

Kit Review

by Joe Paulchell

Model Subject:

Nakajima Ki-84-IA Hayate
"Frank"

Manufacturer: Tamiya

Scale: 1/48

Model Type: Styrene

Recommended? Yes. If <\$5



	Low=1
Molding	3
Detail	2
Fit	3
Accuracy	3
Ease of Assembly	4
Instructions	3
Decals	4
Clear Parts	4
Multi-media Parts	1
Value	3

Description:

This is a vintage Tamiya kit from 1987. It is simple with just 40 parts and two figures. The cockpit is spartan with molded on details and a decal instrument panel that is pretty good. Many of the parts are simple and lack the detail we expect from modern 1:48 scale offerings. There is some nice detail on the wings, including recessed panel lines, screw heads, panels and hinges. The kit builds up nicely. Fit is good overall and needs a minimum of filler. The canopy mated to the fuselage well and with it open you can see the instruments. The decals are very thin and settle down well. Markings and paint schemes for four planes are included, along with a full color illustration of two of them.

Additional Comments:

Japanese fighters used a zapon enamel primer called "aotake" that many sources indicate preserved metal better than the zinc chromate used in the USA. Aotake was a clear coating tinted for uniform application. It is a translucent blue-green color, though it is unclear what the exact color was. I researched this color on the web and found few recipes or pre-mixed paints so I set out to mix my own. I used Vallejo transparent green and transparent blue and mixed them 40:60, then dabbled until I got a color I liked. I sprayed it over Vallejo natural steel and got a pleasing translucent blue-green over metal look. I used Tamiya XF-13 for the top and Vallejo sky blue underneath. I chipped with steel and used dark rust on pipes and black pastel for smoke.

An excellent resource:

<http://www.aviationofjapan.com/2010/02/aotake-part-one.html>

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