

A6M2 Zero



The Mitsubishi A6M Zero was a carrier-based fighter used by the Imperial Japanese Navy. One could argue that it was the most capable carrier-based fighter in the world when it was introduced early in World War II. It had excellent maneuverability and long range capability, something very important for use in the South Pacific. The Zero, as the plane would most commonly be referred to as, was introduced to the IJN in July of 1940. It would also equip the Imperial Japanese Army Air Force making it the most widely used Japanese fighter of World War II. Just under 11,000 units excluding the seaplane variants, were produced from January of 1940 to the end of the war in August of 1945. On December 7, 1941, the IJN would make a surprise attack on the US Navy's Pacific fleet located at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. This would bring the United States into World War II. During the first part of the Pacific campaign, the Zero was untouchable. It wasn't until mid-1942 that the tide would turn on the A6M Zero. The introduction of new tactics and aircraft like the F4U Corsair and the F6F Hellcat would allow the US to fight on equal terms with the Zero. Throughout the Pacific campaign, the Zero would go through many variants, ending with the A6M5. Upgrades to armor and armament as well as engine horsepower kept the Zero competitive. In the hands of a skilled pilot, the Zero was a formidable opponent, but ultimately by the end of the war, there were very few skilled pilots to make a difference. Not many Zeros survived the war, many are located in museums and a handful are airworthy.

The markings included in this kit are from Japanese Naval Ace Saburo Sakai who survived the war. He is officially credited with 28 aerial victories. In his autobiography titled "Samurai" he claims 64 unofficially.

Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero Specifications

Length	29' 9"
Wingspan	39' 4"
Power	Nakajima NK1C Sakae 12 14cyl radial engine, 950hp
Performance	Max speed 331mph
Armament	2 7.7mm in cowling, 2 20mm cannons in wings

Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero

Featuring the marking of
Japanese Ace Saburō Sakai



Wooden Semi Scale Model Kit

Easy build sandwich construction

No special tools required

PAINT NOT INCLUDED

FOR AGES 8 AND UP
SKILL LEVEL 2
Contains One Model Kit


OSBORN MODEL KITS
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KIT-6037

Building tips:

All parts will be a tight fit. If you find a part is too tight give it a bit of a sanding with 220 grit sandpaper. **DO NOT FORCE PARTS.** A hobby knife is suggested to cut the pieces from the part tree but most parts will break free easily. We recommend removing the burnt edge left by the laser with 220 grit sandpaper. This makes it easier for painting also it makes for a better appearance, especially if you are going to leave the model in it's natural wood state. Although the model is designed to be assembled without glue, we do suggest gluing your model together. Note indicated parts that are not to be glued. Any black substance that gets on your hands is non toxic and can be removed with soap and water

 Indicates do not glue part or assembly

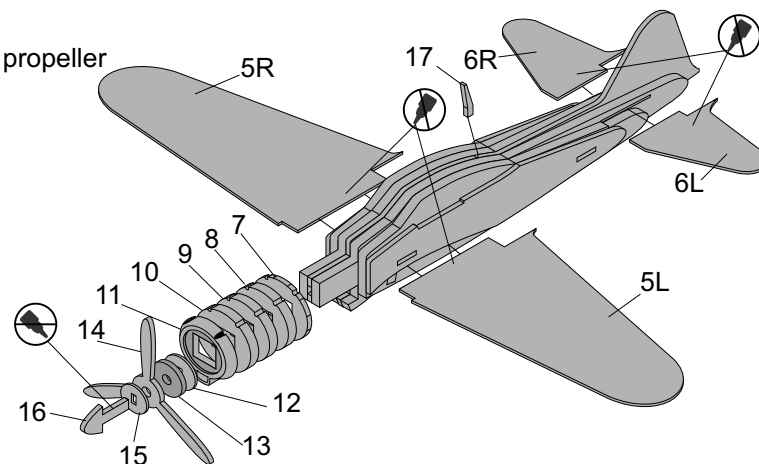
 Indicates part is a friction fit in order to hold in place

Recommended Tools:

Hobby Knife, Scissors, White Glue, 220 grit sandpaper

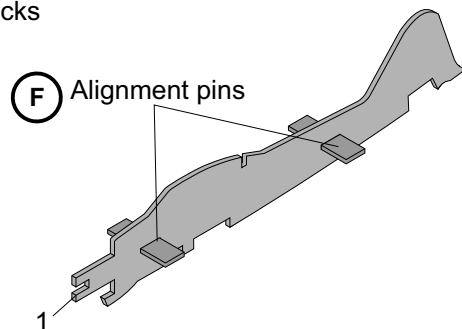
Step 3

Wings, cowling, propeller



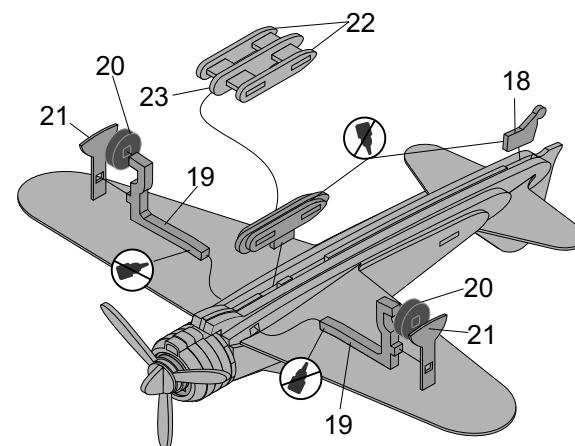
Step 1

Fuselage inner section and alignment blocks



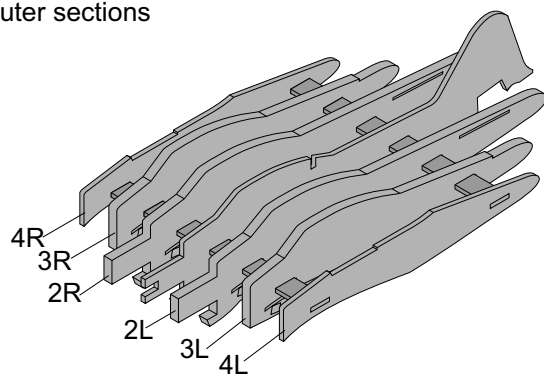
Step 4

Final assembly



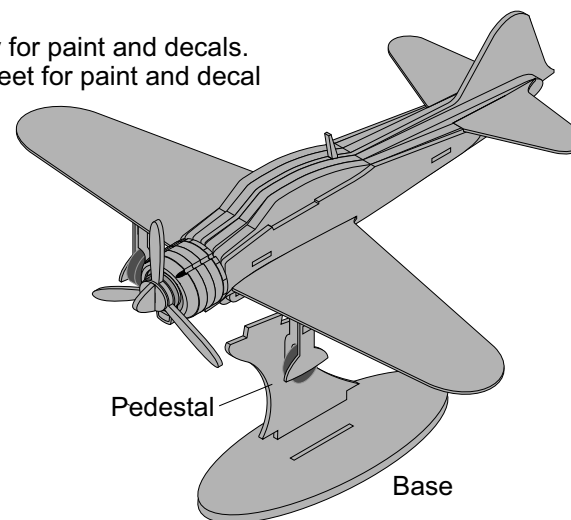
Step 2

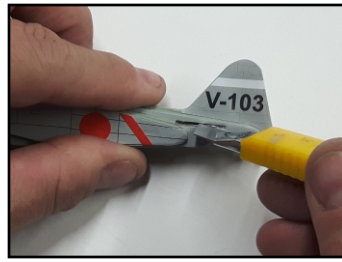
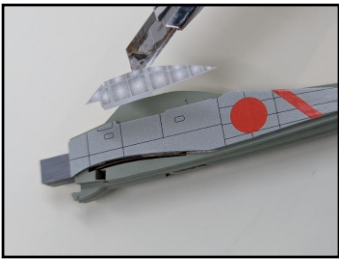
Fuselage outer sections



Step 5

Completed model ready for paint and decals. Please see separate sheet for paint and decal instructions.



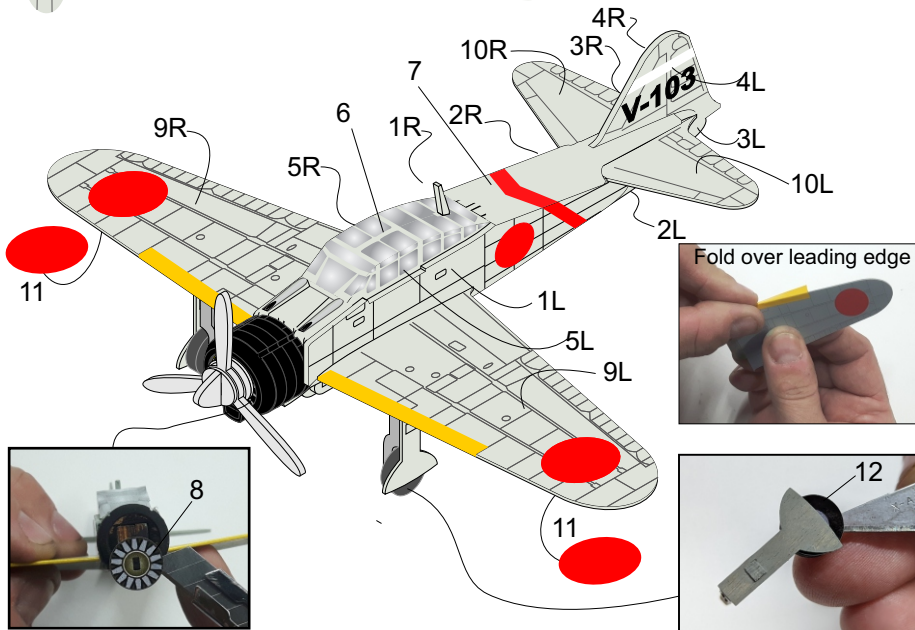
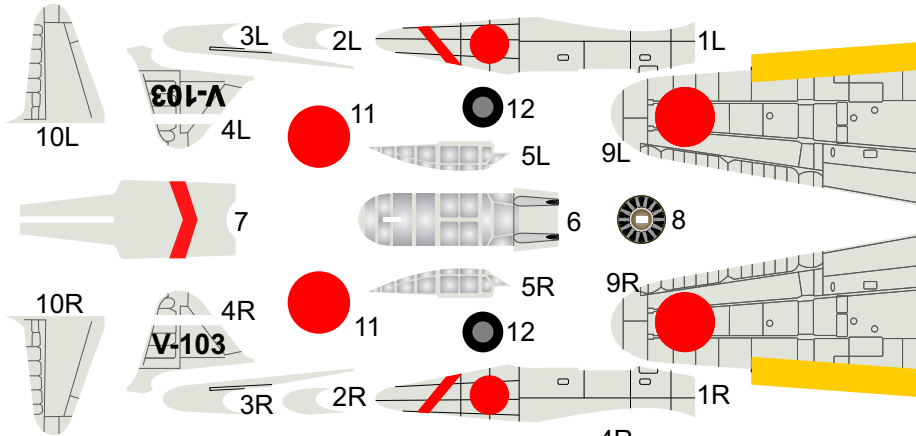


For small decals you may use a small utility knife to remove them from the backing and place in position.

Remove any vinyl that may be covering slots with a utility knife

Decals should be placed into position in numerical order. You will need to remove the wings, propeller and landing gear to apply some of the decals.

Take your time.



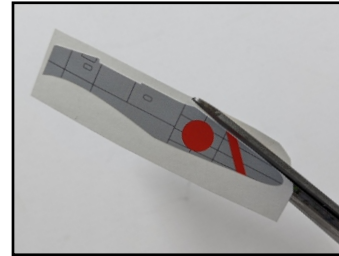
Applying decals

Tools needed to apply decals

Scissors

Utility knife

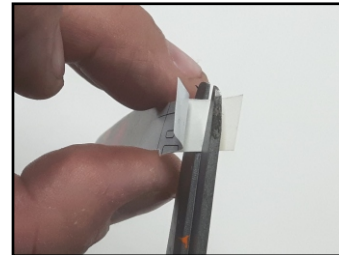
Make sure your hands are clean before applying decals. Avoid contact with the adhesive as this can cause the decal to loose some of its adhesion. Decals will adhere better to a smooth clean surface so we do recommend painting your model for best results.



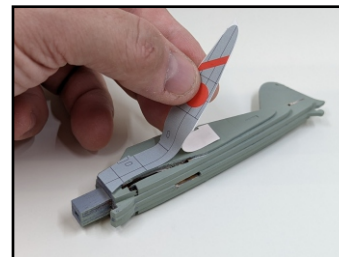
Cut out each decals as close to the edge as possible. Only cut out decals as needed.

Note:

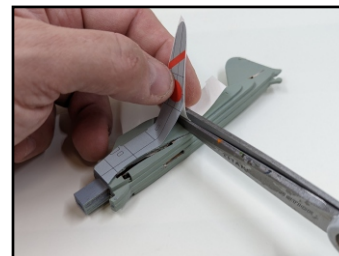
Paint entire aircraft JN Grey before applying decals.



For the large decals, remove about a 1/4" of the backing and cut off with scissors.



Place the exposed section on the surface making sure that your decal is properly aligned on the part.



Slowly remove the backing making sure the decal is staying aligned on the surface.

Colour scheme Saburo Sakai A6M-2 Zero

Suggested colours by Tamiya Model Paints

- 1 JN Grey XF12**
All upper and lower surfaces
Drop tank
Land gear doors
Antenna
- 2 Black XF1**
Wheels
Tail wheel
Cowling
- 3 Aluminum XF16**
Propeller blades and hub
landing gear struts

Note:
Model should be painted
before adding decals.

