A6M2-N Rufe

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1/48 Scale Plastic Model Kit



item # 84208

WEEKEND edition

The light and maneuverable Zero fighter became the symbol of the Japanese WW II air power. During the war, other versions of the Zero came along, one of the most iconic being its floatplane version, known by the Allied codename Rufe.

In 1940 the IJN decided to convert the Mitsubishi A6M2, which was currently undergoing combat test deployment in China, to a fighter seaplane. Mitsubishi was fully occupied with the production of Zeros and other types of aircraft. Therefore, the IJN turned to Nakajima, which began licensed production of A6M2 fighters at its Koizumi plant in late 1941. The company had some free design and production capacity and was therefore awarded with works on the seaplane.

Shinobu Mitsutake was appointed chief designer. His team tried to make the most of the A6M2 design. Some authors state that standard fighter seaplane was based on the A6M2 Type 11, which did not have folding wingtips. In fact, at least the first few dozen production machines had folding wingtips. On captured Rufes, this design feature is still documented on the 37th aircraft produced.

The designers added a metal central float to the fuselage. The pylon was mounted to the main wing spar and attached to the rear wing spar by a "V" shaped strut. The pylon with incorporated oil cooling system was located roughly where the Zero had the auxiliary tank attached. The absence of the auxiliary tank was replaced by tanks in the float. Hatches were added to the wing skin to allow access to the internal wing structure and pylons.

This elegant solution of central float with wing-mounted outboard ones was already used on the F1M Pete biplane and contributed to the high aerodynamic cleanness of Mitsutake's design. The central float and its dynamic effects on the fuselage structure during take-off, high-G maneuvers and landing necessitated the reinforcement of the fuselage structure in the cockpit area by additional metal sheets.

On the first few dozen aircraft a system for purging the fuel tanks was installed on top of the central float. The fittings of this system, which protruded from the float at the top, were protected by a hemispherical cover. The float was also fitted with a rudder. The last significant change from the Zero was an increase in the vertical tail area for the improved longitudinal stability of the aircraft.

Surprisingly maneuverable

Testing of the prototype began on the day of the Japanese attack on Hawaii and continued intensely during early 1942. The prototype was converted from the land-based version of the Zero fighter, the A6M2 Type 11 c/n (6)69. The next nine A6M2-N aircraft were to be produced at Nakajima by conversion from Mitsubishi A6M2 Type 21 carrier fighters including the aircraft c/n (5)159 and (3)312 which took part in the attack on Hawaii aboard the aircraft carrier Shōkaku. However, the converted seaplanes suffered from corrosion. Therefore, the conversions of A6M2-N Nos. 8 and 9 were not carried out and No. 10 was already completely manufactured as a new aircraft.

The floatplane fighter did not exceed comparable seaplanes in performance. On one hand, the weight increased due to the floats and design changes, on the other hand the landing gear and tailhook were missing. All in all, the empty weight increased by approximately 14 % over the A6M2 Type 21 and its speed was reduced to 234 kts (434 km/h) at 5,000 m altitude from the original 275 kts (509 km/h) at 4,400 m of the Type 21. The seaplane had a range of 962 nautical miles (1780 km) and a maximum endurance of six hours. The Rufe had excellent maneuverability as well as stability at medium and high altitudes and retained reasonably good flight characteristics even at low altitudes.

Armament was the same as of A6M2, meaning two 20 mm cannons in the wing and two 7.7 mm machine guns in the fuselage. The aircraft could carry two 30 kg or 60 kg bombs carried under the wing. However, unlike the Zero Type 21, seaplane was not equipped with a circular directional antenna at the rear of the cockpit and did not have a headrest behind the pilot's seat.

The new seaplane fighter was first designated Rei-Shiki Ichi Gata Suijō Sentōki (Type 0 Mk.1 Seaplane Fighter). In July, the aircraft was accepted by the IJN and entered service under the designation Ni-Shiki Suijō Sentōki, or Type 2 Seaplane Fighter. It bore the abbreviated designation A6M2-N. Nakajima considered preparing another fighter seaplane, which was to reach a speed of 250 knots, but eventually abandoned the idea.

Series production began in April 1942 and ended in July 1943, as production of the Kawanishi N1K Kyōfū (Rex) fighter seaplane began a month earlier. Nakajima produced a total of 258 A6M2-N seaplanes with the highest number of aircraft (24) in a single month leaving the gates of the Koizumi plant in April 1943. As soon as the Allies observed this type in aerial encounters, they assigned it the code name Rufe.

Colors and markings

Rufes had a grey paint coating on all surfaces, which was sprayed over a reddish-brown base paint. To prevent corrosion, the interior surfaces of the flap area were painted in aluminum color instead of the Aotake paint that was common on A6M Zero fighters. In February 1943, naval fighter units were instructed to spray the aircraft with dark green on the upper surfaces. Ground personnel usually made use of paint that was available for maintenance on aircraft of other categories that already had green paint. In the case of the seaplane units, these were the Aichi, Mitsubishi and Kawanishi aircraft. The shades of camouflage paint varied slightly depending on the paint supplier. The use of war booty paints, for example in Rabaul, or the use of paint designed for warships cannot be ruled out. In the final months of production, the new A6M2-N aircraft received a coat of D1 dark green paint on the upper surfaces, a shade specific to the Nakajima paint supplier.

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ATTENTION ✶ UPOZORNĚNÍ ✶ ACHTUNG ✶ ATTENTION ✶ 注意

Carefully read instruction sheet before assembling. When you use glue or paint, do not use near open flame and use in well ventilated room. Keep out of reach of small children. Children must not be allowed to suck any part, or pull vinyl bag over the head.

Před započetím stavby si pečlivě prostudujte stavební návod. Při používání barev a lepidel pracujte v dobre větrané místnosti. Lepidla ani barvy nepoužívejte v blízkosti otevřeného ohně. Model není určen malým dětem, mohlo by dojít k požití drobných dílů.

INSTRUCTION SIGNS ✶ INSTR. SYMBOLY ✶ INSTRUKTION SINNBILDEN ✶ SYMBOLES ✶ 記号の説明

OPTIONAL VOLBA

BEND OHNOUT

SAND BROUSIT

OPEN HOLE VYVRTAT OTVOR

SYMETRICAL ASSEMBLY SYMETRICKÁ MONTÁŽ

REMOVE ODŘÍZNOUT

REVERSE SIDE OTOČIT

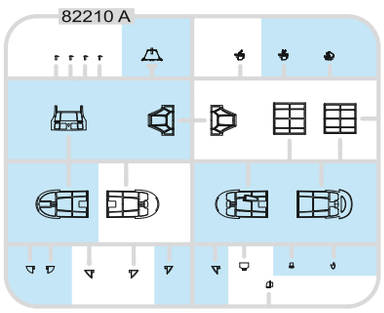
APPLY EDUARD MASK AND PAINT POUŽÍT EDUARD MASK NABARVIT

PLEASE, CHECK THE LATEST VERSION OF THE INSTRUCTIONS ON www.eduard.com

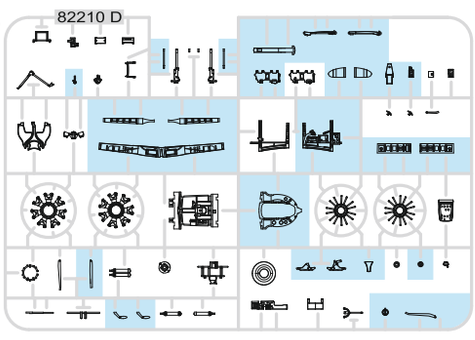
PARTS ✶ DÍLY ✶ TEILE ✶ PIÈCES ✶ 部品

PLASTIC PARTS

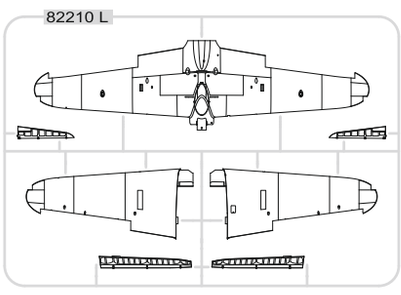
A>



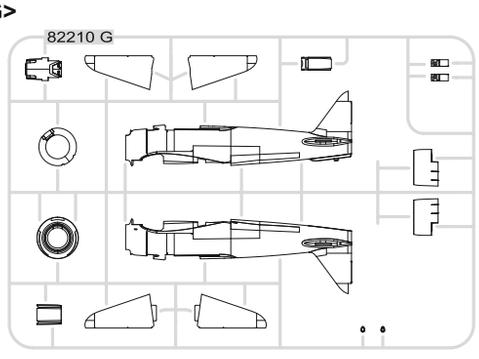
D>



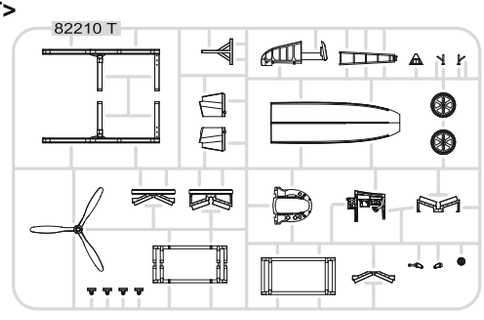
L>



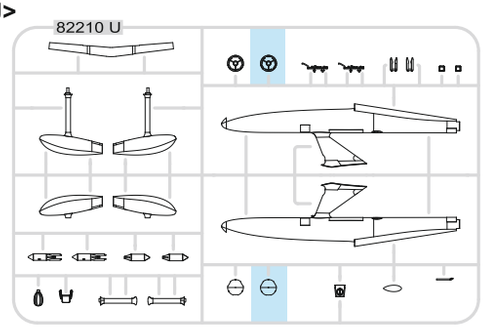
G>



T>



U>

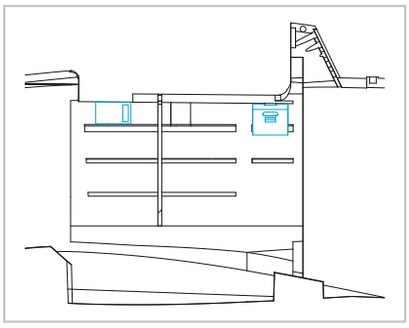


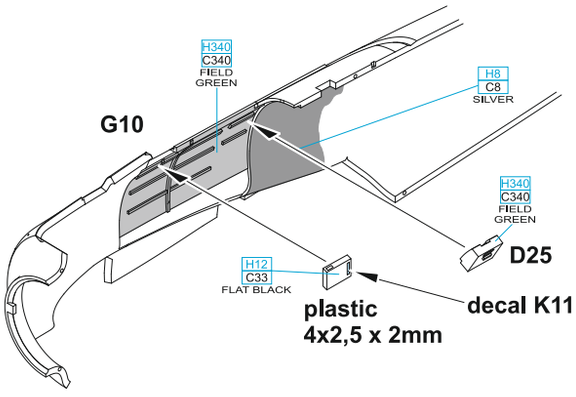
-Parts not for use. -Teile werden nicht verwendet. -Pièces à ne pas utiliser. -Tyto díly nepoužívejte při stavbě. - 使用しない部品

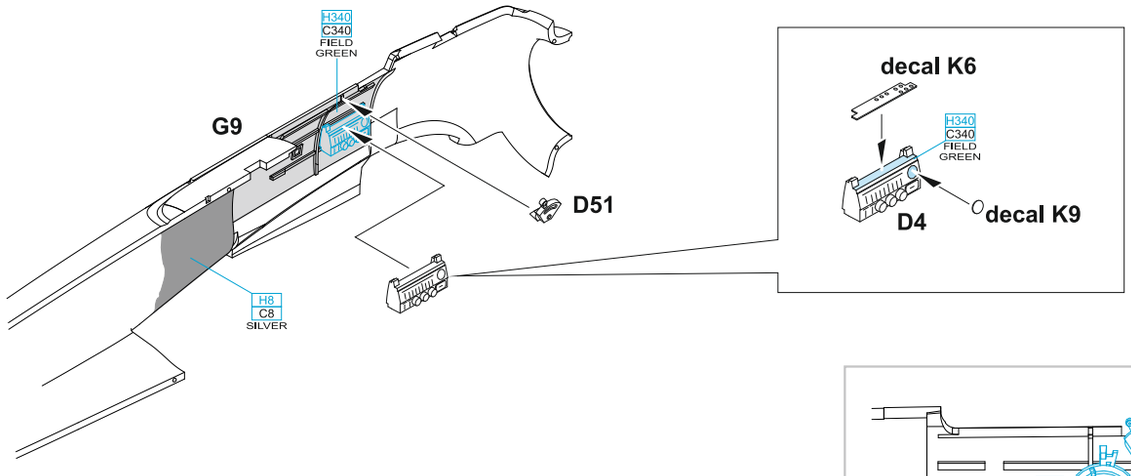
COLOURS ✶ BARVY ✶ FARBEN ✶ PEINTURE ✶ 色

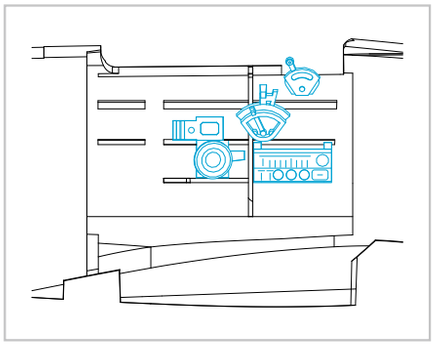
GSi Creos (GUNZE)		
AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR	
H1	C1	WHITE
H2	C2	BLACK
H3	C3	RED
H6	C6	GREEN
H8	C8	SILVER
H12	C33	FLAT BLACK
H24	C58	ORANGE YELLOW
H47	C41	RED BROWN
H53	C13	GRAY
H59	C15	IJN GREEN
H70	C60	GRAY
H77	C137	TIRE BLACK

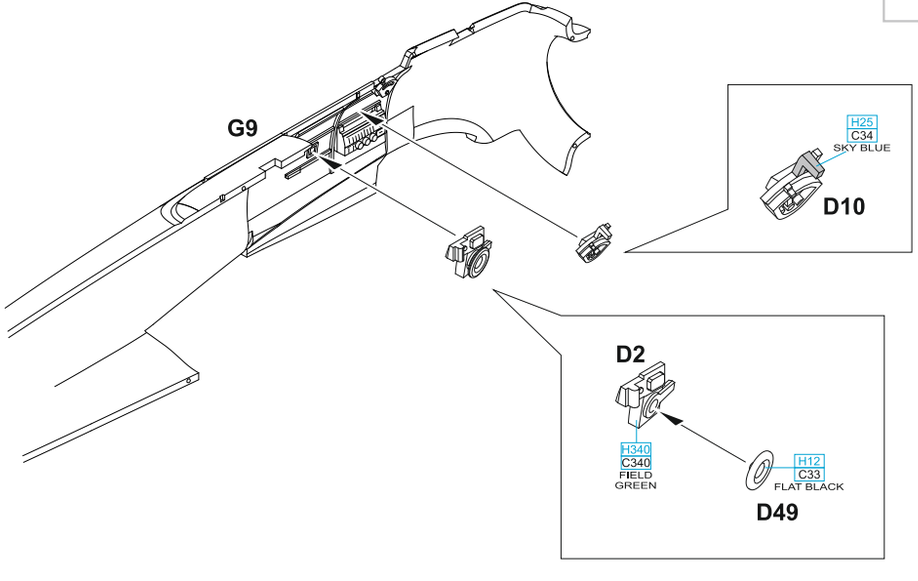
GSi Creos (GUNZE)		
AQUEOUS	Mr.COLOR	
H90	C47	CLEAR RED
H93	C50	CLEAR BLUE
H324	C324	LIGHT GRAY
H336	C336	HEMP
H340	C340	FIELD GREEN
H417	C117	LIGHT BLUE
	C125	COWLING COLOR
	C131	RED BROWN
Mr.COLOR SUPER METALLIC		
SM201		SUPER FINE SILVER
SM209		COOPER
SM212		ALUMINIUM

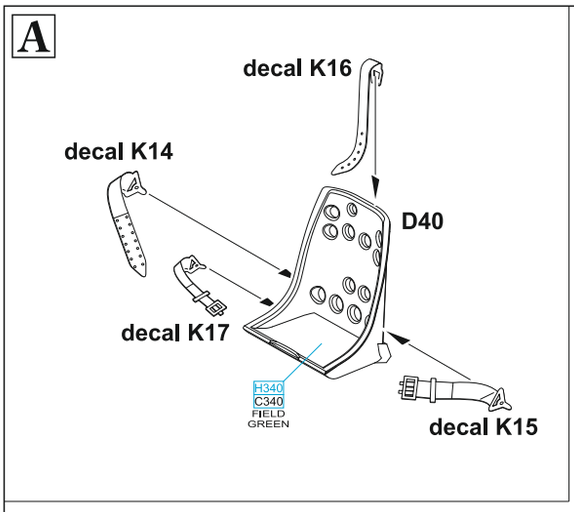


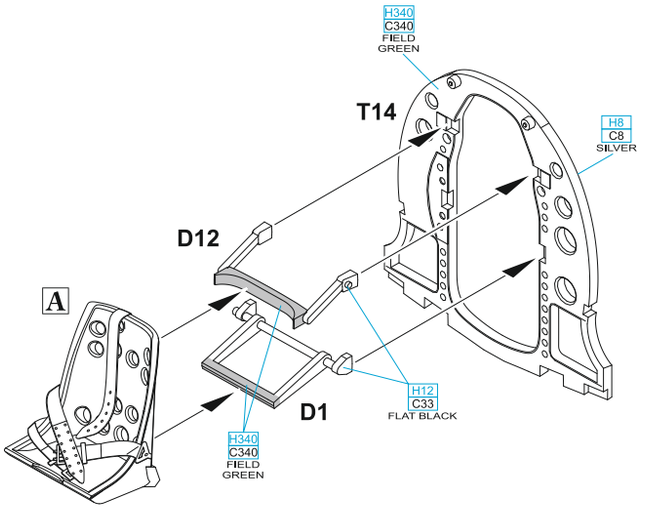

H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
G10
H8
C8
SILVER
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
D25
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
plastic
4x2,5 x 2mm
decal K11

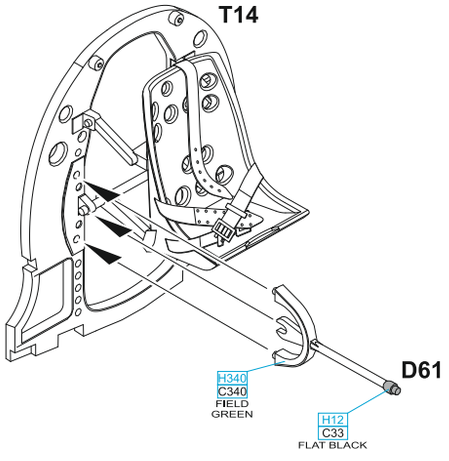

H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
G9
D51
H8
C8
SILVER
decal K6
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
D4
decal K9

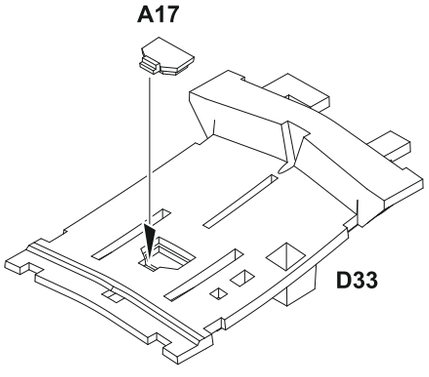


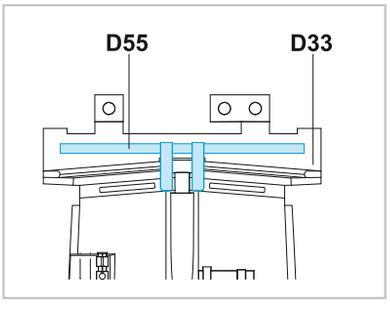

G9
H25
C34
SKY BLUE
D10
D2
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
D49

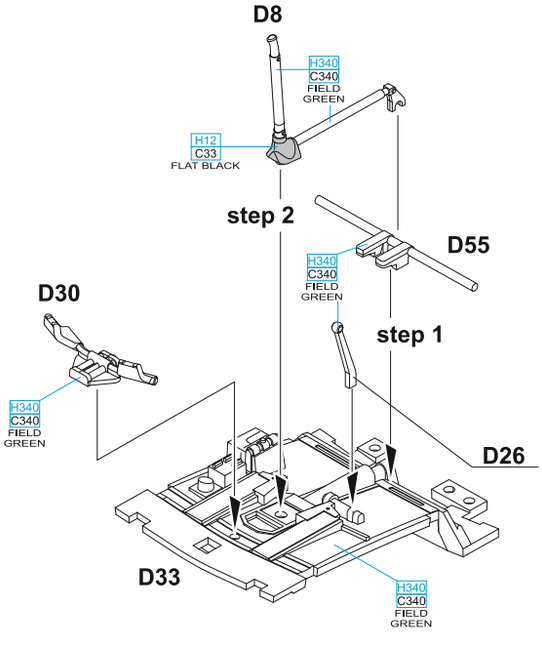

A
decal K16
decal K14
D40
decal K17
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
decal K15

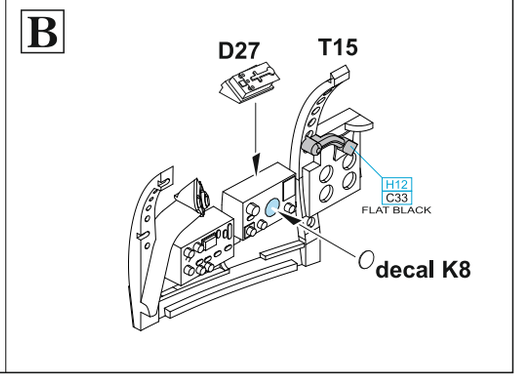

H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
T14
H8
C8
SILVER
D12
A
D1
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN

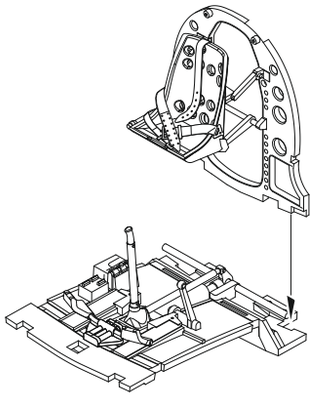

T14
D61
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK

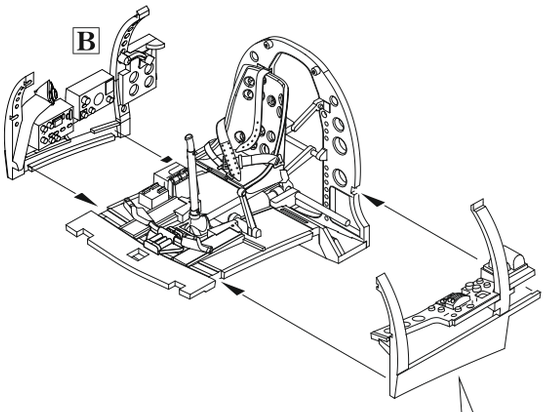

A17
D33

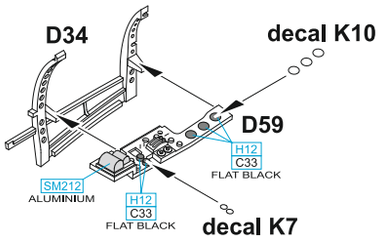

D55
D33

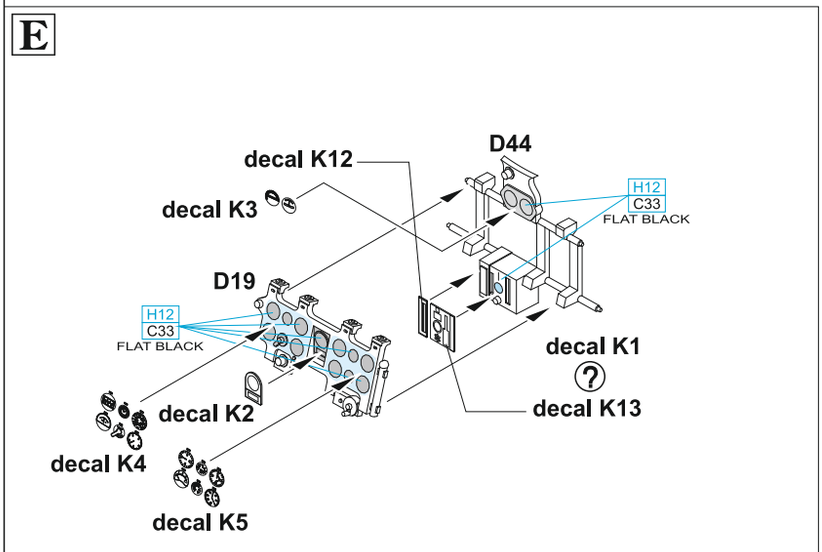

D8
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
step 2
D55
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
D30
step 1
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN
D26
D33
H340
C340
FIELD
GREEN

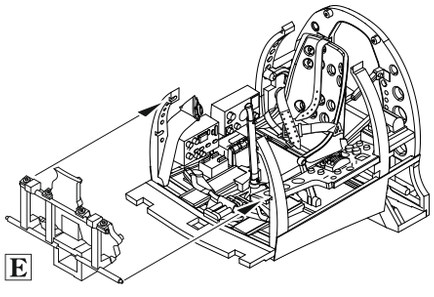

B
D27
T15
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
decal K8

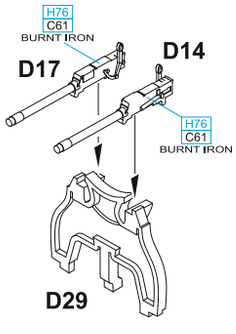


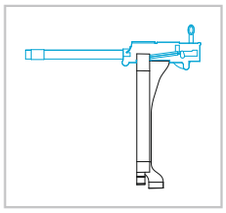

B

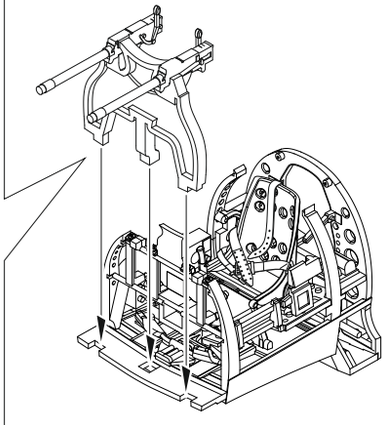

D34
decal K10
D59
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
SM212
ALUMINIUM
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
decal K7

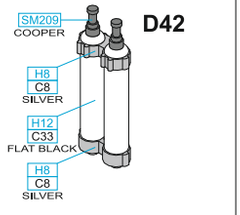

E
decal K12
D44
decal K3
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
D19
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
decal K1
?
decal K2
decal K13
decal K4
decal K5

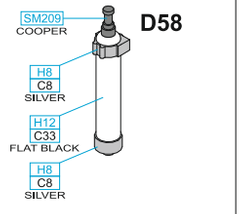

E

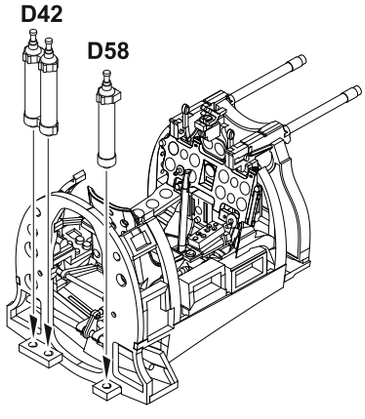

H76
C61
BURNT IRON
D17
D14
H76
C61
BURNT IRON
D29

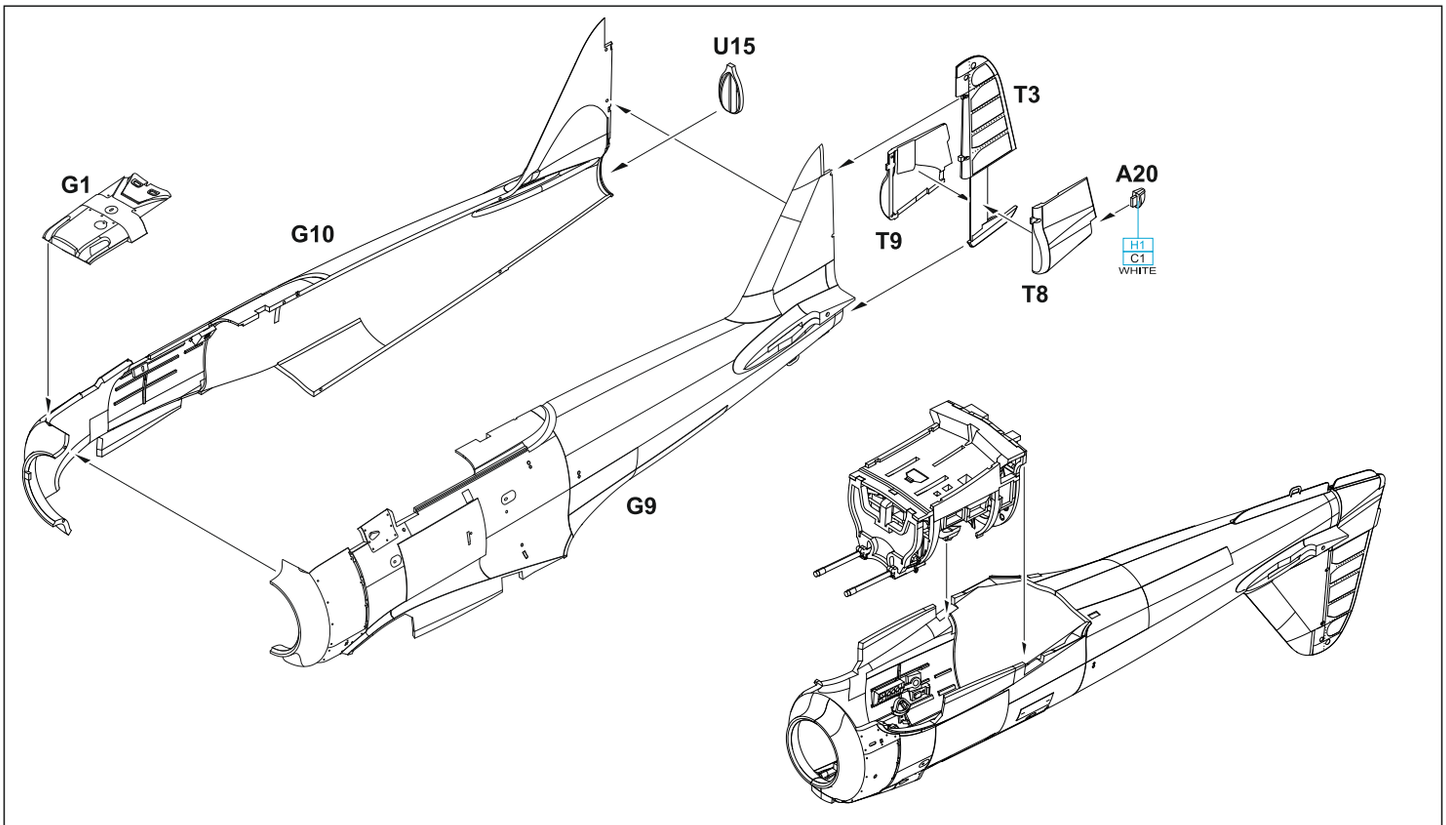


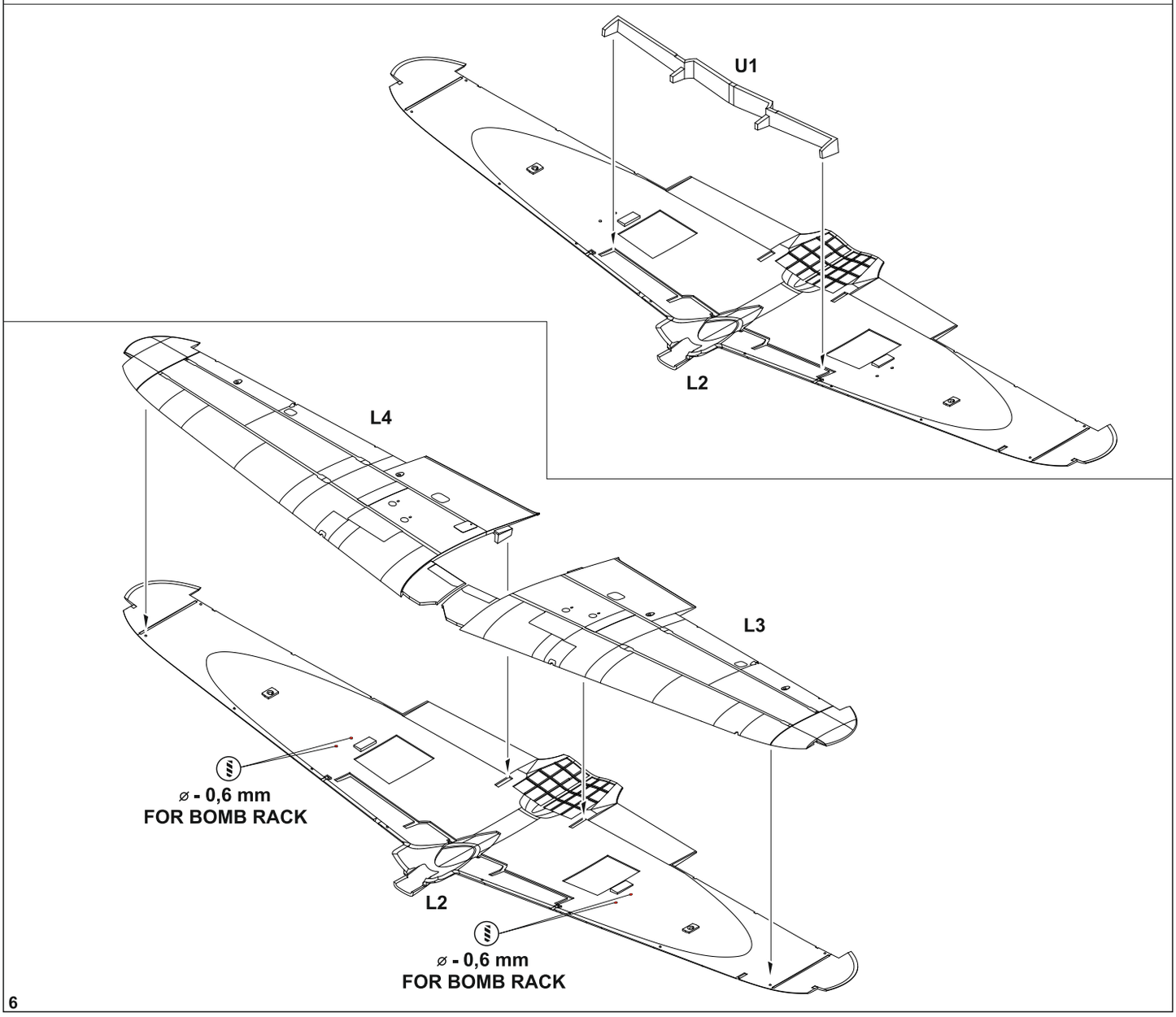


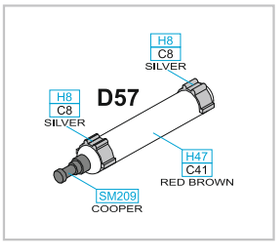

SM209
COOPER
D42
H8
C8
SILVER
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
H8
C8
SILVER

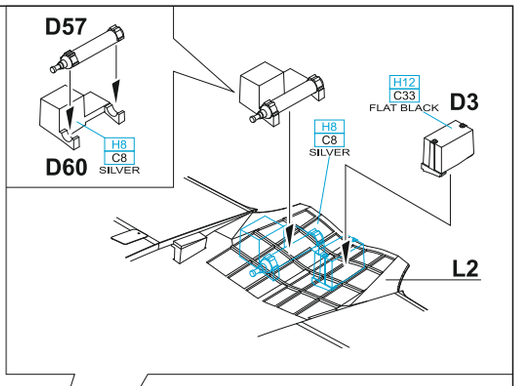

SM209
COOPER
D58
H8
C8
SILVER
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
H8
C8
SILVER

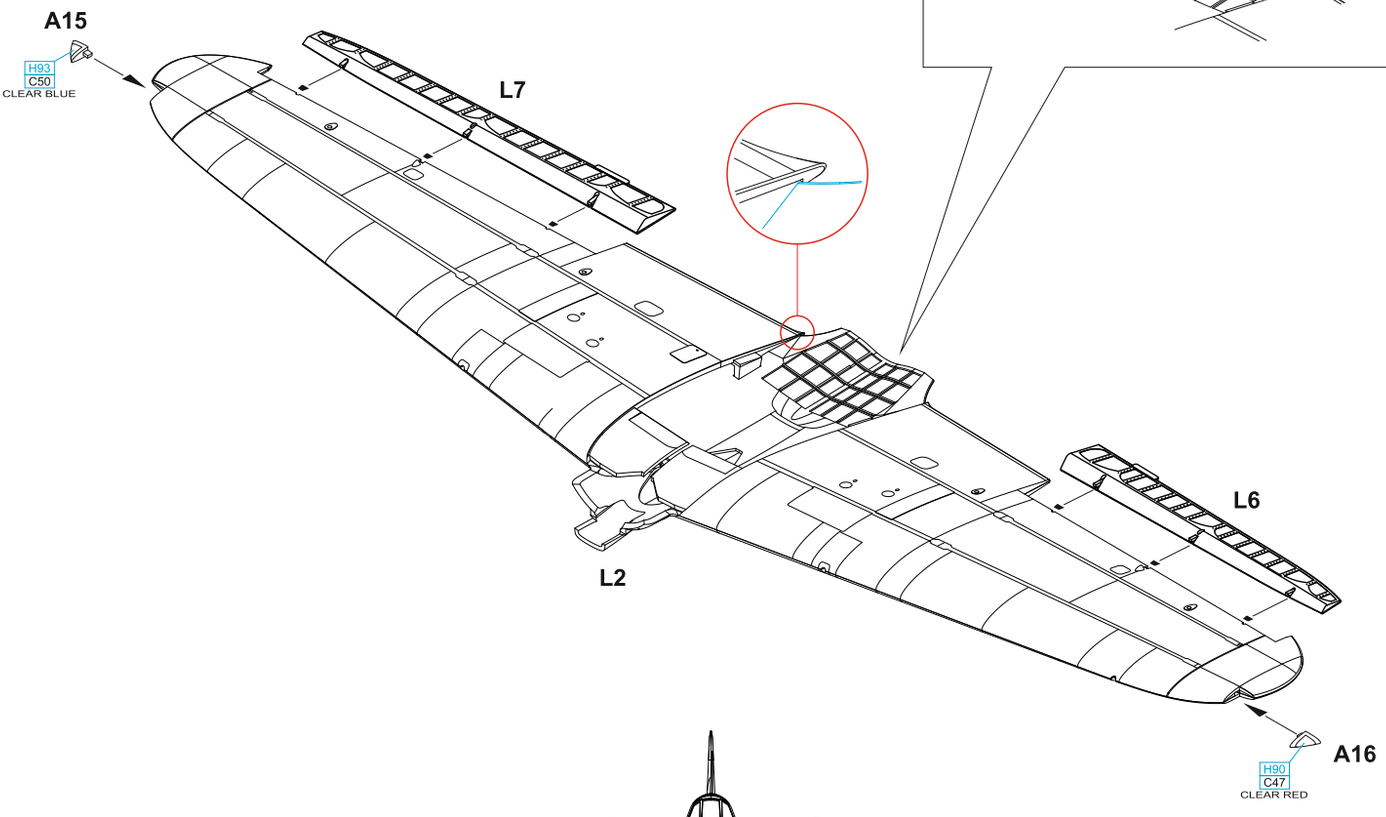

D42
D58

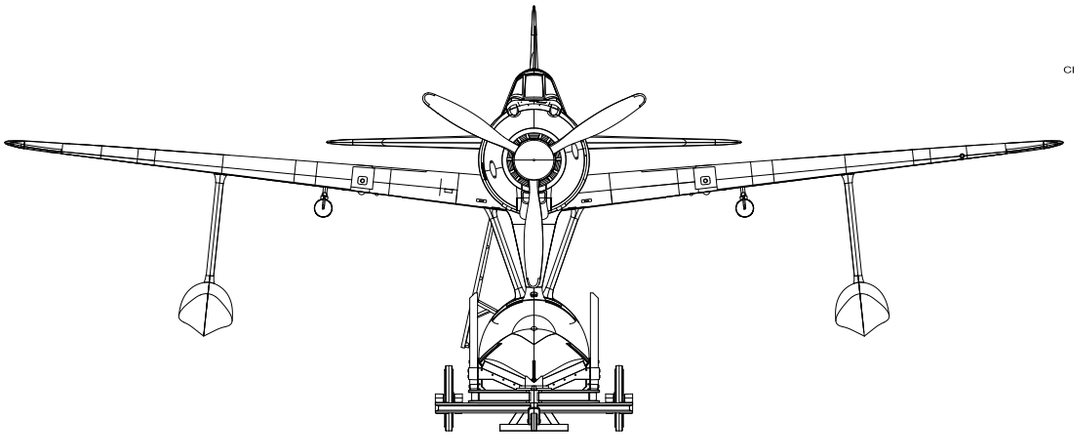

U15
T3
G1
G10
T9
A20
H1
C1
WHITE
T8
G9

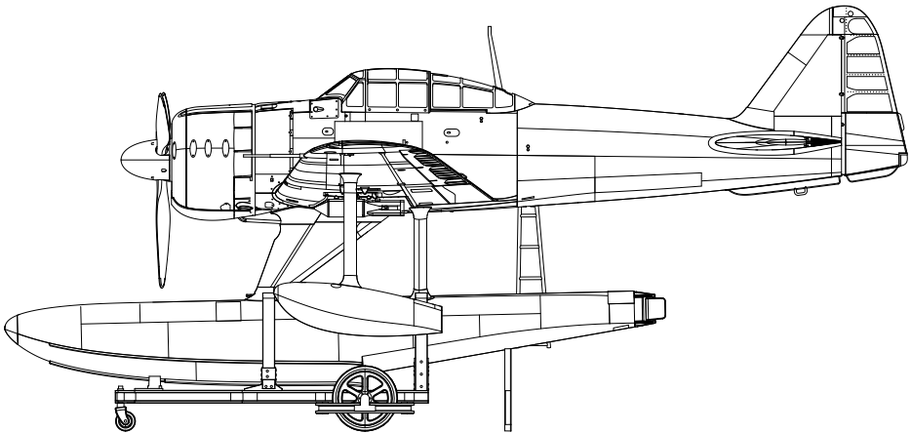

U1
L2
L4
L3
⌀ - 0,6 mm
FOR BOMB RACK
L2
⌀ - 0,6 mm
FOR BOMB RACK


H8
C8
SILVER
H8
C8
SILVER
D57
H47
C41
RED BROWN
SM209
COOPER

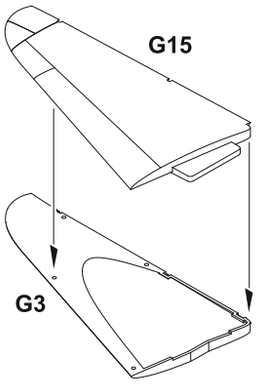

D57
D60
H8
C8
SILVER
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
D3
H8
C8
SILVER
L2

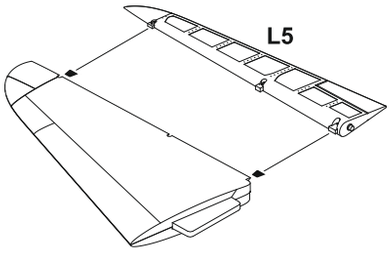

A15
H93
C50
CLEAR BLUE
L7
L2
L6
A16
H90
C47
CLEAR RED



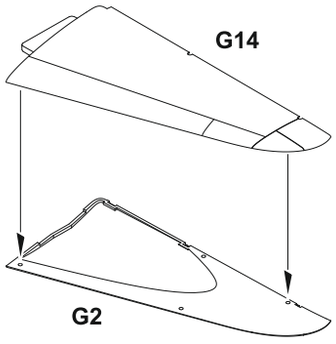


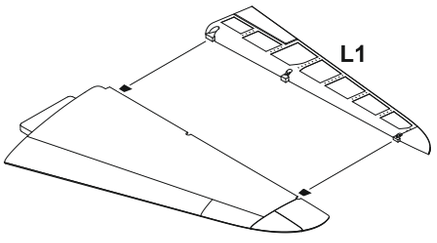
C

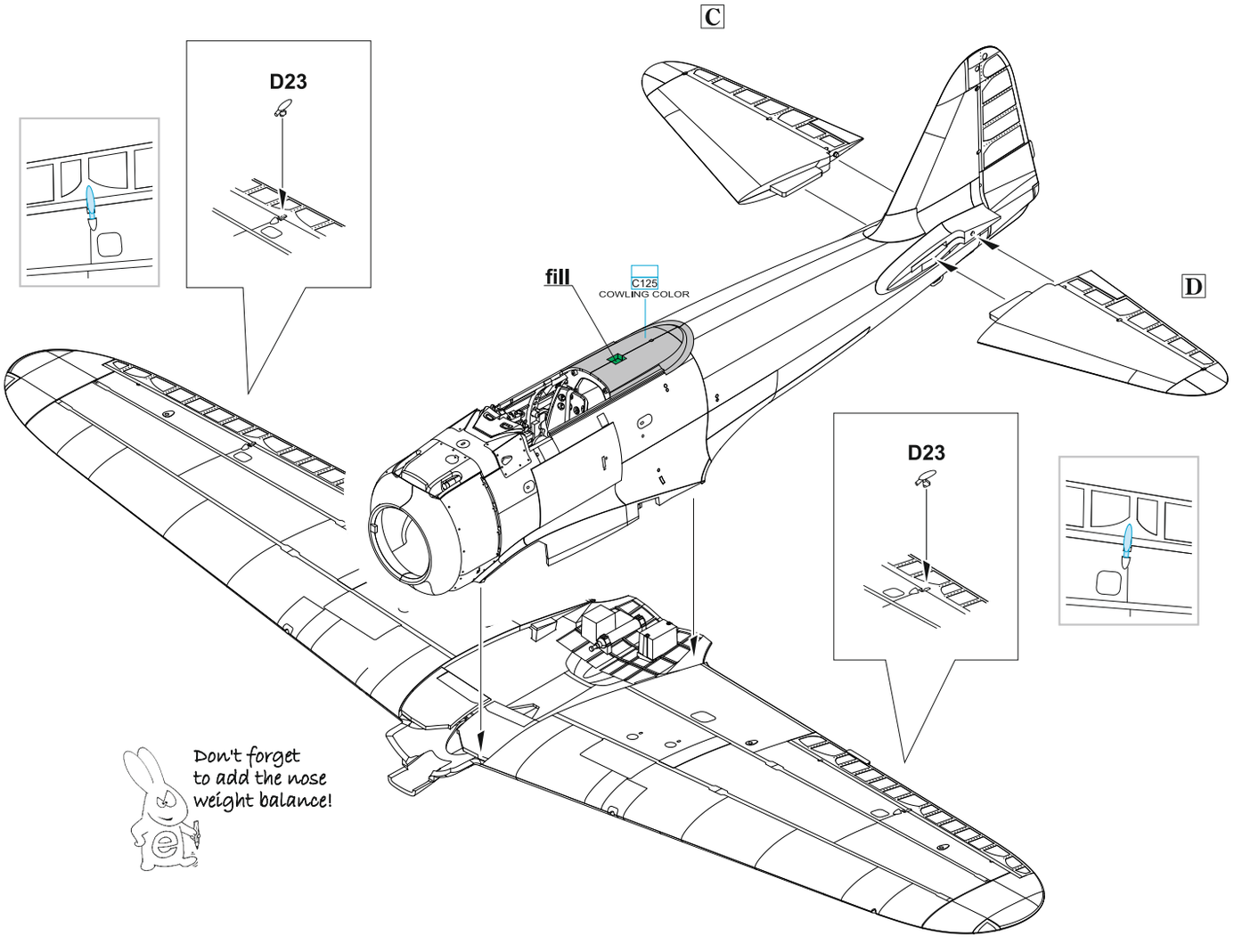

G15
G3

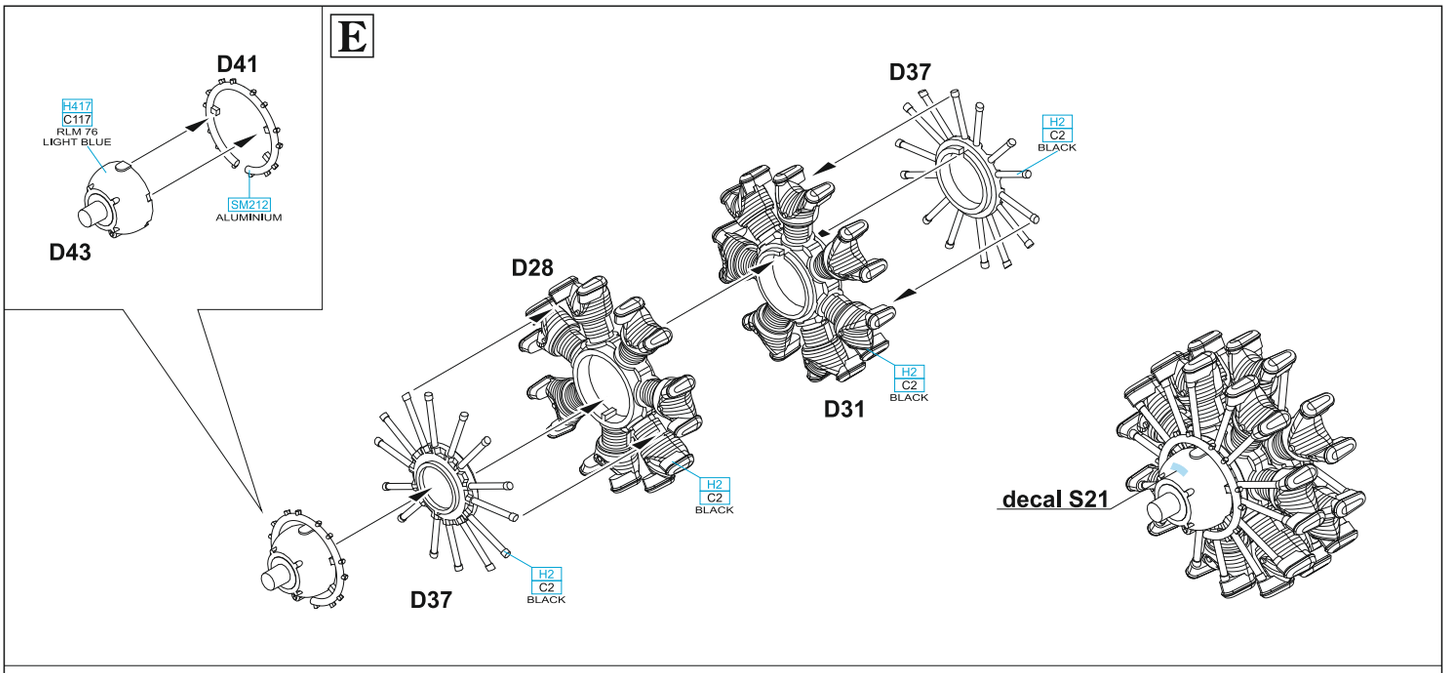

L5

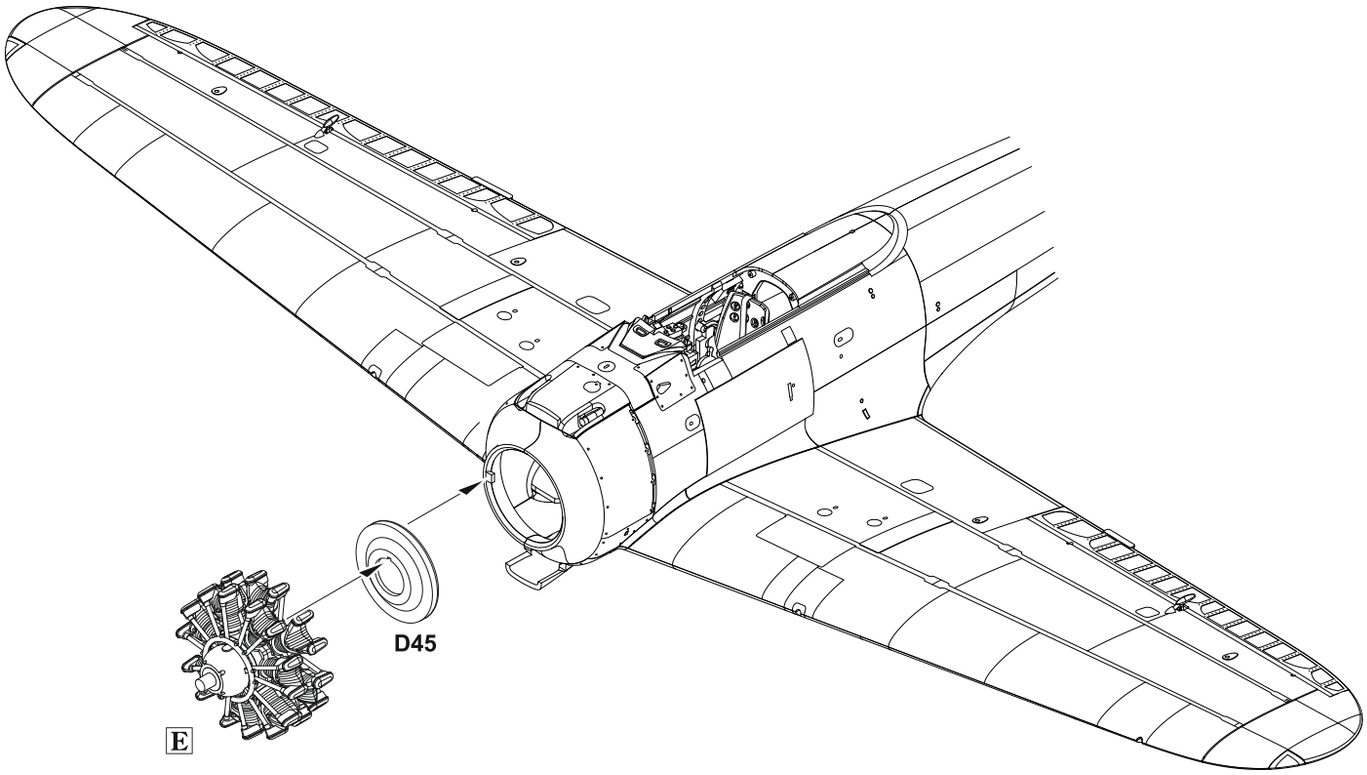
D


G14
G2


L1

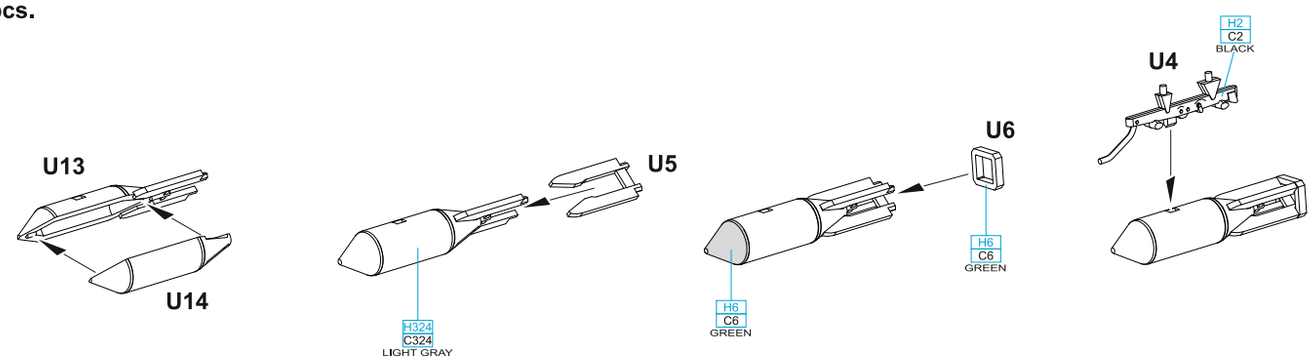

C
D23
fill
C125
COWLING COLOR
D
D23
Don't forget
to add the nose
weight balance!


E
D41
H417
C117
RLM 76
LIGHT BLUE
SM212
ALUMINIUM
D43
D37
H2
C2
BLACK
D28
D31
H2
C2
BLACK
H2
C2
BLACK
D37
H2
C2
BLACK
decal S21

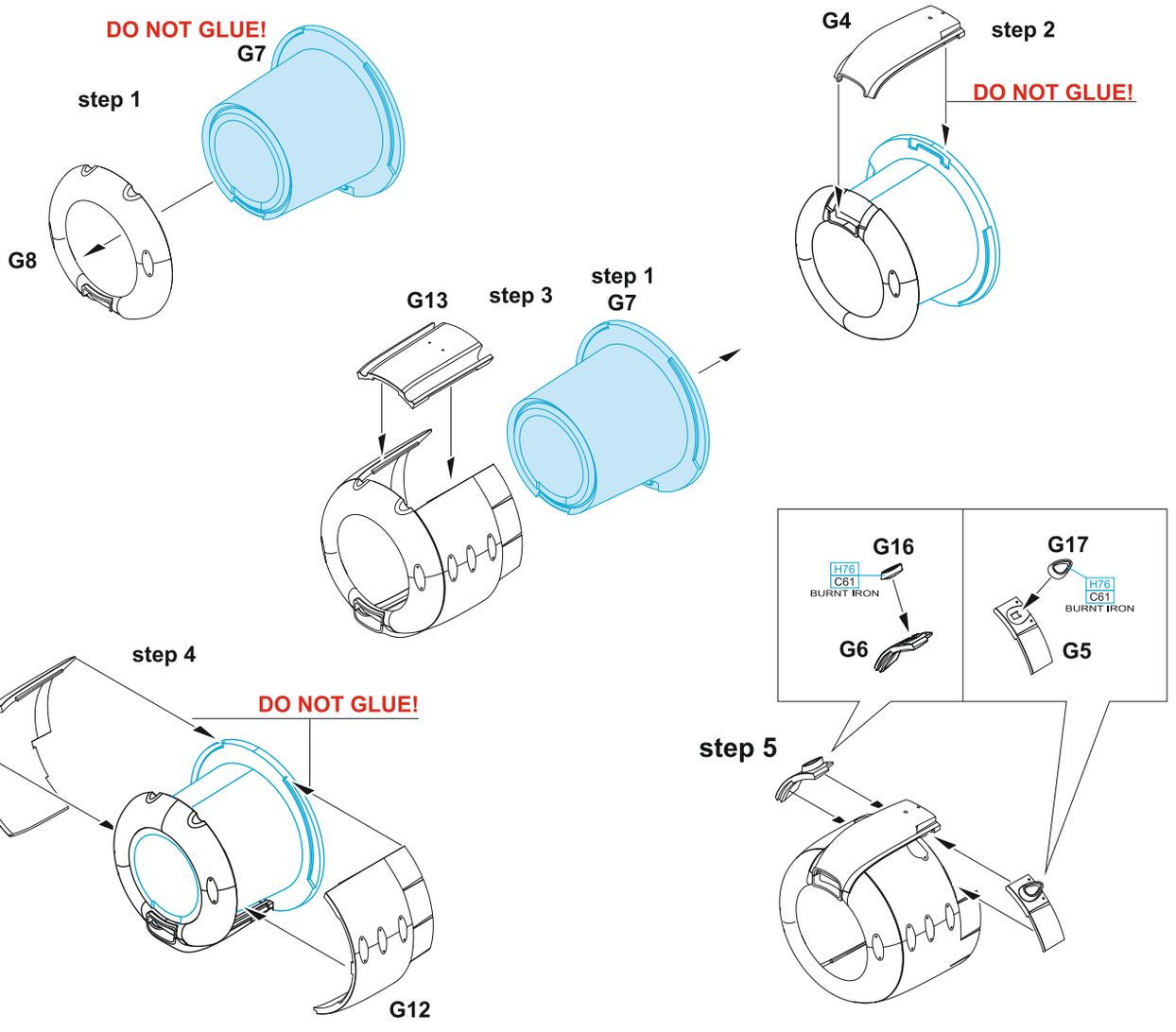

D45
E

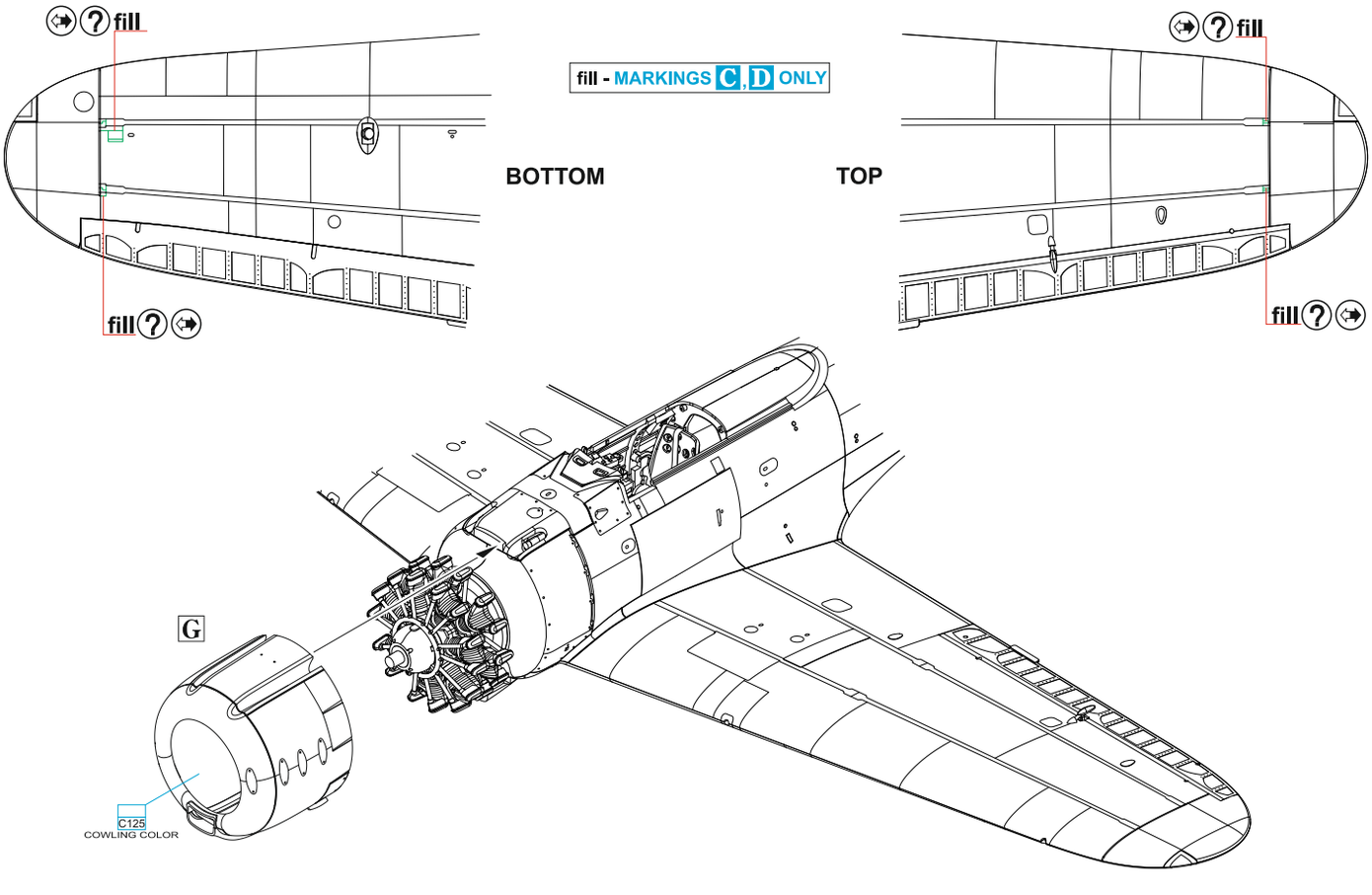
? F

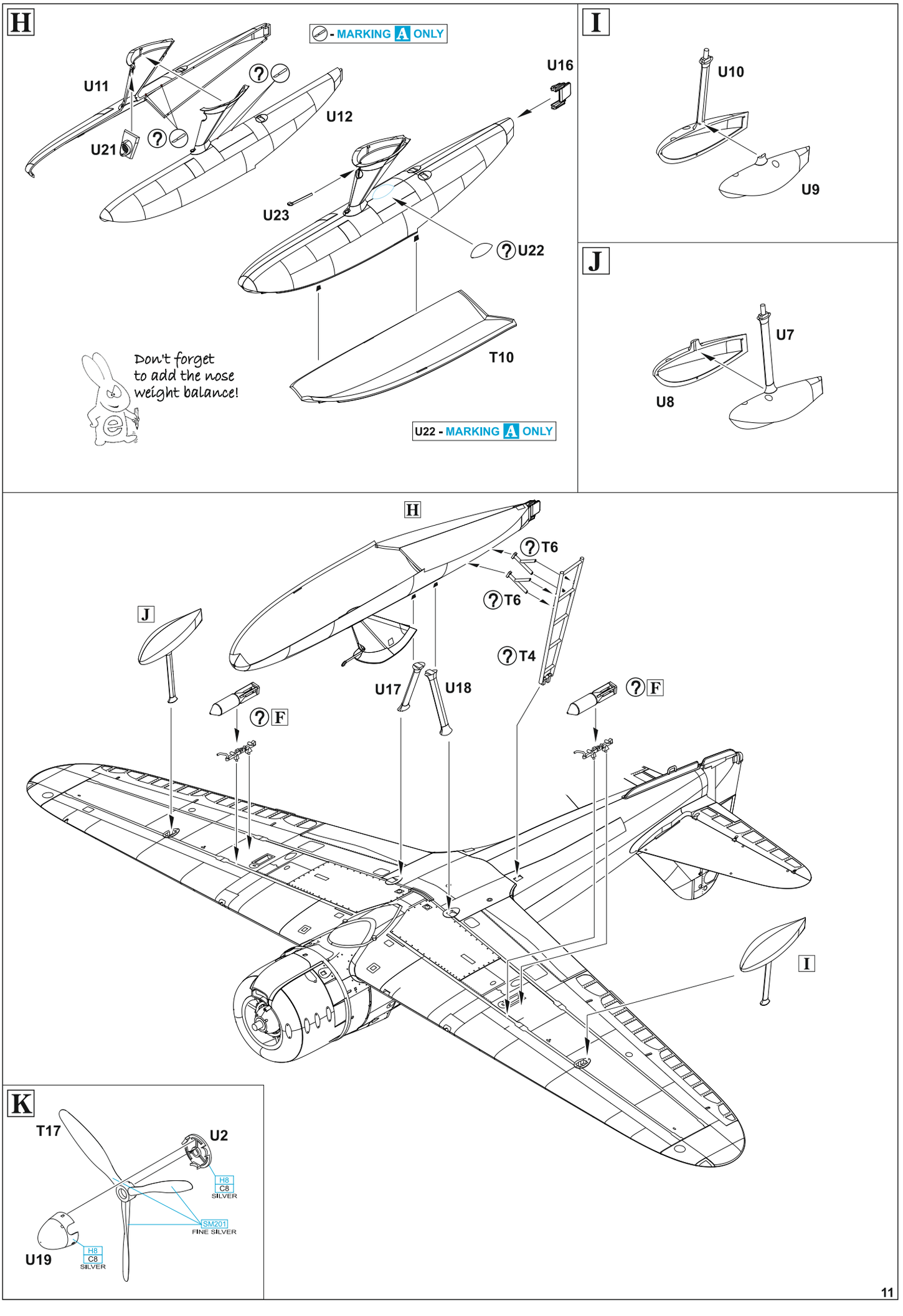
2 pcs.

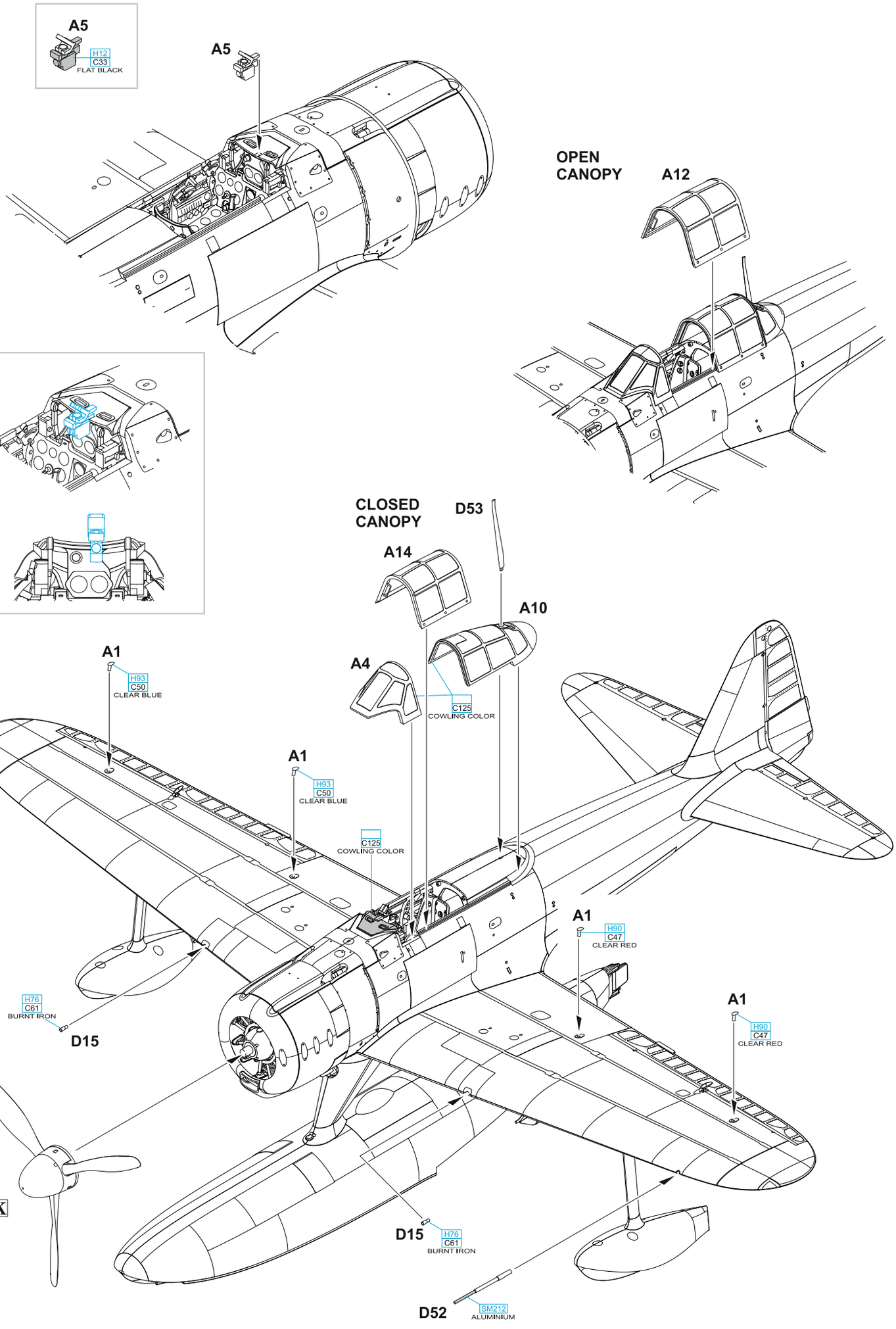

U13
U14
U5
H324
C324
LIGHT GRAY
U6
H6
C6
GREEN
H6
C6
GREEN
U4
H2
C2
BLACK

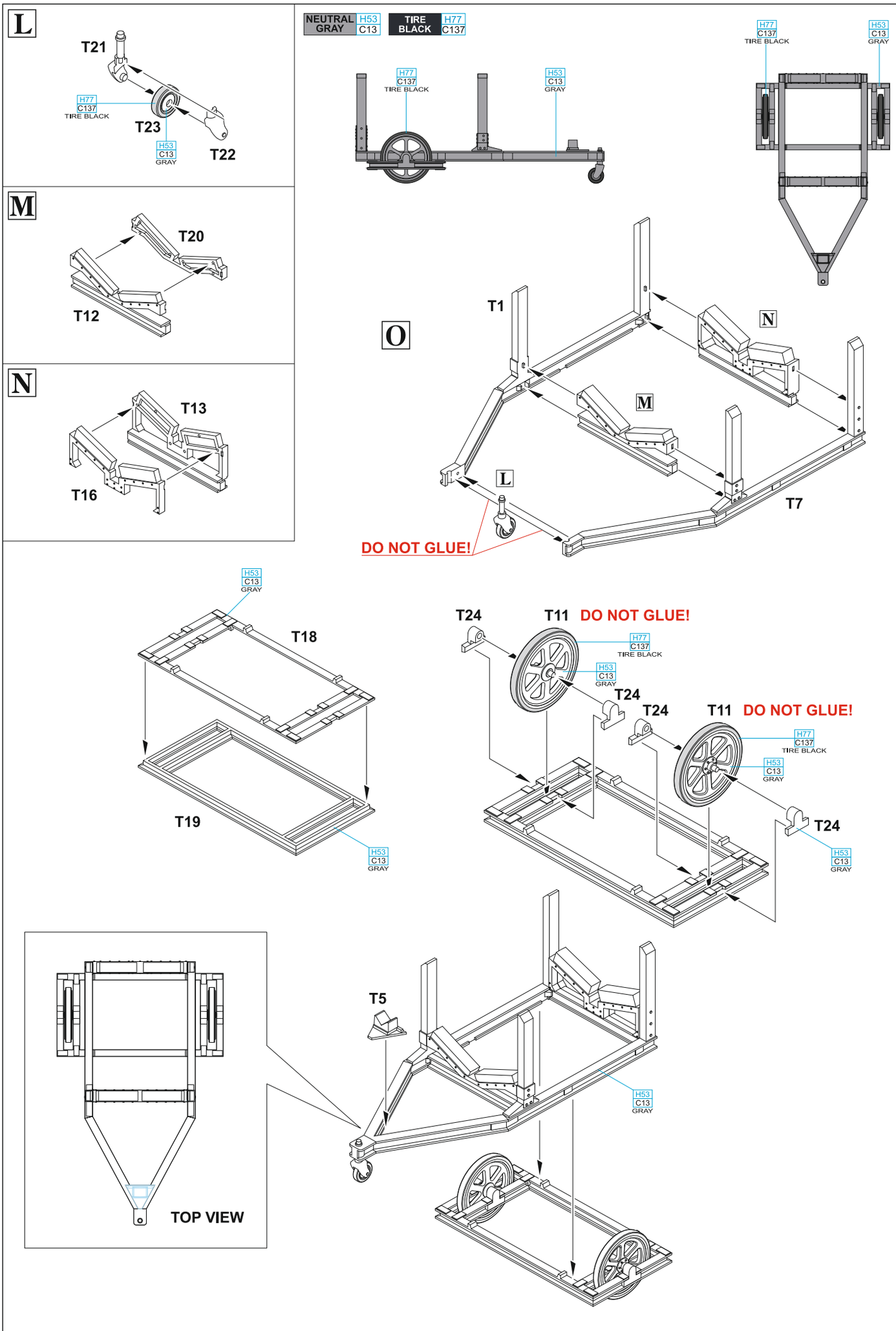
G

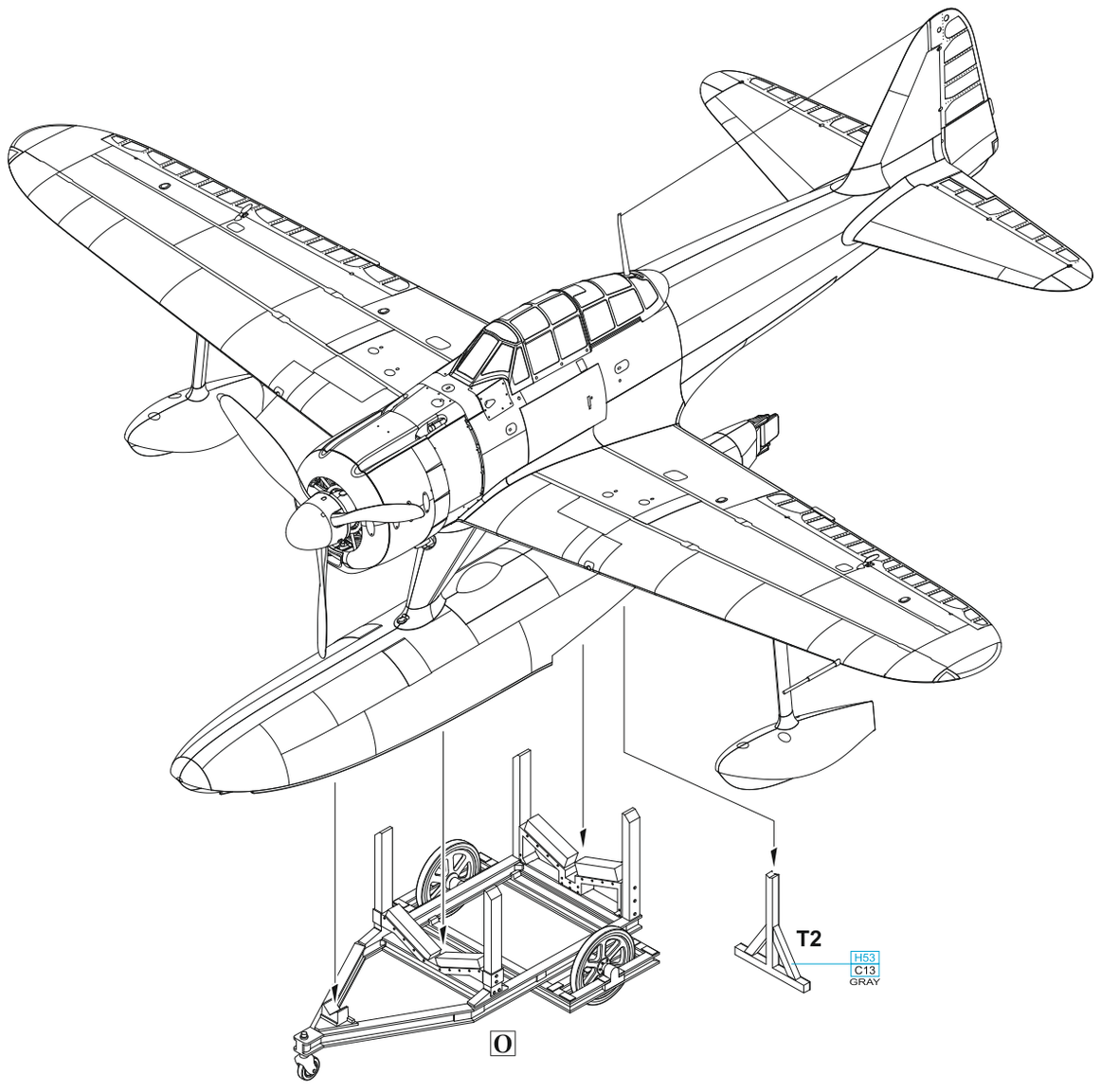

DO NOT GLUE!
G7
step 1
G8
G4
step 2
DO NOT GLUE!
G13
step 3
step 1
G7
G16
H76
C61
BURNT IRON
G6
G17
H76
C61
BURNT IRON
G5
step 4
G11
DO NOT GLUE!
G12
step 5

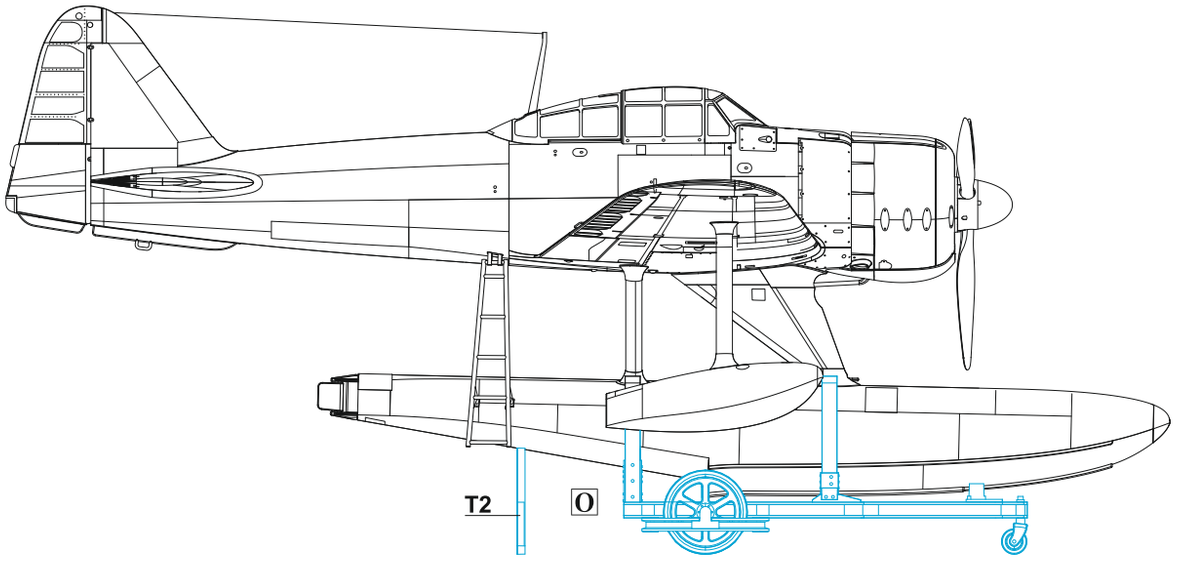

fill
fill
fill - MARKINGS C, D ONLY
BOTTOM
TOP
fill
fill
G
C125
COWLING COLOR


H
- MARKING A ONLY
U11
U21
U12
U16
U23
U22
T10
Don't forget to add the nose weight balance!
U22 - MARKING A ONLY
I
U10
U9
J
U7
U8
H
T6
T6
T4
J
U17
U18
F
F
I
K
T17
U2
H8
C8
SILVER
SM201
FINE SILVER
U19
H8
C8
SILVER


A5
H12
C33
FLAT BLACK
A5
OPEN
CANOPY
A12
CLOSED
CANOPY
D53
A14
A10
A4
C125
COWLING COLOR
A1
H93
C50
CLEAR BLUE
A1
H93
C50
CLEAR BLUE
C125
COWLING COLOR
A1
H90
C47
CLEAR RED
A1
H90
C47
CLEAR RED
H76
C61
BURNT IRON
D15
K
D15
H76
C61
BURNT IRON
D52
SM212
ALUMINIUM

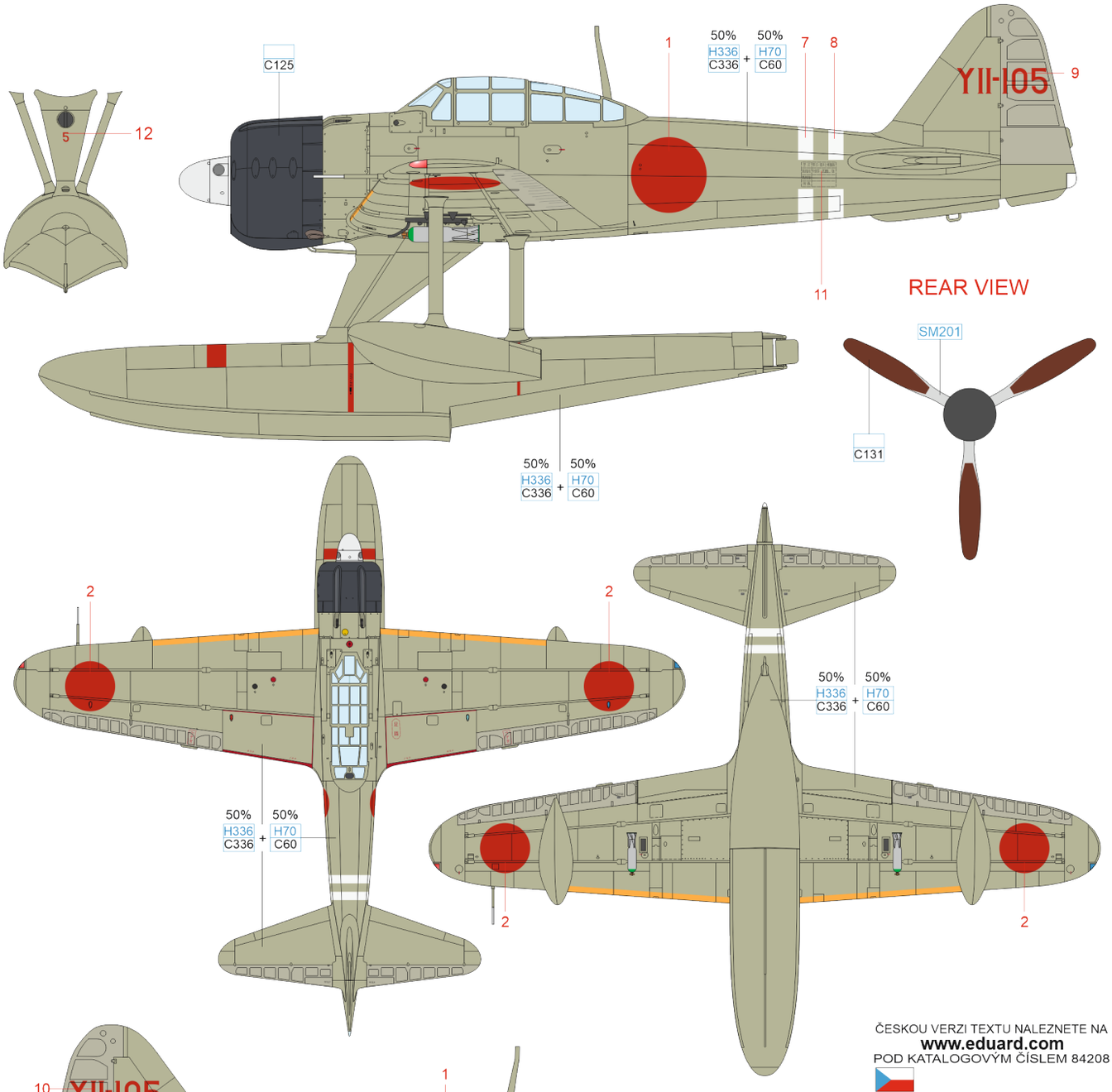

L
T21
H77 C137 TIRE BLACK
T23
H53 C13 GRAY
T22
M
T20
T12
N
T13
T16
NEUTRAL GRAY H53 C13
TIRE BLACK H77 C137
H77 C137 TIRE BLACK
H53 C13 GRAY
O
T1
N
M
L
T7
DO NOT GLUE!
T18
T19
T24
T11 DO NOT GLUE!
T5
TOP VIEW


T2
H53
C13
GRAY
O


T2
O

A Aviation unit of seaplane tender Kamikawa Maru, Shortland Islands, September 1942

This plane was an early production Rufe with folding wingtips. The Kamikawa Maru was completed in 1936 as an ocean liner but was converted to a seaplane tender a year later and was combat deployed in the aggression against China until the spring of 1941. At the start of the fighting in the Pacific, her air unit was equipped with E13A1 Jake and F1M2 Pete seaplanes, then by September 1942, she was deployed in the Solomon Islands area with eleven A6M2-Ns and two F1M2s. The main tasks of her airmen were base protection, convoy escorts and also attacks on ground troops on Guadalcanal. In addition to engagements with B-17s and Cactus Air Force pilots, the Kamikawa Maru airmen also got into combat with aircraft from the USS Hornet (CV-8). On the box art, the aircraft is depicted while engaged in an aerial battle that took place over Guadalcanal on September 13, 1942; by that time, it probably already carried a yellow identification marking on the leading edge of the wing.

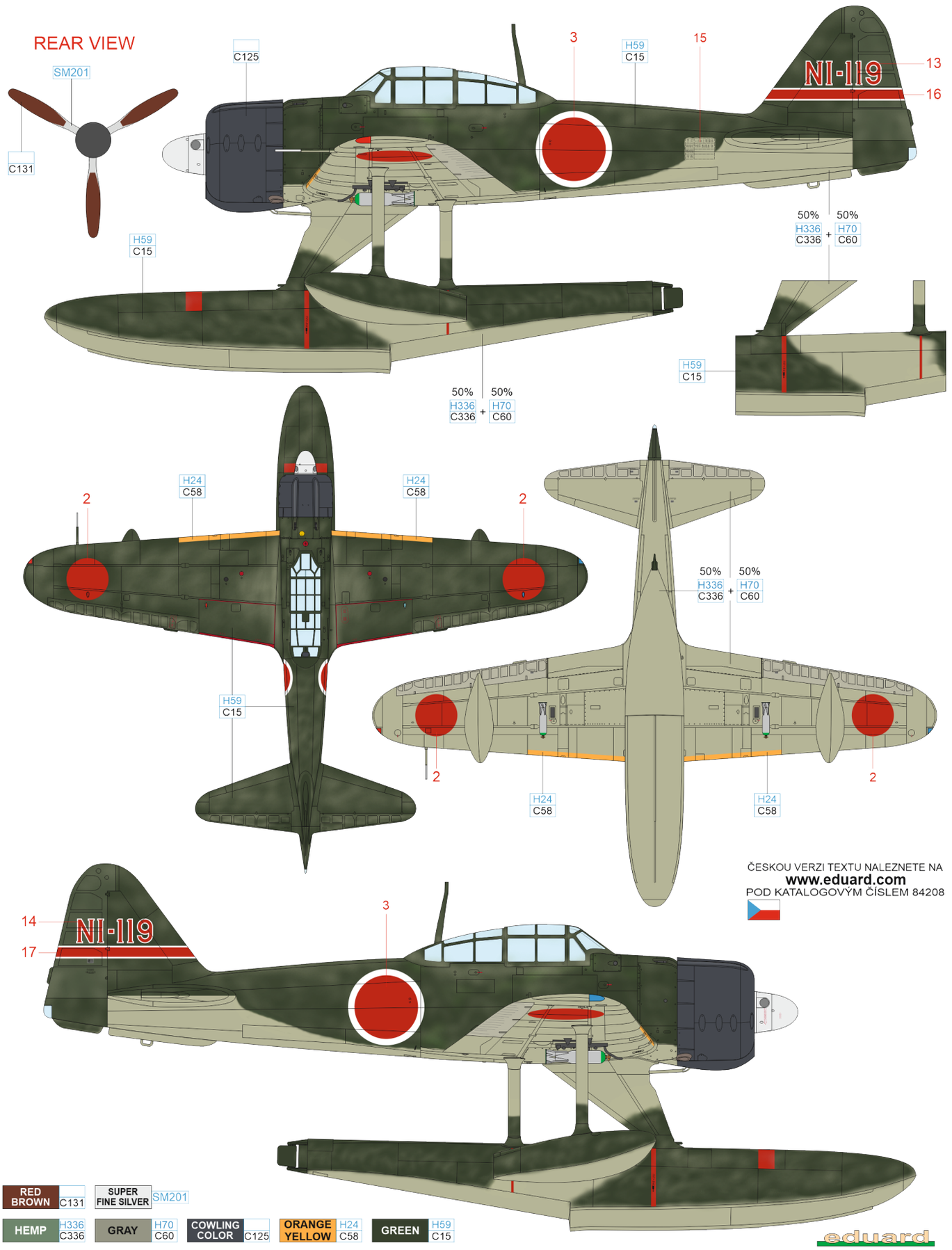


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www.eduard.com
POD KATALOGOVÝM ČÍSLEM 84208

RED BROWN	C131	SUPER FINE SILVER	SM201		
HEMP	H336 C336	GRAY	H70 C60	COWLING COLOR	C125

B Kōkūtai 802, Faisi-Poporang base, Shortland Islands, February 1943

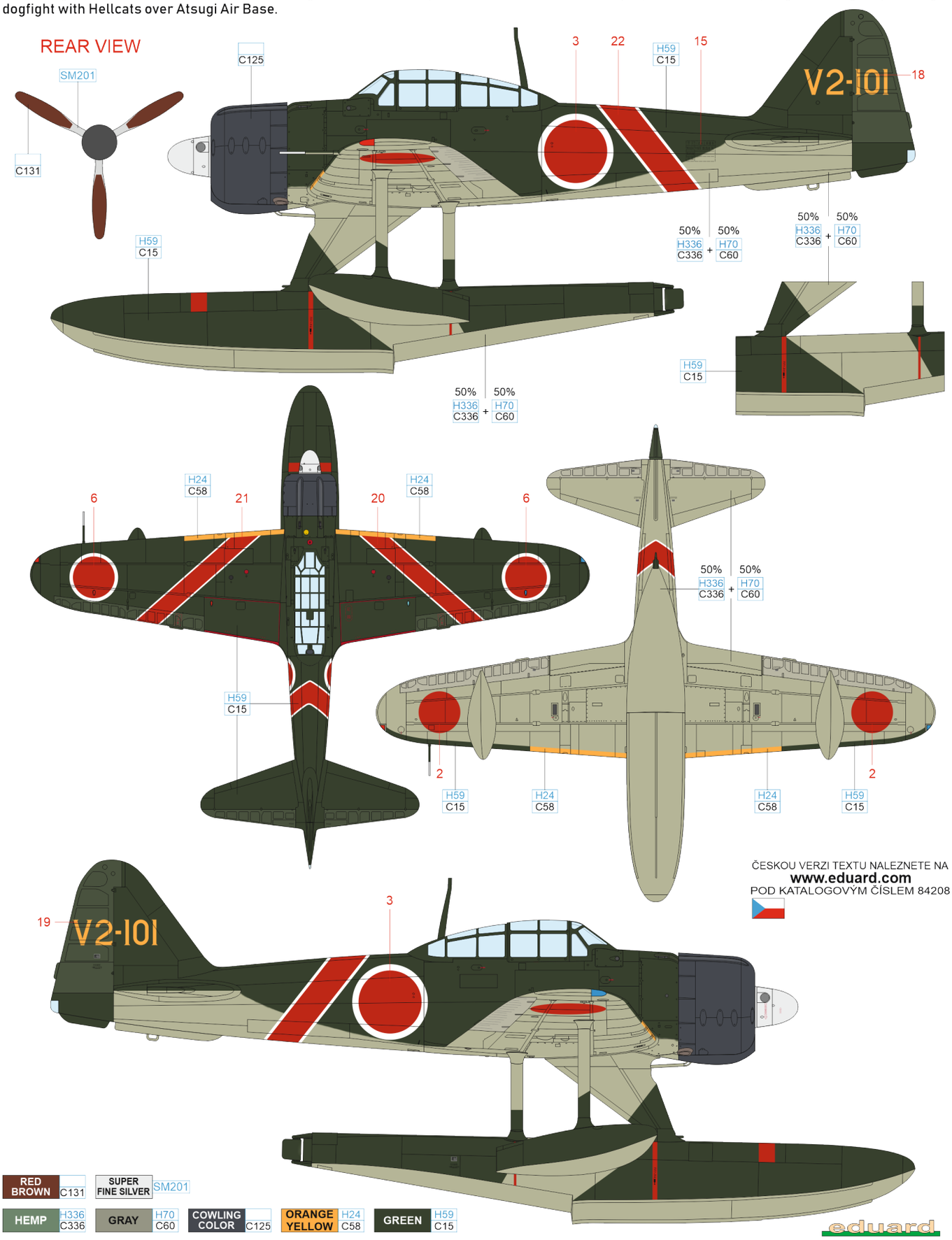
This aircraft was among the new ones that Kōkūtai 802 took over in Japan during early 1943. At the unit level, the aircraft received a dark green paint and it probably had a late production stencil on the fuselage. It sported a horizontal red stripe on the vertical tail surfaces, which was probably the unit's identifying marking. It is likely that this aircraft took part in the aerial combat on February 13 and 14, during the defense of the Shortland Islands and Buin, in which the American units suffered fairly significant losses. After relocation to the Marshall Islands area in March 1943, Kōkūtai 802, under the command of Lt.(jg) Yamazaki, was primarily engaged in anti-submarine patrols and the pursuit of four-engine bombers. Long-range reconnaissance was carried out by another part of this unit, which was armed with H8K Emily flying boats. In October, fighter unit of Kōkūtai 802 was integrated into Kōkūtai 902, and in November, the fighter unit clashed with US Navy aircraft during a raid on Truk.



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C Lt (JG) Toshio Araki, Kōkūtai 452, Bettobi Lake, Shumshu Islands, Kuriles, summer 1943

The aircraft of this fighter unit successively bore at least four different markings on their tail surfaces, depending on how the unit was designated and subordinated to different commands. After being evacuated from the Aleutian Islands to Japan, the unit was deployed in the Kuril area under the command of Toshio (Shunji) Araki. This aircraft shown with distinct markings may have been his personal mount. This officer graduated from the 67th class of the Naval Academy in July 1939. After serving aboard the submarine I-10, he began his aviation career with the Kashima Kōkūtai. During the combat operations of Kōkūtai 452, his pilots primarily engaged B-25 and B-24 bombers. Araki was a very meticulous and strict officer who loved playing the violin, though at times this hobby somewhat tried the patience of those around him. In the harsh northern conditions of the Kurils, he boosted morale by collecting phonograph records, one of his personal passions. He later served with the Sukumo Kōkūtai, then with Kōkūtai 453, and ultimately became the leader of a Zero fighter unit within the Kōkūtai 302 during the defense of Japan. He was killed on February 16, 1945, while attempting an emergency landing after a dogfight with Hellcats over Atsugi Air Base.

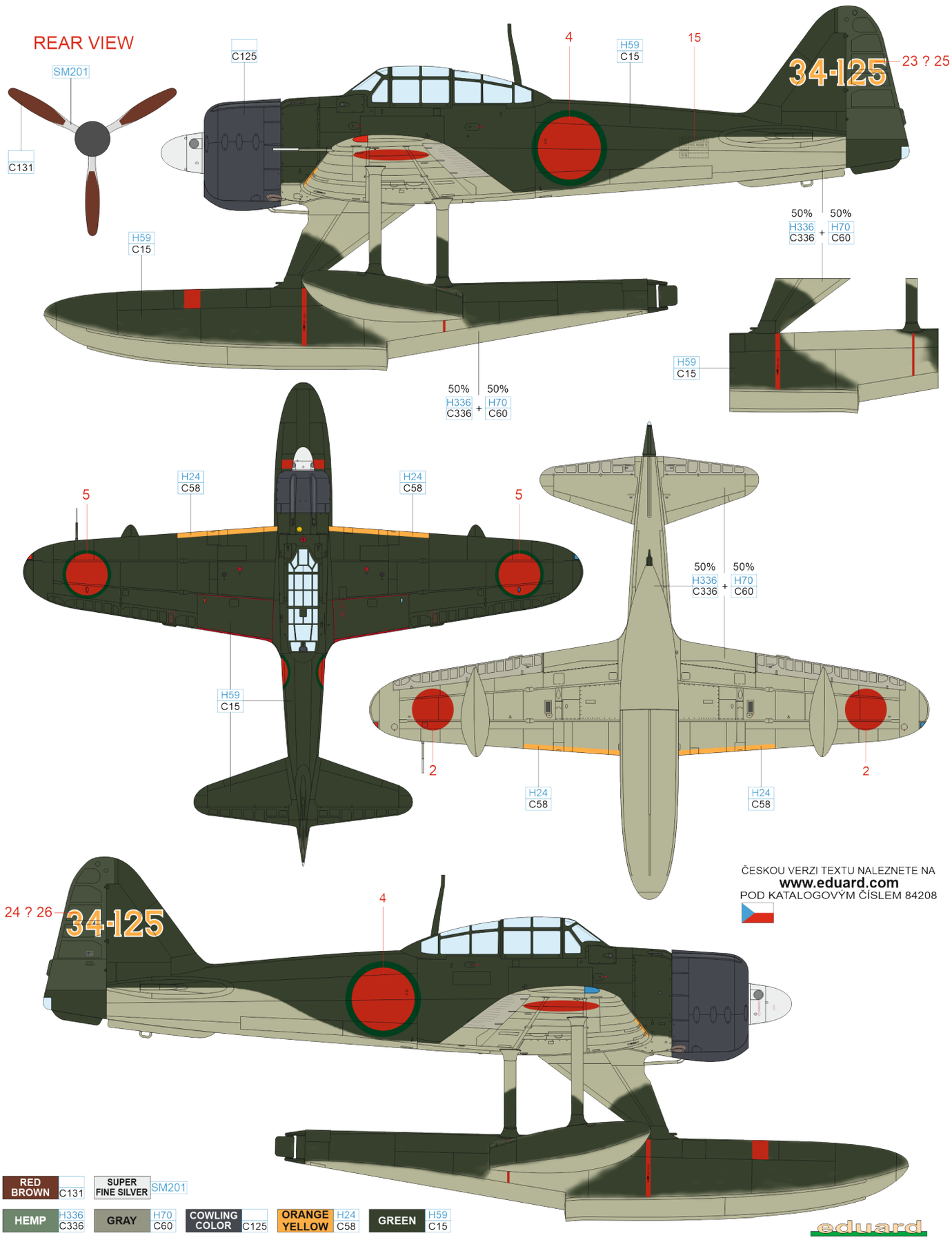


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RED BROWN	C131	SUPER FINE SILVER	SM201						
HEMP	H336 C336	GRAY	H70 C60	COWLING COLOR	C125	ORANGE YELLOW	H24 C58	GREEN	H59 C15

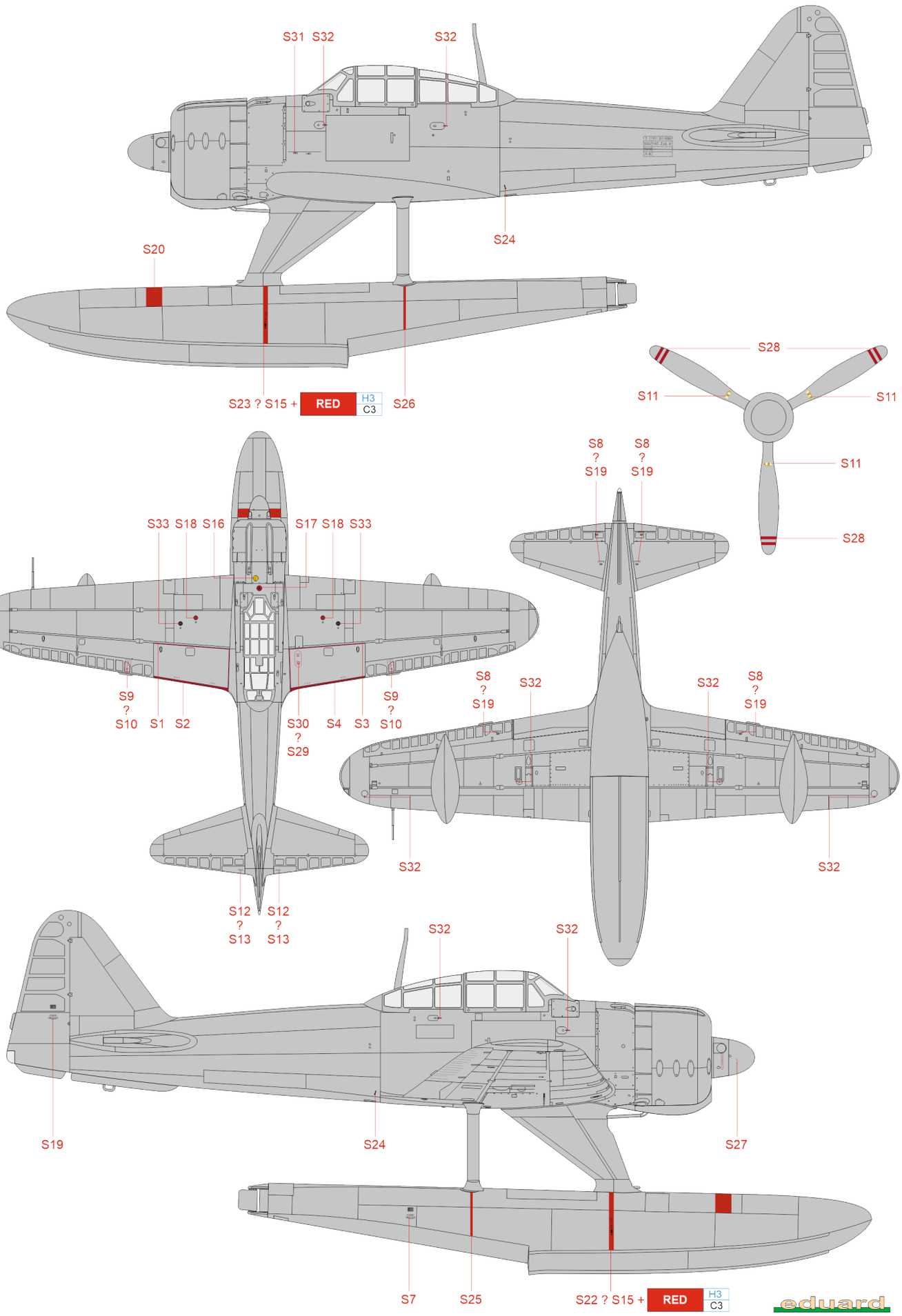
D Kōkūtai 934, Ambon island, Moluku Islands, March 1944

This late production aircraft was finished in a factory applied dark green paint. At the unit level the white outline of Hinomaru was repainted to reduce the visibility of the machine. The aircraft designation 34-125 is interpreted in some publications as 34-135, which describe it as being finished in red. In early 1944 the Kōkūtai 934 was equipped with E13A Jake and F1M Pete observation aircraft and also with Rufe and N1K Rex fighter seaplanes. Their frequent opponents were the Beaufighter crews of No. 31 Sqn. RAAF. One of the Kōkūtai 934 pilots, PO2c Hidenori Matsunaga, scored approximately ten shared victories against Beaufighters. Fighter squadron unit commander was Lt.(jg) Toshiharu Ikeda, who scored a victory over a Spitfire with a Rufe. Ikeda later became commander of Hikōtai 603 and was killed on June 23, 1944, at Saipan.



A6M2-N Rufe

STENCILING POSITIONS

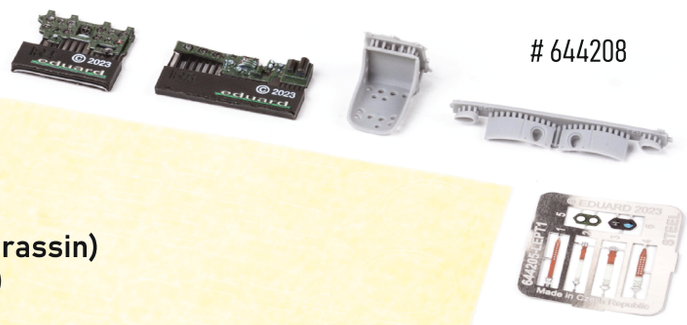


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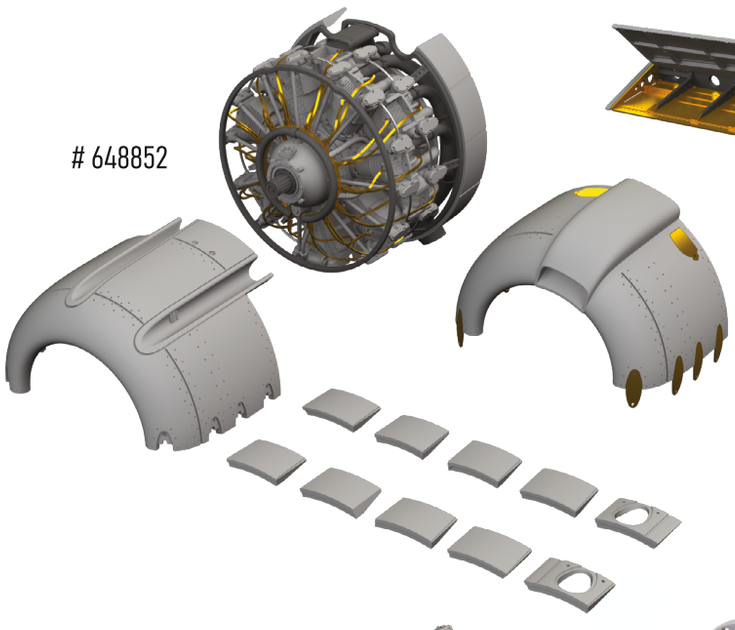
Eduard goodies for A6M2-N Rufe 1/48

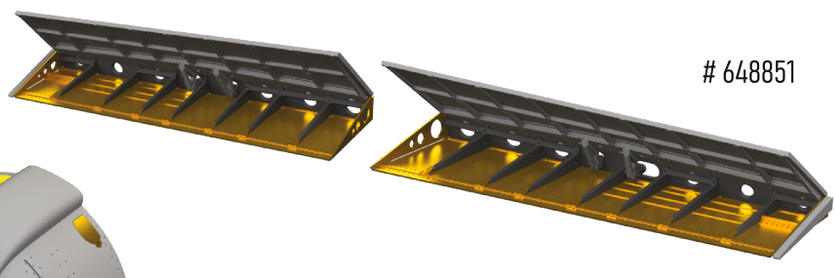
481109	A6M2-N Rufe landing flaps (PE-Set)
FE1563	A6M2-N Rufe Weekend (PE-Set)
644205	A6M2-N Rufe LööK (Brassin)
644208	A6M2-N Rufe LööKplus (Brassin)
648845	A6M2-N Rufe seat PRINT (Brassin)
648846	A6M2-N Rufe exhaust PRINT (Brassin)
648847	A6M2-N Rufe cannon barrels & cockpit guns PRINT (Brassin)
648848	A6M2-N Rufe folding wingtips PRINT (Brassin)
648849	A6M2-N Rufe gun bays PRINT (Brassin)
648850	A6M2-N Rufe cockpit PRINT (Brassin)
648851	A6M2-N Rufe landing flaps PRINT (Brassin)
648852	A6M2-N Rufe engine complete PRINT (Brassin)
3DL48114	A6M2-N Rufe SPACE (3D Decal set)
EX969	A6M2-N Rufe national insignia (Mask)



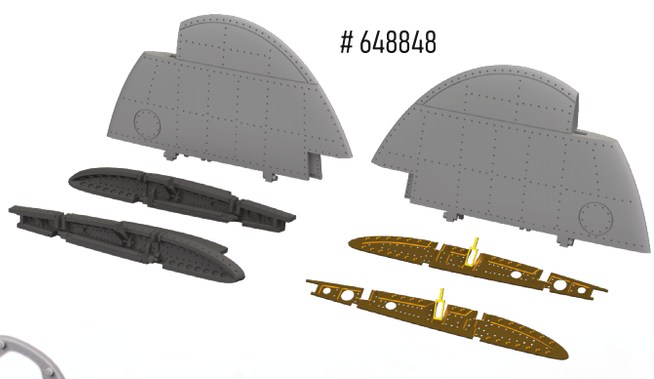
644208

648852

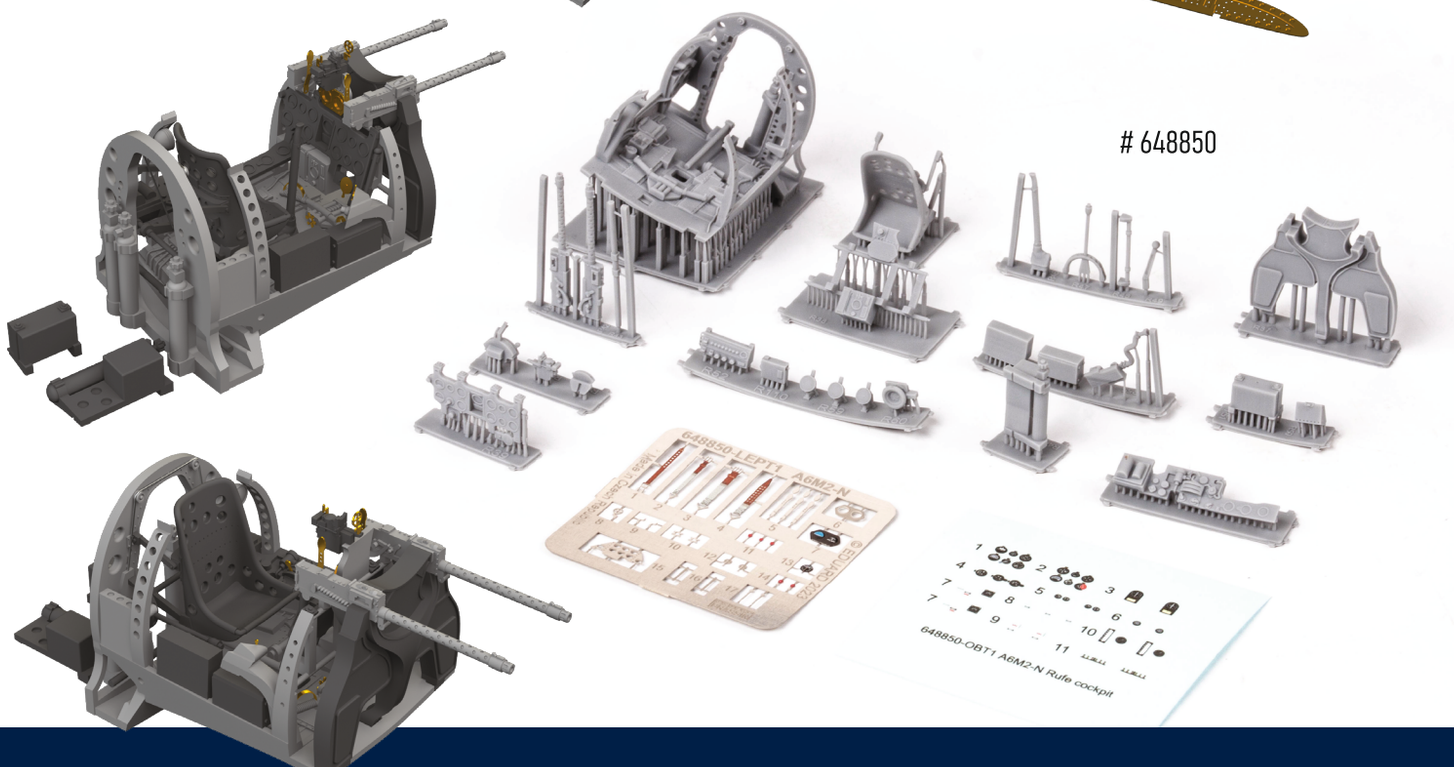




648851



648848



648850