and this version became the most widely produced with some 1400 units made. The most significant change to this variant was the installation of the GM-1 nitrous-oxide injection system, for temporary power boost in combat. Aportion of A-8 production was built as the A-8/R2 and A-8/R8, armed with MK 108 cannon in the outer wing location, and with armoured slabs added to the cockpit sides and a modified canopy. The final production version of the BMW 801 powered fighter was the Fw 190A-9, equipped with the BMW 801TS of 2000 hp (1470 kW). There was a parallel development of these fighter optimized aircraft with a dedicated fighter-bomber version, the Fw 190F. These aircraft had reduced wing armament to two MG 151 cannons in the wing root position. The engine was optimized for low level operation, and the armament options varied to satisfy the ground attack role, including bombs of various weight classes and a variety of anti-tank rockets. This branched into the extended range Fw 190G version. Development of the throughbred fighter continued in the guise of the Fw 190D, which began to reach Luftwaffe units in the second half of 1944, and was the result of mounting an in-line Jumo 213A-1 engine into a modified Fw 190A-8 airframe. Although the Fw 190 never achieved the widespread usage of the competing Bf 109, its contribution to the German Air Force was certainly significant through the second half of WWII. Fw 190s saw service on the Western Front as well as in the East. As heavy fighters with imposing firepower, they found themselves integral components, from 1943 onwards, within the units tasked with the protection of the Reich from the ominous clouds of allied fourengined bombers. This is where the A-8 version was instrumental, along with it's A-8/R2 armoured development. This version, with its firepower, was a very ominous and daunting foe for the bomber crews. From the second half of 1944, their danger was kept in check to a degree by escorting P-47s, and necessitated the development of the P-51 Mustang. 70119 - NAV1

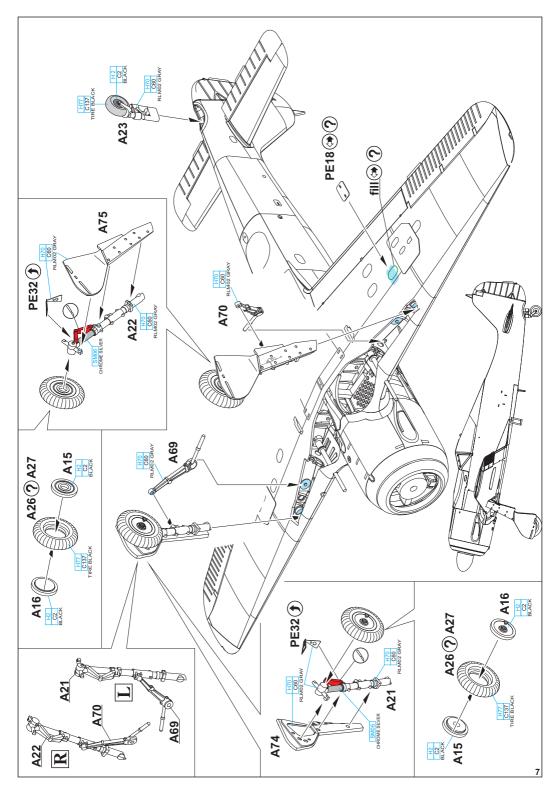


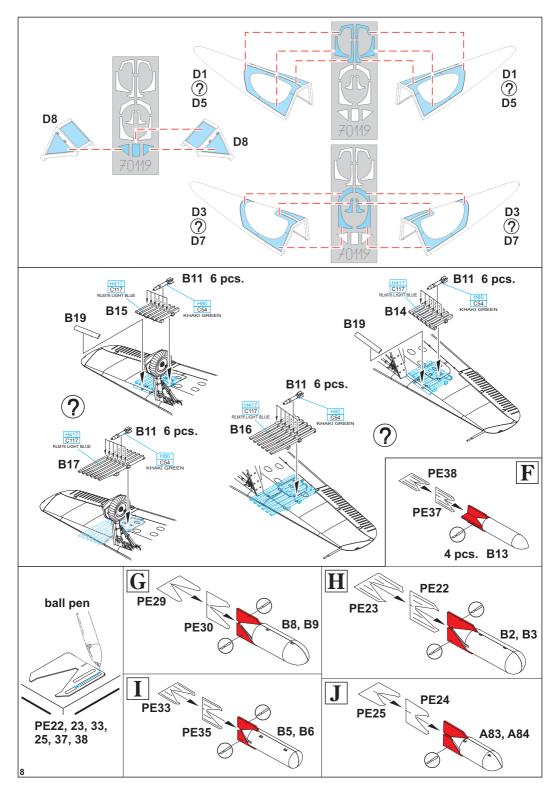


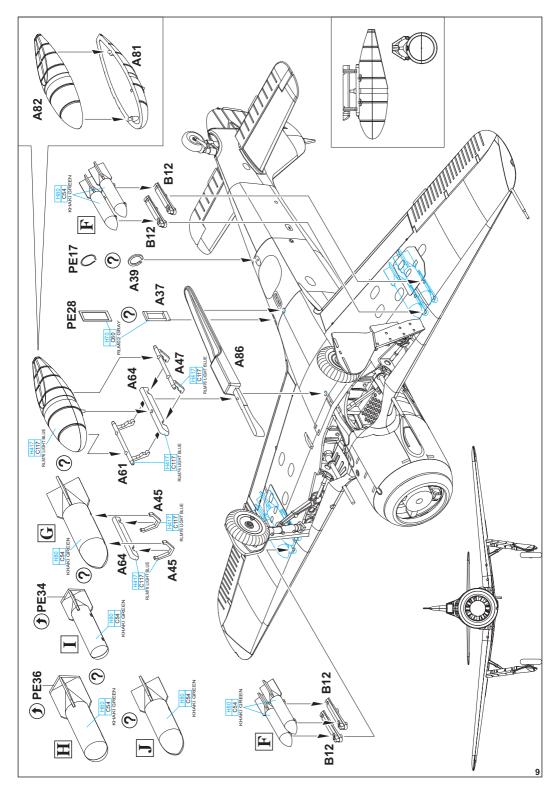


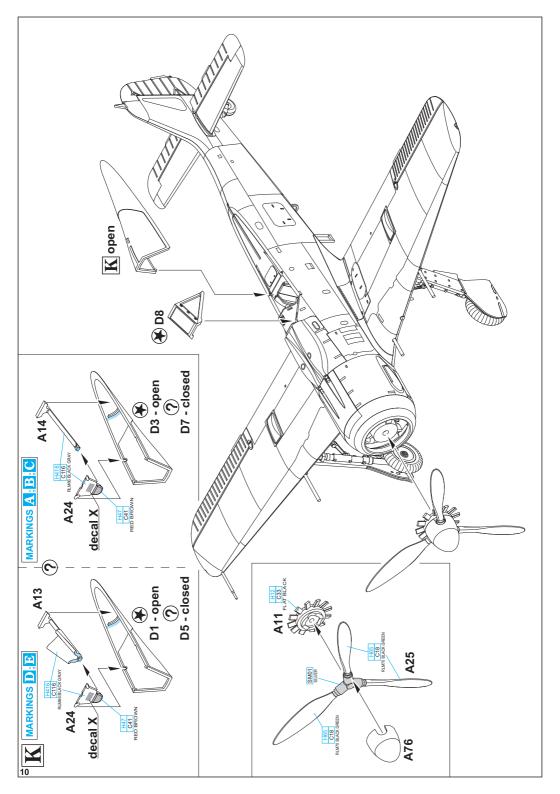












A 5./SG 77, Cottbus, Germany, early 1945

This aircraft was photographed in early 1945 on Cottbus air base. The camouflage is the regular one made of RLM 74 and 75 on upper sides and RLM 76 on udersides. According to the black horizontal bar on the fuselage this Fw 190F-8 belonged to 5th Staffel of SG 77. The exact meaning of the red ligtning of the cowling is not known.



B SG 2, Hungary, late 1944 / early 1945

The regular camouflage of RLM 74 and 75 on the uppersides was overpainted with irregular white splotches. The yellow fuselage band and wings chevron were introduced by Fliegerkorps IV in August 1944 when Romania declared war on Germany, his former ally. German armed forces wanted to distinguish their own aircraft from Romanian ones.



C 1./SG 4, Piacenza air base, Italy, 1944

During attempts to stop the Allied advance into Italy, Schlachtgeschwader 4's Fw 190F-8s received an interesting camouflage scheme consisting of an overspray of sand brown over the upper surfaces with irregular green fields. These schemes were hastily applied at unit level, and national insignia was not masked off, so overspray was common. Partial overspray was also noted over the white fuselage band that placed the aircraft in the MTO. The illustrated aircraft served with I. Gruppe. The cowl carries the unit marking consisting of Minnie Mouse riding a bomb and wielding a battleave. The spinner was likely black with a white spiral.



D W.Nr. 584592, SG 2 or SG 10, Neubiberg, Germany, May 1945

Yellow '14', belonging to II. Gruppe SG 2 or SG 10, and abandoned at Neubiberg, represents an example of the Fw 190F-8 from the final production series. Upper surfaces were camouflaged in RLM 75/76/81/83, while the undersides were painted in the common RLM 76, but not covering the entire lower wing surface. As was the practice with the Fw 190D-9 at the end of the war, RLM 76 was applies from the leading edge to mid wing, with no paint in the rear half of the wing. Landing flaps, ailerons and the bottom fuselage were also in RLM 76. The bottom side of the rudder seems to be somewhat darker, this is caused by the different exposition to the light. The cowling sported a yellow stripe, a Luftwaffe identifier for ground attack aircraft.



E SG 10, Ceske Budejovice, Czechoslovakia, May 1945

One of the abandoned aircraft left behind by Stab SG 10 and some of its Gruppe was this Fw 190F-8 marked Yellow 'K' The plane carried some camouflage modifications of SG 10 seen at the end of the war. The upper surfaces were brushed over with dark green, RLM 83 or similar, in the field. This color also extended to the undersurfaces, and also partially obscured the national insignia on the fuselage and wing tops. After the application of this scheme, Yellow 'K' received a new tail section from a written-off Fw 190 sporting the more traditional grey scheme, and there was an inconsistency between the fuselage crosses and tail swastika. By May, 1945, the brushed on paint was well worn, and the identifier, in the form of a yellow stripe, adorned the cowl. Misinterpretations regarding this stripe led to variations in width and exact placement. For this profile, the most common placement within SG 10 was used. Worth noting is the absence of the wheel covers, removed in the field to reduce the accumulation of mud, and the use of ETC 50 racks for four 50kg bombs.

