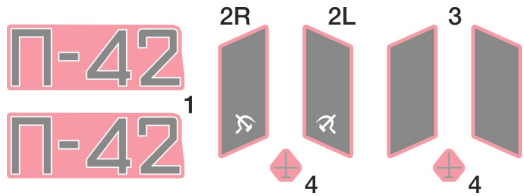


SO314456

1/144 P-42 Streak Flanker

Shelf
Oddity



Remember the Streak Eagle? The lightened, stripped out F-15A which in 1975 beat time to climb records that were set more than a decade earlier by an F-4 (which in turn beat F-104 records from late 1950s). Yes, the one which gives headache to modellers who attempt to replicate its unusual unpainted multi-material patchwork appearance. Mind you - if you want to give it a go - [SO314404 set](#) may come handy.

Now imagine you are at the Sukhoi engineering bureau in early 1980, knowing that you have on hand an airframe-engine combination capable of easily beating those pesky imperialists in virtually any competition. Must have been itching to pull out and unleash the shiny new Su-27. Article T-10-15 (serial 05-01) was taken out of development routine, all equipment not directly involved in basic role defined as "very fast flight" was removed - including the paint. The uprated engines (this does not mean heavy modifications but rather allowing the engines to work at higher wear regime) resulted in thrust to weight ratio reach almost 2. Thus P-42 was able to exceed speed of sound while in vertical climb (and also posed some problems with brakes unable to hold aircraft stopped on the ground going into reheat). Series of flights in 1986/87 made all the time to climb records change holder. The name P-42 was to commemorate the great battle of Stalingrad in November 1942 in which the aviation played a crucial role.

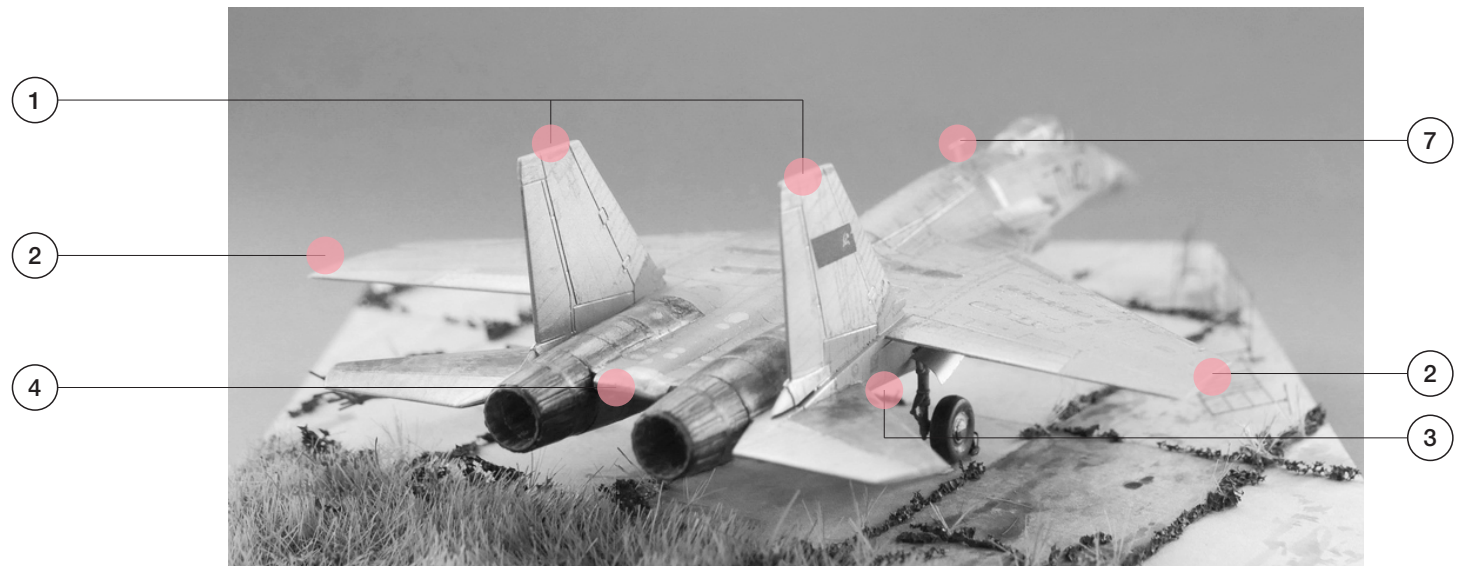
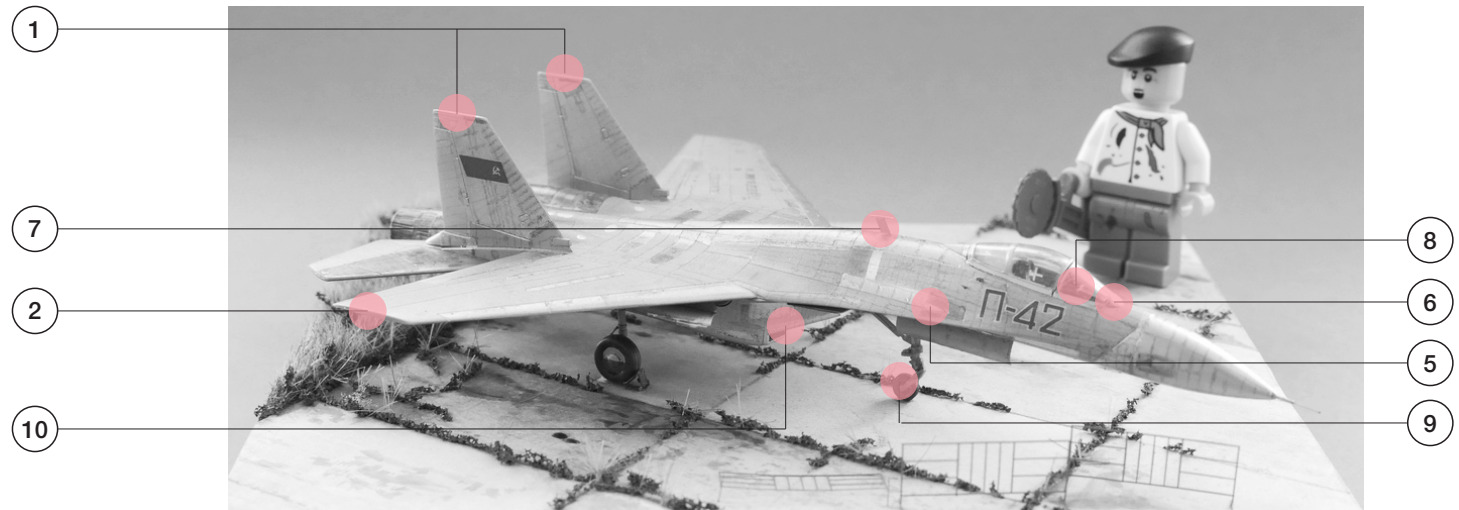


In order to turn an ordinary Trumpeter Su-27 kit into P-42 you must be prepared to do some chopping and filling. This is not beyond human capabilities however. Here is brief breakdown of modifications required:

1. Tips of vertical stabilizers be-gone.
2. Wingtip anti-flatter/missile rails to be removed.
3. Ventral fins to be removed.
4. Tail sting to be shortened and capped.
5. Gun louvres to be faired over, gun muzzle to be sadly removed.
6. IR sensor in front of the windshield goes to scrap bin.
7. Telemetry blade antenna with horizontal rod to be added in place of regular antenna.
8. HUD assembly not installed.
9. Front wheel mud guard removed.
10. Intake protective grilles not installed.

The real fun is painting.

Whilst sides of the P-42 are generally well photographed and provide solid information on layout of patches, sanding and putty marks, the same cannot be said about top and bottom surfaces. These can only be guesstimated e.g. basing on photos of regular Su-27 in bare material. In terms of colors - we found Tamiya XF-4 Yellow Green laid semi-transparently on top of metallic base of your choice a convincing starting point .



Model in photos by Leszek Golubiński