**1/72 F4-E Phantom II ESCI**

by andrea pomettini
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Here I am again, with a machine I like as no one else (no matter it is somehow huge) and with a manufacturer I am really fond of: ESCI. If you do not share same reasons, you could at least be impressed by a so engaging art box !

First attempt was not so good: few years and a lack of experience and resources caused the poor model looked very wretched. When I felt ready and looked for a new box … oh dear me: ESCI was no longer operant ! I will never thank enough job lots: among one of it, a new box was waiting for me.

You can see Verlinden contribution in cockpit (resin ejection seats plus some photo etched) and in open radome; on the other hand, Hasegawa Aircraft Weapons boxes (II and III) provided all ordnance: AIM-7E Sparrow missiles, 2 GBU-10 Laser guided bombs and 1 GBU-8 TV guided bomb; this one to pay homage to the equipment mounted on the leading edge of the port wing: a telescopic camera known as TISEO - Target Identification System Electro-Optical. 600 gallons centerline tank comes from the box.

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You could now wonder on my contribution; I positioned down wing ailerons, slightly opened air breaks, used small aluminum foil to create real holes for the air intakes behind shark mouth and larger one to build red air intake covers. Finally, I used some thin plasticard stripes to rise up the identification lights and some spare plastic rods to assemble the yellow cockpit.

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Painting followed a typical schema: Green 34079, Green 34102 and Tan 30219 for side and up surfaces, while bottom is Grey 36622; all Humbrol enamels. Some (few) chipping got applying metal mixed to silver via small brush and some dirty on wheel and landing gear by diluted oil paint complete a light weathering. Decals … from the box, of course ! To represent a machine belonging to 3rd TFW / 3rd TFS operating from Filippine’s Clark Base.

Have good time while modeling.

***andrea pomettini***

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