

MODELDECAL

set no.
36
1:72 scale

ROYAL AIR FORCE: POST WAR SERIALS 8 & 12 in. BLACK LETTERS & NUMERALS

This set of decals is one of four (nos. 33 – 36) designed to give comprehensive coverage of RAF post-war styles of black letters and numerals for fuselage and underwing serial numbers from 8 in. to 36 inches high. The majority of letters and numerals conform to the standard designs officially specified, though we have included alternative styles commonly used where feasible. Although most aircraft have their serial numbers applied in regulation style characters, one can always find exceptions, especially with the 8 in. high fuselage serials when applied at squadron level. For this reason, general purpose sheets such as this one cannot cater for every variation you might encounter and wish to model. Also note that the letters C, I, O, Q, U and Y have been omitted from Sets 33 and 34, since they were not used for underwing serial numbers at any period with perhaps the odd exception here and there. Nor were these letters generally used for fuselage serial numbers, but we have included a selection of them on Set 36 to cater for the few second world war types that did, (examples being Wellingtons in the NC serial range), and for use as small code letters. The range of lettering and numeral styles on Set 36 make it ideal for modelling WW2 aircraft serials as well as post-war ones. Although specifically intended for RAF post war aircraft, you will no doubt find the letters and numerals useful for aircraft of the Royal Navy, Army Air Corps, etc., though the 4 inch high letters and numerals for naval aircraft fuselage serials are outside the scope of these sets.

The following notes list in more detail the contents of the four sets, with some examples of the aircraft types to which the various sizes apply; note that the types mentioned by no means form a complete list of possibilities, although all those mentioned, including some RN types, are available in kit form.

SET 33: Underwing serial prefix letters in the following heights:

16 inch: Gloster Meteor, N. A. Sabre. 18 inch: BAC/SEPECAT Jaguar. 20 inch: H. S. Hunter and Harrier. 24 inch: BAC Jet Provost and Lightning; D. H. Vampire, Venom, Hornet, Chipmunk; Hawker Sea Hawk and Westland Wyvern.

SET 34: Underwing serial prefix letters in the following heights:

30 inch: some D. H. Mosquitos, Fairey Gannet. 36 inch: Gloster Javelin, H. S. Buccaneer, H. S. Sea Vixen, McDonnell Phantom. 48 inch: BAC Canberra. (This is a limited selection intended for the Canberra only, as lack of space precludes a complete range of letters;

the letters chosen will enable you to make up a set of serials in the WD, WH, WJ, WK or XM ranges. The other common Canberra prefixes letters, WT, are in the Airfix kit for WT307).

SET 35: The main numerals sheet for underwing serials, to be used in conjunction with Sets 33 and 34, in the following heights: 16, 18, 20, 24, 30, 36 and 48 inches. As with Set 34, the 48 inch high numerals are intended specifically for the BAC Canberra, and one pair of each numeral is included with the exception of 0 and 7, which are included with the Airfix kit of WT307.

SET 36: This set includes 8 and 12 inch high letters and numerals, with the 8 inch size being predominant since it is the standard size for fuselage serial numbers. As previously mentioned, this sheet has equal application for WW2 aircraft, since the variety of styles included covers the more angular ones often used in that period. The 12 inch high letters and numerals are rarely used for fuselage or underwing serials, but they are commonly used for codes, and will be useful for that purpose. Also included with this set are a selection of 'ROYAL AIR FORCE' and 'ROYAL NAVY' titles in various sizes.

Where possible, and mainly on Set 36, we have included a greater proportion of the letters V, W and X, and especially the last two. The reason for this is that the serials of most post war aircraft (that is, aircraft of post war design as opposed to the many wartime ones which continued service long after the war finished) begin with the letters mentioned, and will be in greatest demand.

A most useful reference for modellers wishing to know more about British military serials is Bruce Robertson's excellent book 'British Military Aircraft Serials 1912-1963' (or later editions thereof), published by Ian Allan.

Application of decals. Each of the four sets has an overall varnish finish, and each item should be carefully cut out and the varnish trimmed to your own requirements. You may also find it useful to paint a gloss varnish finish on the surface receiving the decals, and after they have been applied and set apply another sealing coat of varnish to the required finish. The decals should be dipped in luke-warm water only for as long as it takes to release them from their backing, as prolonged soaking will impair adhesion to the model.