

Kit Review

by Chazz Klanian

Model Subject: P-38J
Manufacturer: Academy
Scale: 1/72
Model Type: Styrene
Recommended? Yes

Difficulties:

I graded the "detail" portion of this kit as a "3". I did so only because of the cockpit. It was not necessarily bad, but it could have had more detail. That is why I incorporated the CMK cockpit interior and it

really enhanced the kit. The only real work that you had to focus on was when melding these two manufacturers in the

area of the instrument panel combing (CMK) to the fuselage and windscreen of the Academy kit. It did take some attention and puttying to get it just right. The other shortcoming on the kit was the decals and that was the colors were just too thin and translucent. Hence I used some after market decals.

Additional Comments:

Now that the above has been mentioned let me just say this. This was one of the most ENJOYABLE kits I have ever made. I would recommend this kit to one and all without reservation and here are the 3 most important reasons. First, the affordability. Second, the finely detailed etching, as in the panel lines, etc. Third, and most importantly is the engineering. When has there ever been a kit that has two tail booms, attached to the wing and joined at the tail by its elevator, that when you SNAP them all into place and BANG they are SPOT ON in alignment? Perfect! It was incredible, just fantastic. There is nothing more I can say about it. But just let me make this one observation. If you have never, ever done an aircraft with invasion stripes, for goodness gracious sakes, do not let a P-38 be your first shot at it. Pick an easier subject, which is anything else.



| | Low=1 | High=5 |
|-------------------|-------|--------|
| Molding | | 5 |
| Detail | | 3 |
| Fit | | 5 |
| Accuracy | | 5 |
| Ease of Assembly | | 5 |
| Instructions | | 4 |
| Decals | | 3 |
| Clear Parts | | 5 |
| Multi-media Parts | | n/a |
| Value | | 5 |

