

THE BLUE TAIL FLY

Most Panthers F9F delivered to the U.S Navy by Grumman were painted in glossy sea blue, but the paint adds many pounds of weight to the airplane, so the Navy undertook a project to reduce this weight using a thin clear coating applied directly to the metal skin. This experimental finish was applied to a few Panthers which were operated during the Korean War.



One of these planes was assigned to VF-153 operating from the carrier USS.Princeton. During one mission,the silver Panther developed a severe case of “flak”rash its tail section. Meanwhile, a blue Phanter from the same squadron received a similar dose of north korean metal chunks which severely punctured the forward section of the aircraft. Both planes landed successfully, and the undamaged portions of each plane were mater together, creating the “Blue Tail Fly”. The plane completed twelve combat missions before returning to USA for a complete rebuilt.



THE HASEGAWA PANTHER 1/72

The kit is molded in light gray with 35 pieces, with decals for two versions. Assembly of the all components is quite simple. The first external area painted was the tip of the tail fin with Tamiya's Sky Blue X-14. The next step, a coat of Multicores 108 Aluminium and tinted the nose area a mix of the same aluminium with a drop of Tamiya's Black X-1. Mr. Color Blue FS 15044 was used on the rear and tail section, the decals were all found in the part box and applied with the help of Mr. Mark Softer-Gunze.



