

SO314429

1/144 F4D Skyray Project NOTSnik

Shelf
Oddity



Why "NOTSnik"? Well of course because of the Sputnik.

In 1956 US Navy Naval Ordnance Test Station was developing various unmanned vehicles. One of ideas on the table was air launched vehicle propelled by motors from SUBROC antisubmarine missile. Following Sputnik launch this idea was successfully sold to high authorities as simple and low-cost way of achieving satellite orbits. Originally known as "Project Pilot" it quickly gained nickname NOTSnik. Douglas F4D-1 Skyray was assigned as a carrier, effectively acting as missile "first stage". Under a lot of political pressure, in summer of 1958 six launches were attempted. All of them failed due to technical difficulties. The program was classified until 1994. More detailed story can be enjoyed online on [globalsecurity website](http://globalsecurity.org).

Portrayed here is a very early version of this Naval Ordnance Test Station attempt at Space Race.



F4D-1 BuNo 130747

First and foremost - the Gloss Sea Blue (15042). A limited number of early Skyrajs were painted in this scheme before new Light Gull Gray over Insignia White dominated the US Navy airplanes for over 20 years. Blue surround to national insignia is absent. Black walkways on top surfaces of the wings. In areas where you would usually expect to see Corrogard protection – the leading edges of wings – you may possibly imagine some dark grey stripes instead. The tail cone comes in natural metal. The trimmers are light gull gray at the top and white at the bottom. So are the white pylons. Both trimmers and pylons were apparently sourced from regular F4D. The nose cone can be interpreted a very light cream – once more something to look for at pictures of regular F4Ds.

Only few photos of N.O.T.S.-NAVY stenciled rocket exist. In the incarnation portrayed here it was painted in olive drab whereabouts with odd fins painted red to aid visual determination of aspect in flight. Dimensions provided here to aid scratchbuilding are only guesstimate based on photographs. Perhaps the PE fret containing the fins and included in this set will be of some help or motivation. All you need to do now is to convert some fuel tank from spare box isn't it?

If you wish to print this instructions be sure to select "Actual Size" in print options - this will result in true 1/144 scale drawings.

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|  Gloss Sea Blue FS15042 |  black |
|  Gloss Light Gull Grey FS16440 |  steel |
|  Gloss Insignia White FS17925 |  light cream |

