

What are the options for building a single seater F-15 in 1/144 scale? First, there are the hilariously expensive Tomytec kits. Well, why not. Dragon is another option, good luck finding one and then having enough putty. Academy looks nice - if one have never seen any single seat version of F-15. Next - MiniHobbyModels (ex. WSN, ex. Trumpeter)? Well - yes, but no. Old Revell kit (Arii/LS/ /Hobbycraft re-box)? Rather disappointing. Almost as dissapointing as Revell being quiet about any new kits in 144th scale.

Still, their F-15E is such a nice kit.

This set includes parts for conversion Revell F-15E Strike Eagle model into single-seat variant of the Eagle. While the conversion proces is not very complex, it is not a simple 'drop in-and-paint' process - some careful fitting is required to get the shape right and blend in the new canopy.

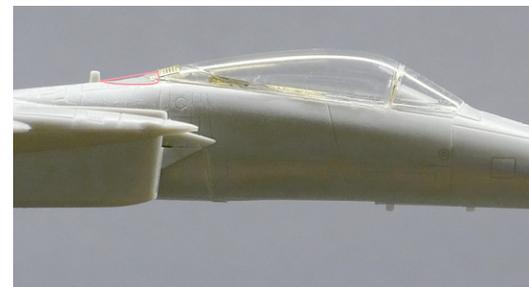
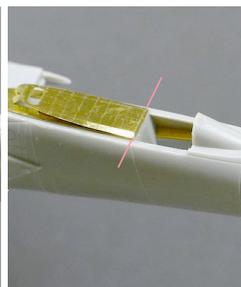
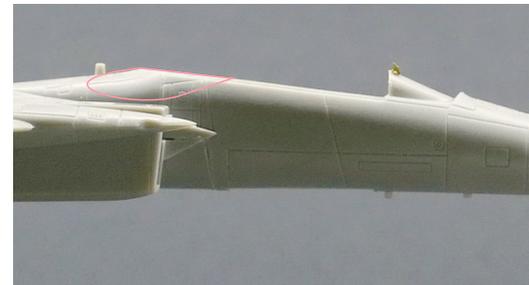
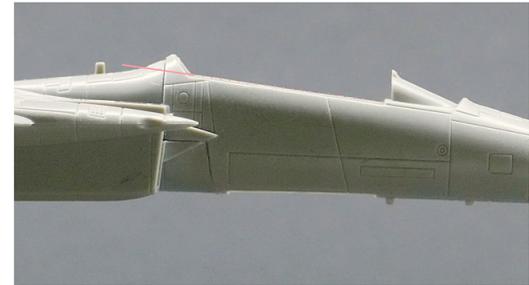
First page of this instruction sets out four basic steps of the conversion. More intricacies of subcomponents are described on page 2.

1. Remove the hump behind the cockpit, following the plane of lower edge of canopy. Simple.

2. Sand the flared section around the back of the cockpit. This is the bit difficult to quantify. Sand, test-fit with clear part, repeat until the whole thing looks like an F-15A.
Or C.

3. Do the photoetch bending magic to form the back shelf - as described on next page. When ready - align the shelf with back of cockpit tub. Check if going back to step 2 is not required.

4. Attach the clear part.
Depending on the fit achieved, some fill may be required behind the vent grille. You have painted the interior beforehand, did you?



The back shelf (1): start with bending sides slightly to match the front profile, diminish the fold smoothly toward the back. Fold out triangular supports, fold out back support upwards twice. The top part of the shelf should rest on all three supports, curving gently up.

When cutting and trimming the vacu-formed clear part note there are two key locating points: the nib at the joint of windshield with the canopy and the front edge of the windshield. Spend some quality time test fitting to make sure the fit is correct. Flexibility of the material makes this process a little tricky.

Add frame with rear view mirrors (3) to inside of the clear part. The compass housing dimple goes to port side. Use PVA glue or clear gloss lacquer instead of CA glue to avoid fogging and allow some time for positioning.

Vent grille (2) should in theory be set flush with the skin. This may be a bit difficult, and also not really necessary. The vent placed on top of the part forms a nice ridge that might be helpful when forming the smooth fillet between the canopy and the spine behind the cockpit.

Frame (4) is optional for the back bracing. It can also be painted directly on the canopy or simulated by decal strip.

Notes:

- The decals for F-15A/C you ask? Well, 2022ish, many variables having impact on this.
- Big thanks to **netsailor**, without him this set would have not happened.

