

THE T-2C BUCKEYE KIT: The Matchbox model in 1/72nd scale

Matchbox released this little number not too long ago, and for those of us interested in such things, well, the wait was, ah, worth it. If I sound a bit hesitant, it's because I perhaps expected too much from Matchbox. I know, I should be happy that the darn thing is out in kit form (and I am), but the company could have done just a bit more.

For \$3.50 plus a bit of tax you get a small box w/ a nice cover painting and inside two sprue trees of grey & white parts and a separate tree with the two-part canopy. The decals included give you markings for some Greek jobber as well as Vt-23.

Now, there are a few things that you can do to the kit to make it a tad better...if that is your ilk:

The cockpit...heavy sigh. Matchbox made NO provision for having the canopy raised to show off the interior, hence there is no interior. The seats sort of resemble Lazy-Boy recliners & you're on your own for making/painting the instrument panels and the side consols (not even decals provided for this). Should you wish to have the canopy up, you're gonna have to add all the framing, etc. to the canopy. As to the canopy, the raised portions representing the canopy lines are over done. I would think that you'll have to sand them down and vac-form the canopy (well....you don't have to if you don't want to...it's only a suggestion).

The panel lines on the fuselage under the wings are a bit too deep as well as being inaccurate for the right side (see the detail drawings following this write-up). You also have to add a tiny flange to the speed brake doors (in the drawings, too).

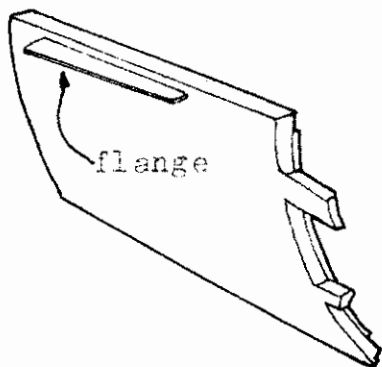
The landing gear can stand a bit of detailing as well. A few pieces of tiny diameter wire representing brake lines will spruce it up a bit and make the main gear better looking.

The plane also has a number of rectangular openings and exhausts in the area under the wings. You ought to add these, whether you paint them on, use decals to represent them, or actually drill & file them out. There are also a few more scoops in this area than Matchbox has molded on for you. Again, adding these is up to you.

Most of the Buckeyes that I've seen have beaucoup (that's French for 'a lot') stencilling on them. The decal sheet gives just a few of the obvious & prominent ones, so you'll have to rip off stencilling from other 1/72nd sheets to duplicate this feature. Further on is a stencilling diagram that'll give MORE than you wanted to know about this sort of thing.

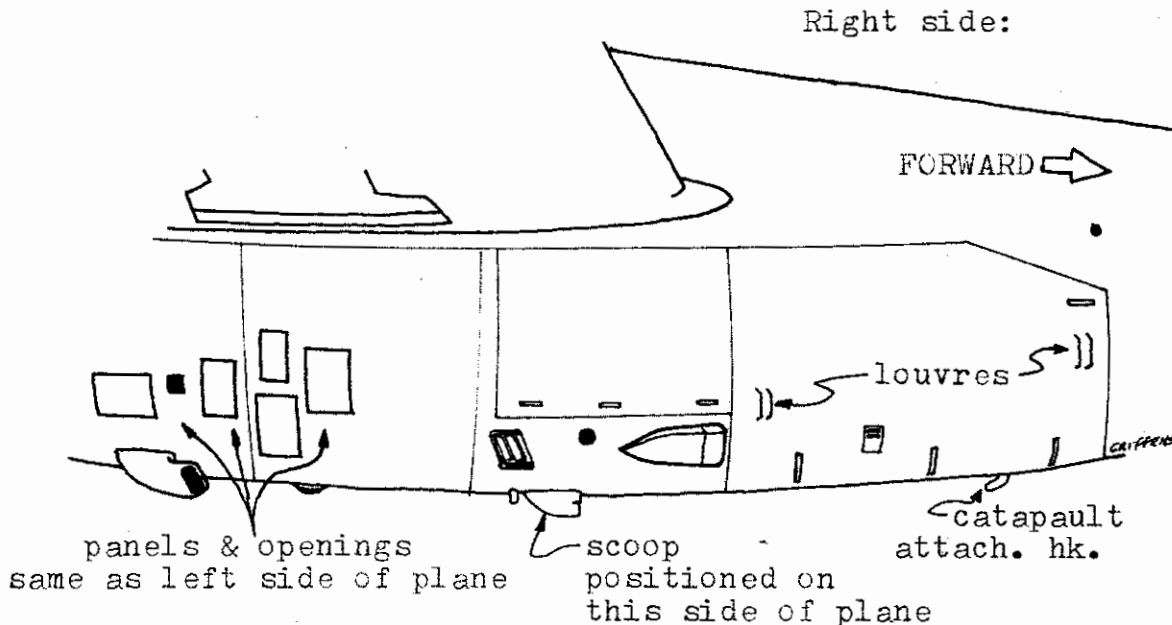
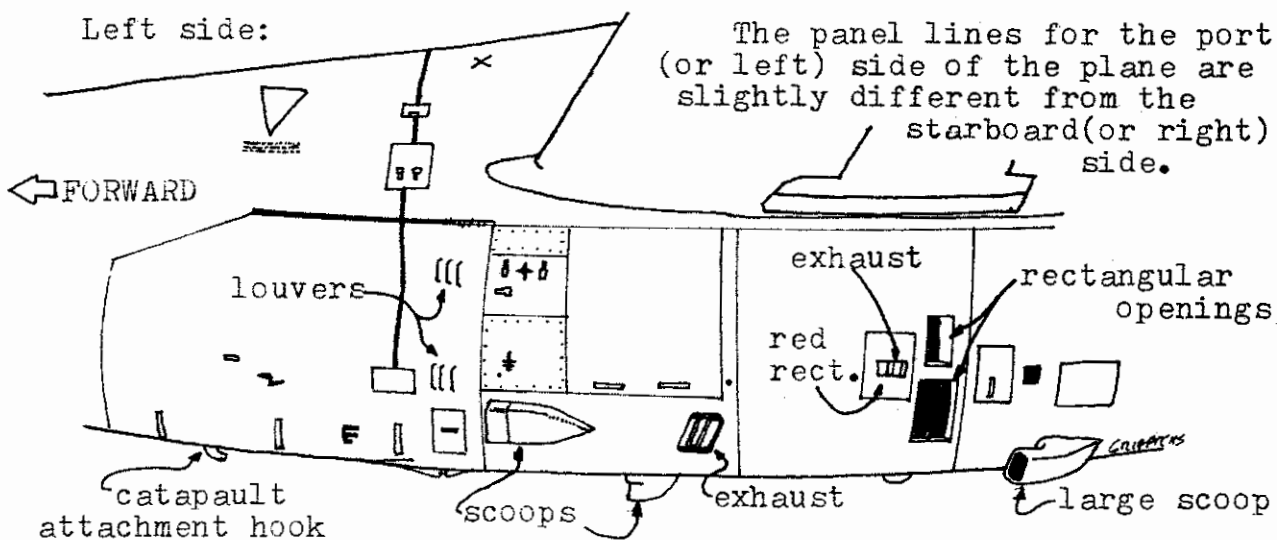
One last thing: add a bit of weight to the nose so that it will sit on its gear....the kit has a nice area for that above the nose wheel box and you don't have to worry about someone sticking a flashlight in that area and seeing the weight.

All in all, it's not a bad plane for the money, but to spruce it up will take some time and detailing, particularly in the area of the cockpit. Following this little review are detail drawings and some profiles for your enjoymeny.



SPEED BRAKE DOORS: note that the doors have a thin flange attached to them at the upper edge of the door. The flange tapers from rear to front (i.e., narrower at the forward end than the rear end...but you already figured that out...)

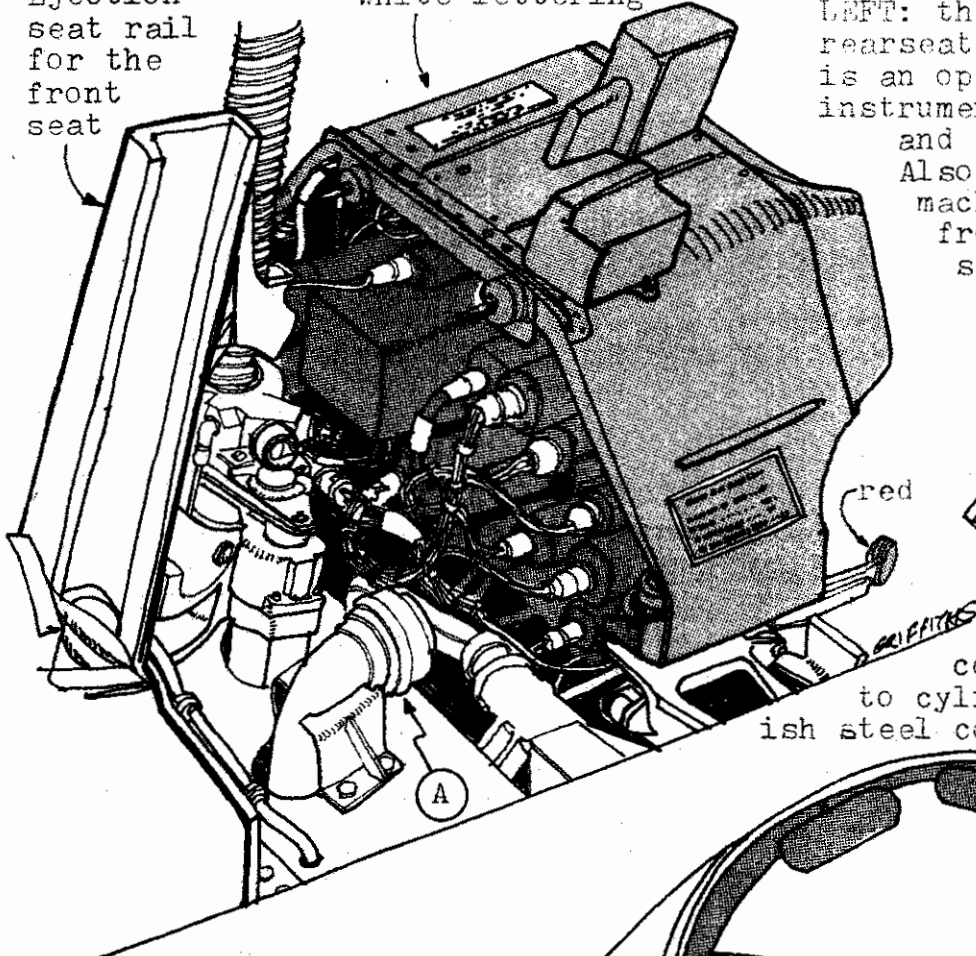
FUSELAGE PANEL DETAILS



Ejection seat rail for the front seat

red rectangle w/ white lettering

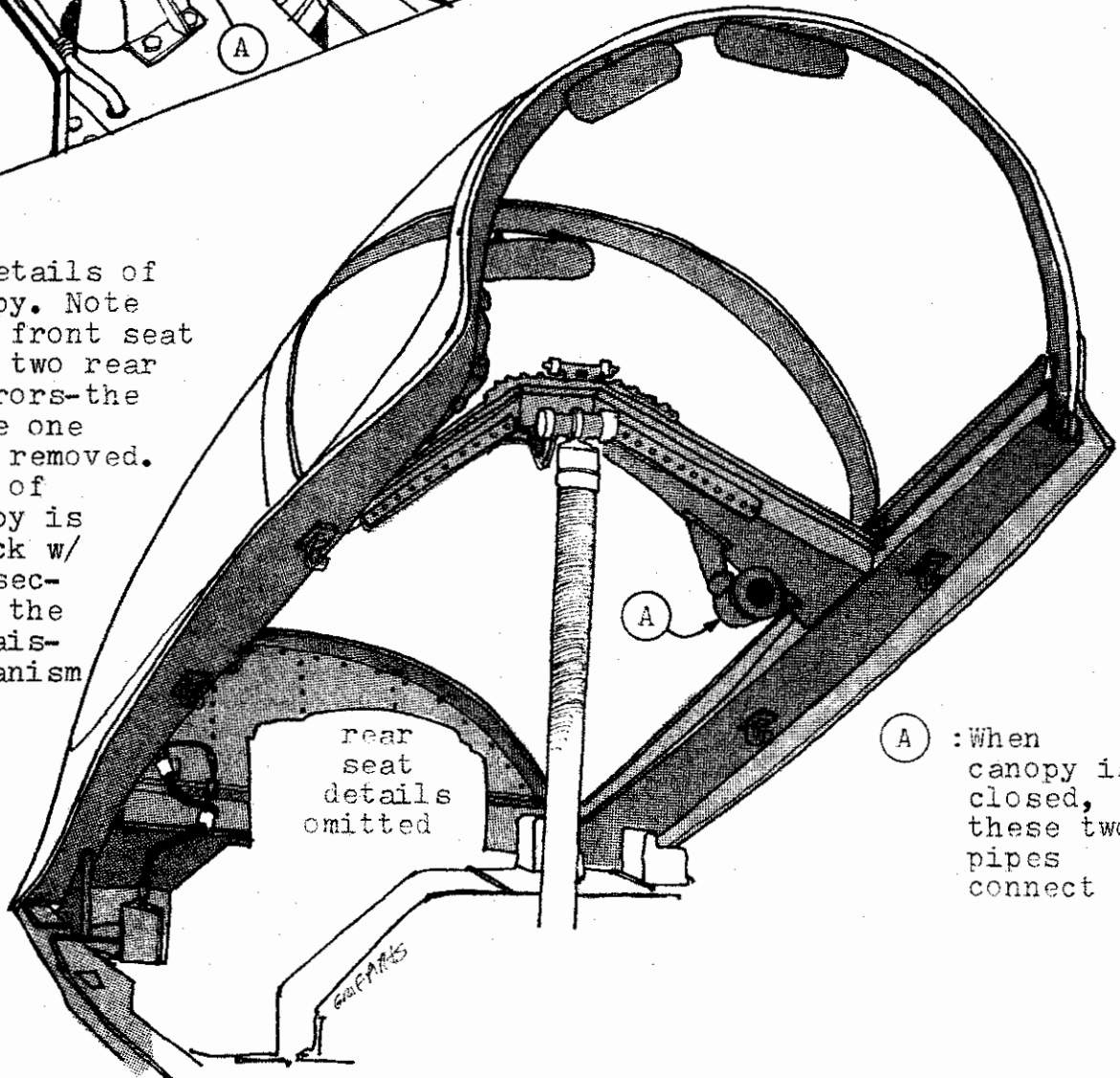
LEFT: the backside of the rear seat instrument console is an open plethora of instrument cylinders & boxes and a maze of wiring. Also note the complicated machinery behind the front seat ejection seat: part of it is equipment for the canopy piston, which is a finely threaded tube. The console is black as are the



red ← FORWARD

instrument boxes and cylinders; wiring is light grey. connectors for wiring to cylinders are a copperish steel color.

RIGHT: Details of the canopy. Note that the front seat has only two rear view mirrors-the left side one has been removed. Interior of the canopy is flat black w/ various sections of the canopy raising mechanism in shiny silver.

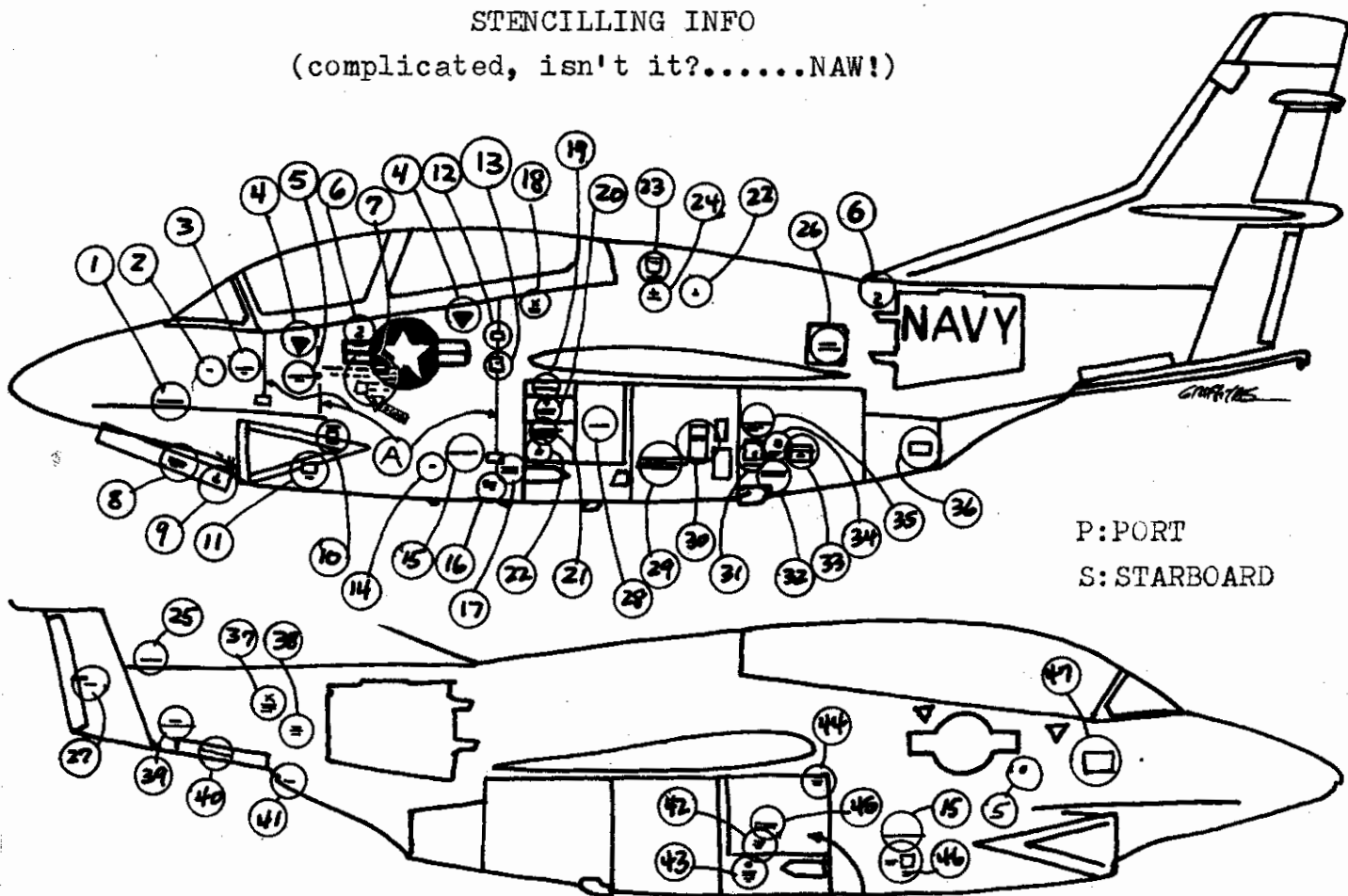


rear seat details omitted

(A) : When canopy is closed, these two pipes connect

STENCILLING INFO

(complicated, isn't it?.....NAW!)





P: PORT
S: STARBOARD

(A) indicates thin black lines

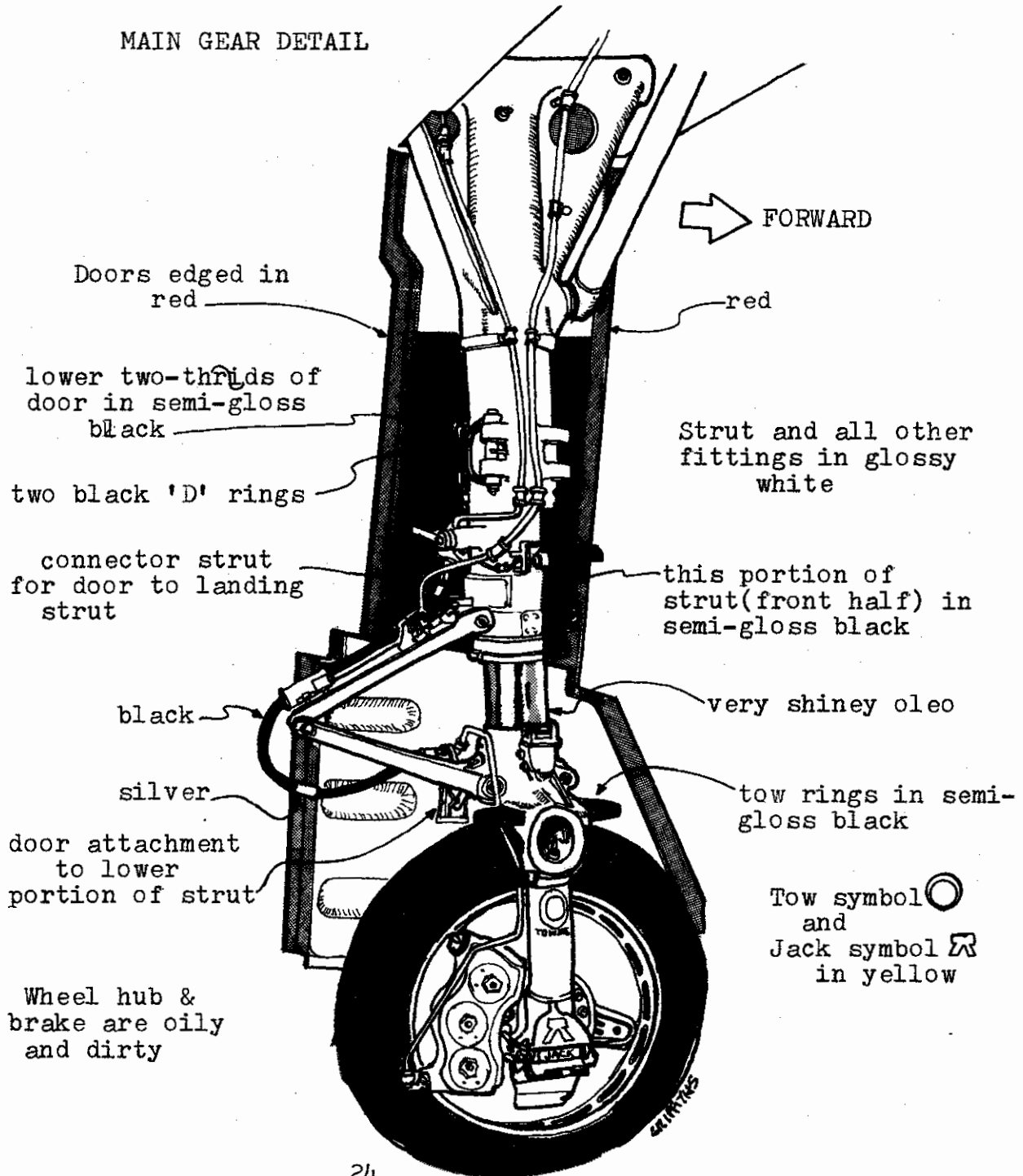
NOTE: panel lines on strbrd side DIFFERENT from port side here

(slashes in stencil descriptions indicate end of line of lettering)

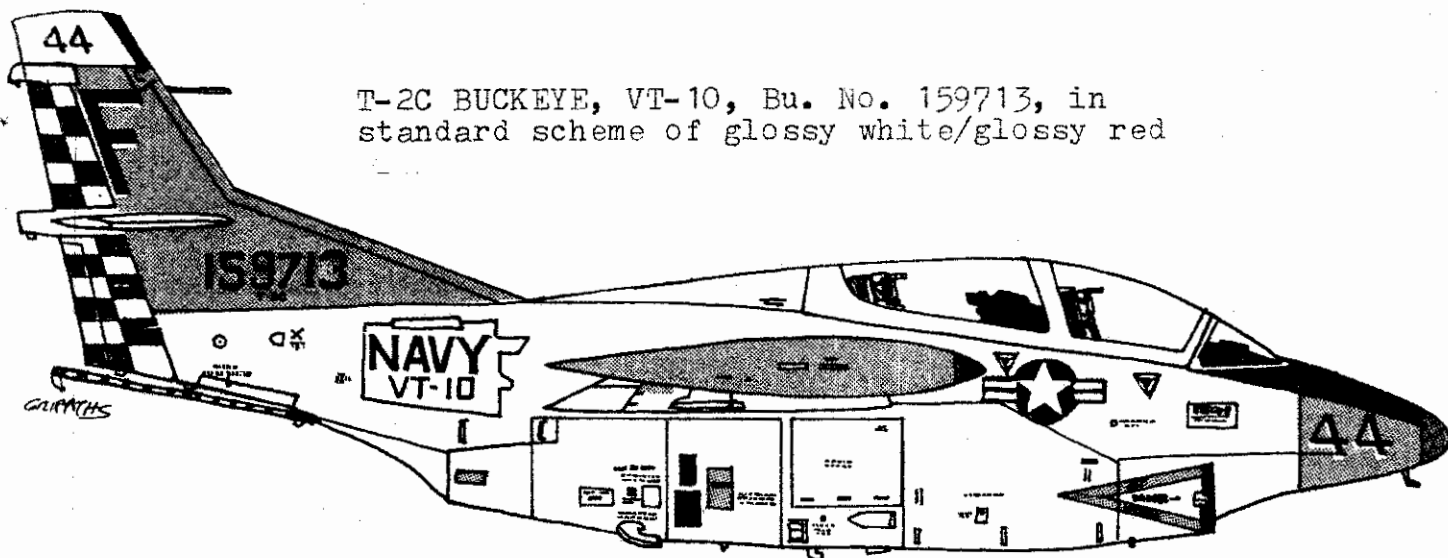
- 1) ? compartment/level frd ? (P) 2) Level(P)
- 3) First Aid Kit/Inside(in red)(P) 4) red ejection triangle w/ writing
- 5) Inst. static opening/do not cover(P&S) 6) symbol for hook P (P&S)
- 7) instructions for emergency release(P) 8) tire pressure/carrier 175 psi/land 75 psi(P)
- 9) picketing symbol ⚓ in yellow(P) 10)  rectangle in yellow(P)
- 11) step(P) 12) grip(P) 13) ground/pressure/test 14)  battery/inspection (P)
- 15) equipment compartment(P&S)
- 16) **F** servicing & starting(P)
- 17) Ext. Elec. start/& utility recep.(P)
- 18) **X** Max Air Pressure/2 lines unreadable lettering(P)
- 19) Fuel Filler(P) 20) **+** Refueling/Nato Code/ 4 lines unreadable
- 21) ground here(P) 23) fuel filler/387 US gallons(P)
- 24) refueling/nato code/E-40 ashore/F-41 afloat(P)
- 25) control access(S) 26) 2 lines unreadable(P)
- 27) trim tab(S) 28) engine comp/insp. access(P&S)
- 29) Raise landing gear door before/opening engine access. Engine/ access to be fully open or fully/closed during engine operation(P+S)
- 30) red rectangle w/ white words: beware/of blast(P&S)

- 31) use oil/MIL-L-23099(in red)(P&S)
- 32) Engine access to/be closed/during operation(P&S)
- 33) Fire Access(in red(P&S) 34) engine oil ?/Nato code/?(P&S)
- 35) J85 oil filler/service this aircraft/with MIL-L-23099(P&S)
- 36) red rectangle with white words BEWARE OF BLAST(P&S)
- 37) X Max air pressure/Arr. gear ?/800 psi ? (S)
- 38) Aft/fuselage/access(S)
- 39) Danger Arresting Hook(in red)(P&S)
- 40) arresting gear mech.(S) 41) Moor(S) 42) HYD/ground/test(S)
- 43) ● blk. circle w/ 4 lines unreadable lettering
- 44) Sump drain(S) 45) see (28)(P&S) 46) oxygen filler
- 47) yellow rectangle w: RESCUE/emergency entrance/control on other side(S)

MAIN GEAR DETAIL

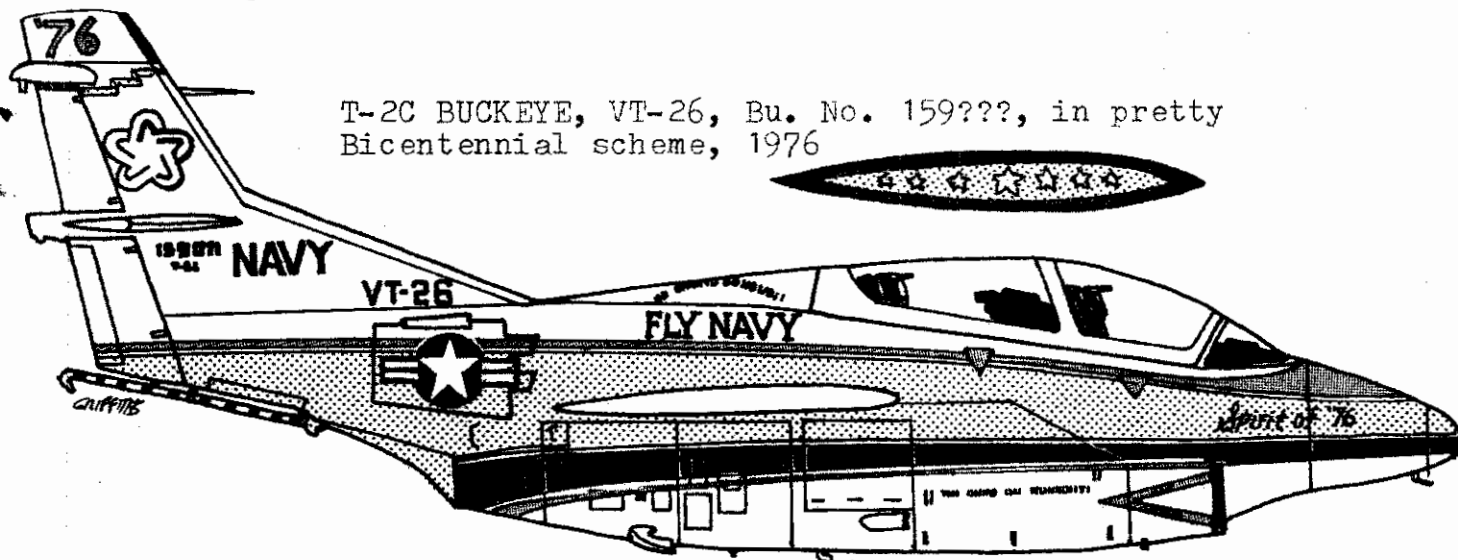


T-2C BUCKEYE, VT-10, Bu. No. 159713, in standard scheme of glossy white/glossy red



Note that '44' on tail and nose lean backwards; '44' on nose shadow-edged in white. 'F' on tail leans rearward also and is shadow-edged in white. Rudders in checkerboard of blk. & white. Intake chevron red w/ white lettering; intake lip in flt. blk. Anti-glare panel in black and has the tiniest sheen to it; radome in a faded brownish-grey color(very flat). '44' on flaps and under wing ahead of port gear door. A/c profusely stencilled.

T-2C BUCKEYE, VT-26, Bu. No. 159???, in pretty Bicentennial scheme, 1976

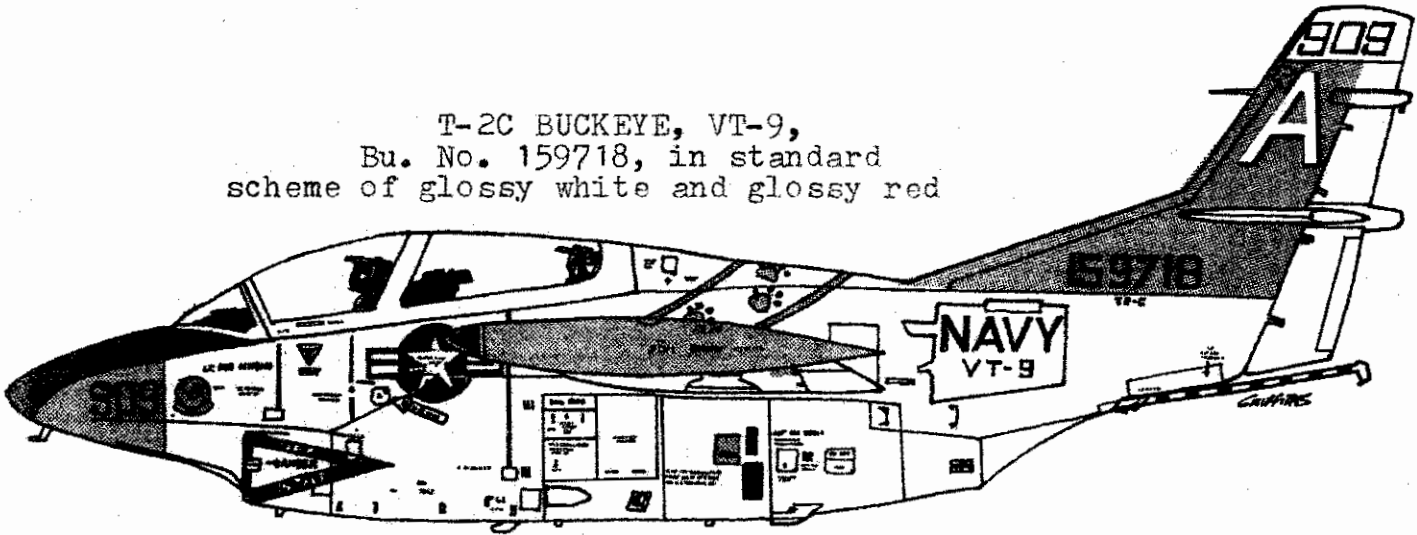


The plane is in basic white(upper & lower wings, tail, stabilizers, canopy, etc.) with a nice scheme of red and blue stripes. Top stripe is bright red, then there's a thin cheat stripe of white, then a large wide stripe of light blue(powder blue?), another thin cheat stripe of white, a stripe of dark blue, another thin white stripe and the bottom stripe is red again. Note how drk. blue and bottom red stripes flare out at exhaust. 'SPIRIT OF '76' in black script; 'FLY NAVY' in fancy serif lettering; there's a semi-circle of blk. lettering above 'Fly Navy'(sorry:it's unreadable) and a line of lettering behind intake chevron(again, unreadable). '76' on tail top in solid red. Star emblem on middle of tail in red, white, and blue. Pale blue banner above star design on tail. Wing tanks all flat black except for pale blue ellipse w/ 7 stars:middle star largest, stars decrease in size as they move forward & backward. Star & bar in normal four

(Bicentennial Buckeye-cont.)

locations. 'NAVY' and 'VT-26' in black. Blk. & white. tail-hook. Red intake chevron /w blk. intake lip. Ejection triangles in red. A/c appears to have little or no maintenance stencilling on it. Walkways in flt. blk.

T-2C BUCKEYE, VT-9,
Bu. No. 159718, in standard
scheme of glossy white and glossy red



Note that '909' on tail leans backwards. '909' on nose in standard numbers. Unit insignia on both sides of nose below windscreen: it's a circle of yellow and medium blue with the squad name below. 'A' on tail in white and it leans backward; note black shadow-edging. A/c has a design on the upper spine: banner is two lines of glossy red edged in black with three bear paws in solid red tracking up the side. The banner makes a rounded turn on the fuselage top and heads down other side with the bear paw marks in mirror image. All other markings & stencillings in black. Star and bar in the normal four locations. Wing tanks have flat black inner sides and glossy red out sides (standard). Several lines of stencilling on tanks. Intake chevron in red w/ intake lip in flat black. A/c heavily stencilled.