## 1/72 Scale Plastic Model Kit



#### WEEKEND edition

No other aircraft is as intimately connected with the rise and fall of the German Luftwaffe in the course of the WWII as the Messerschmitt Bf 109. A very progressive design at the time of its invention, it had plenty of room for further development.

The history of the Bf 109 begins with the requirement L.A. 1432/33 issued by Reich Ministry of Aviation (RLM) in late March 1933. It called for the development of a single-engined monoplane fighter. Proposals were submitted by Arado, Heinkel, Focke -Wulf and Bayerische Flugzeugwerke. The design bureau of the last-mentioned company was led by its technical director Willy Messerschmitt, who was riding a wave of popularity based on the success of his liaison aircraft, the Bf 108. Messerschmitt's goal was to create an aircraft with the best possible performance for the specified weight and size. Over the following months, several prototypes were built that served first and foremost in development flights and further modifications. The aircraft was relatively small, and compared to the prevailing trends of the time, sported several quite revolutionary features such as low wing design, retractable landing gear, wing with a thin airfoil, wing slats, landing flaps, weapons firing through the propeller hub, and so on. Even the enclosed cockpit and [the method of] (not needed) the airframe structure design were not usual just four years prior to the beginning of the Second World War. At its conception, the Bf 109 was a very promising asset despite some powerplant troubles. These were solved by the introduction of the DB 601. This engine, together with its extrapolated development DB 605, is umbilically connected to the success of the Bf 109.

#### From Spanish War to the Reich Defence

The first combat use of Bf 109 occurred during Spanish Civil War, where three developmental Bf 109s were deployed in December 1936. The main reason of revealing the modern fighter to the world was quite down-to-earth: To validate its abilities in modern aerial combat. Shortly thereafter, production aircraft in the form of the Bf 109B-1 began to reach 2.J/88, the Legion Condor. The desire of Germany to demonstrate its aerial prowess to potential foes was advanced further in international sport meets. The triumph attained in Zurich in the summer of 1937 was complemented several months later by grabbing the speed record of 379.63 mph (610.95 km/h). In very short order, the progressive developments represented by the C, D and E versions appeared.

Despite this, the delivery of the aircraft to combat units did not sustain the rate desired by military brass. Even by August 1938 the Bf 109 accounted for less than half of the 643 front line fighters in service. The next months saw an increase in these rates. By the time of the invasion of Poland (which saw the participation of only a little more than 200 aircraft) the Luftwaffe possessed the best fighter produced in continental Europe. So the fighter wing of the Luftwaffe entered the Polish campaign, the Blitzkrieg against the West, and the Battle for France with both a qualitative and quantitative advantage. With one foot in the door that was

the English Channel, the Luftwaffe embarked on the attacks on Britain in the summer months of 1940. Here, the first weakness of the Bf 109 emerged: The inability to carry drop tanks that would have enabled the type to effectively escort bombers to England. Experience gained in 1940 led to the development of the F version prior to the spring of 1941. The elegance of the Bf 109 crested with the "Friedrich". Following a largely defensive stance over the Channel and northern France, the Bf 109F took on a more offensive role in Operation Barbarossa in the east, and in northern Africa. In later duties with the "Jagdwaffe" during the second phase of the war in the east, and in the "Defence of the Reich" from 1943 to 1945, the Bf 109s served in the form of the G version, followed by the K. Even if it was clear that the development of the Bf 109 had reached its limits by the end of the war, the aircraft was still able to keep pace with the foes that it encountered. Besides its primary purpose as a fighter, the Bf 109 also appeared as a fighter-bomber, reconnaissance platform, night fighter, trainer and rammjäger.

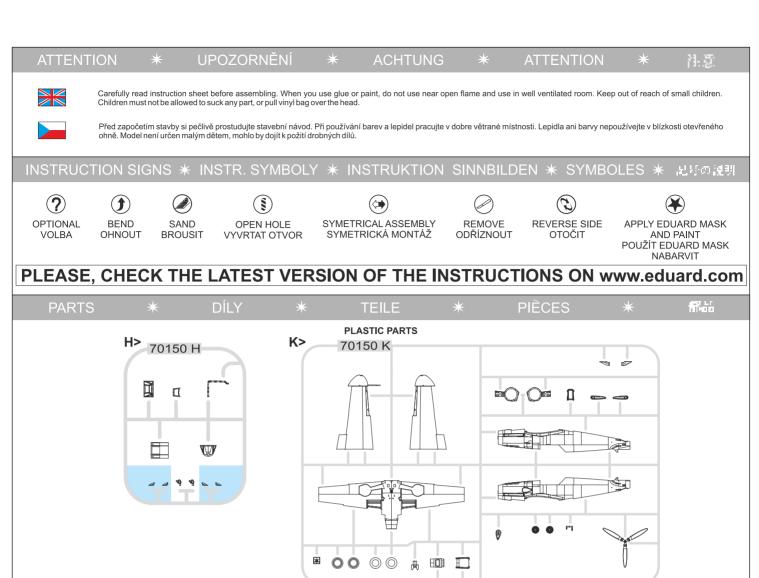
#### Postwar service

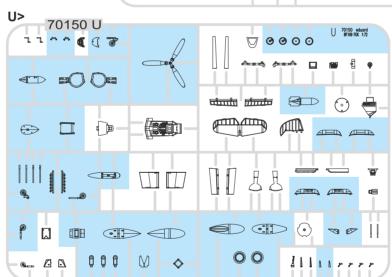
The disappearance of the Bf 109 from the skies over Europe was not spelled out by the end of the war. Several examples stayed in Swiss service up to 1949 and many flew in the air force of Czechoslovakia in both original form with a DB 605 powerplant and as an aircraft built out of necessity with surplus Jumo 211s. The latter type also served as the first fighter to fight for the independence of the newly formed state of Israel. Finland retired the type as recently as 1954, and Spain did not retire their HA-1109-1112, re-engined Bf 109s, until 1967.

#### The kit: Bf 109F-2

The Bf 109F series (Friedrich) was a major improvement of the Bf 109E. There were numerous aerodynamical changes, giving the Bf 109 the shape, which was close to the "definitive" appearance. The engine cowling was completely redesigned and was more rounded and streamlined. The spinner was larger, and its shape transitioned smoothly into the line of the front fuselage.

The oil cooler radiator below the nose was also streamlined. The wing lost its typical rectangle shape as a new rounded wingtips were developed. The armament was also revised and consisted of two .312 in (7.92 mm) MG 17 machine guns mounted on top of the engine and one 15 mm MG 151 cannon firing through the propeller spindle. The new aircraft was well received as it was the best handling Bf 109 of them all according to many pilots. The F-2 version was using VDM 9-11207 propeller driven by the DB 601N engine. The first Bf 109F-2s arrived in October 1940 and the production ran until August 1941. During that period some 1,230 of the Bf 109F-2 were produced.



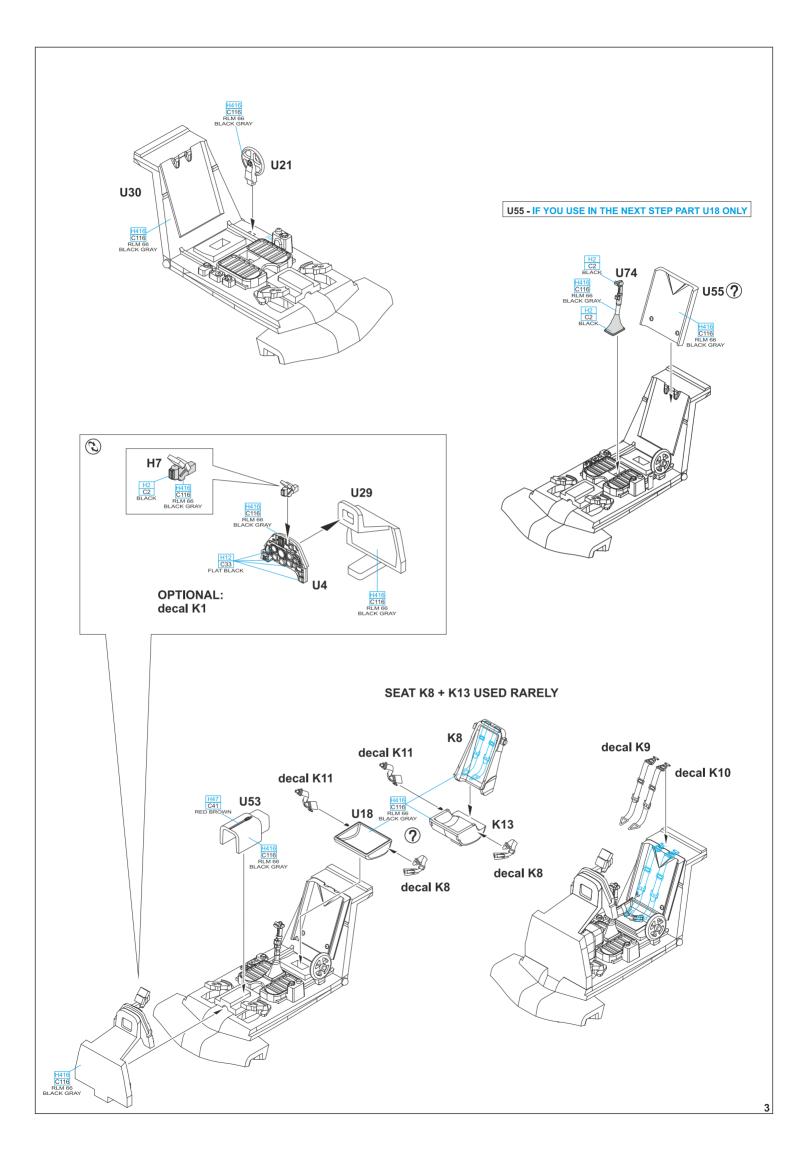


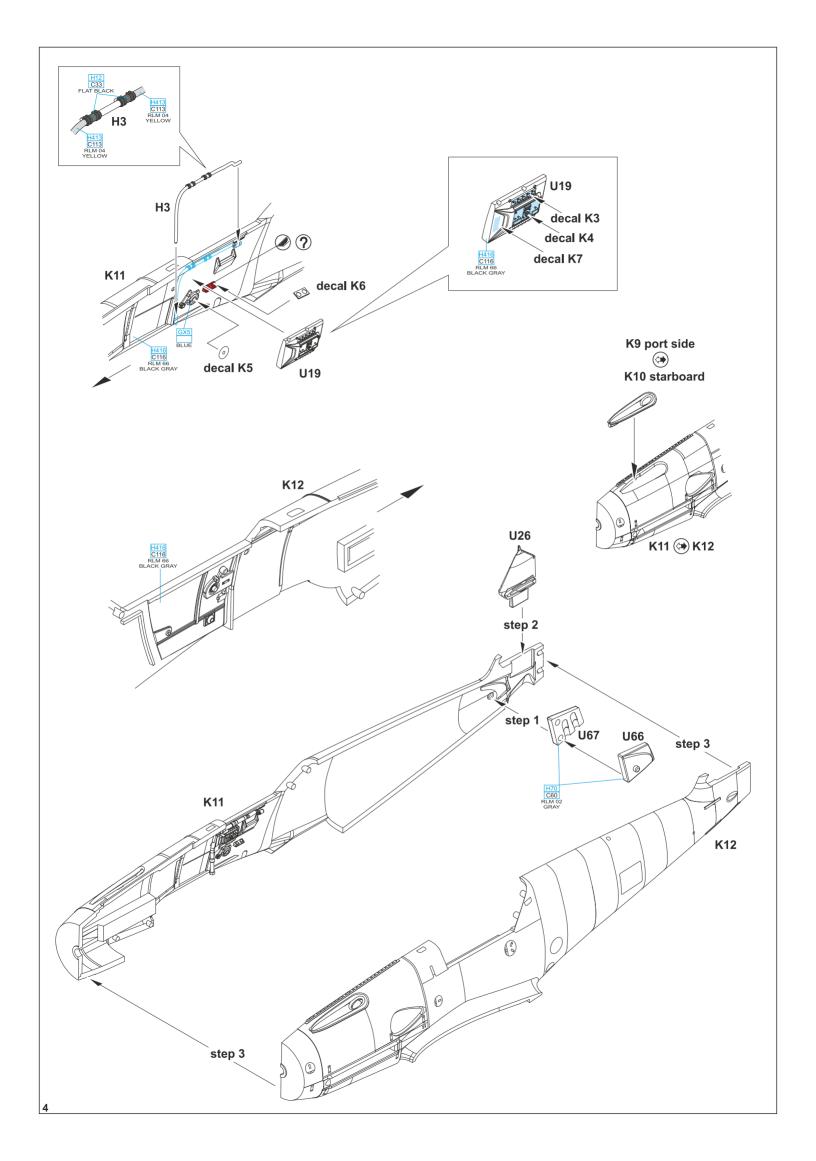
COLOURS \* BARVY \* FARBEN \* PEINTURE \* 色

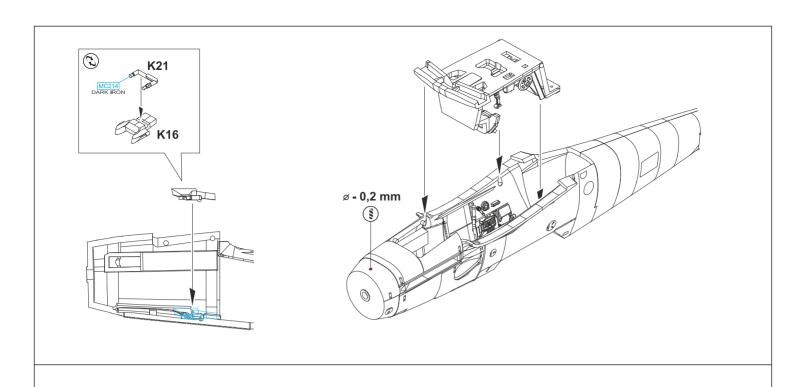
| GSi Creos (GUNZE) |          |                   |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------|
| AQUEOUS           | Mr.COLOR |                   |
| H2                | C2       | BLACK             |
| H11               | C62      | FLAT WHITE        |
| H12               | C33      | FLAT BLACK        |
| H47               | C41      | RED BROWN         |
| H64               | C17      | RLM71 DARK GREEN  |
| H65               | C18      | RLM70 BLACK GREEN |
| H68               | C36      | RLM74 DARK GRAY   |
| H69               | C37      | RLM75 GRAY        |
| H70               | C60      | RLM02 GRAY        |
| H77               | C137     | TIRE BLACK        |
| H90               | C47      | CLEAR RED         |
| H94               | C138     | CLEAR GREEN       |

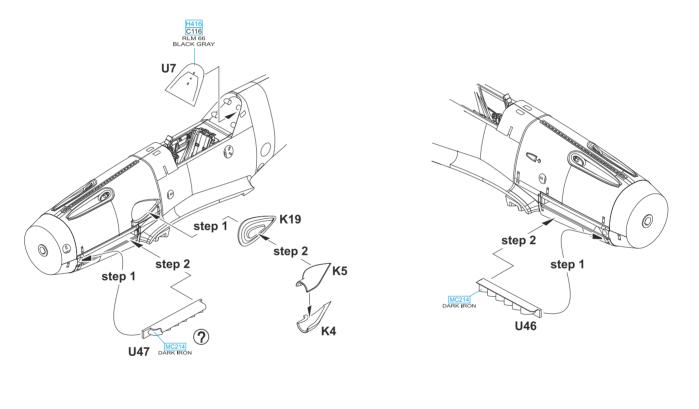
-Parts not for use. -Teile werden nicht verwendet. -Pièces à ne pas utiliser. -Tyto díly nepoužívejte při stavbě. -

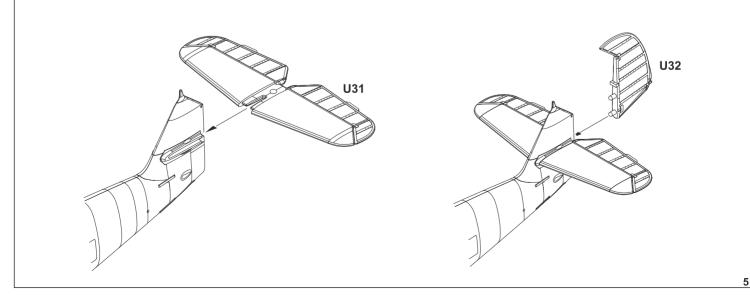
| GSi Creos (GUNZE)       |          | ]                 |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| AQUEOUS                 | Mr.COLOR |                   |
| H413                    | C113     | RLM04 YELLOW      |
| H414                    | C114     | RLM23 RED         |
| H416                    | C116     | RLM66 BLACK GRAY  |
| H417                    | C117     | RLM76 LIGHT BLUE  |
| Mr.METAL COLOR          |          |                   |
| MC214                   |          | DARK IRON         |
| MC219                   |          | BRASS             |
| Mr.COLOR SUPER METALLIC |          |                   |
| SM201                   |          | SUPER FINE SILVER |
| Mr.COLOR GX             |          |                   |
| GX05                    |          | SUSIE BLUE        |

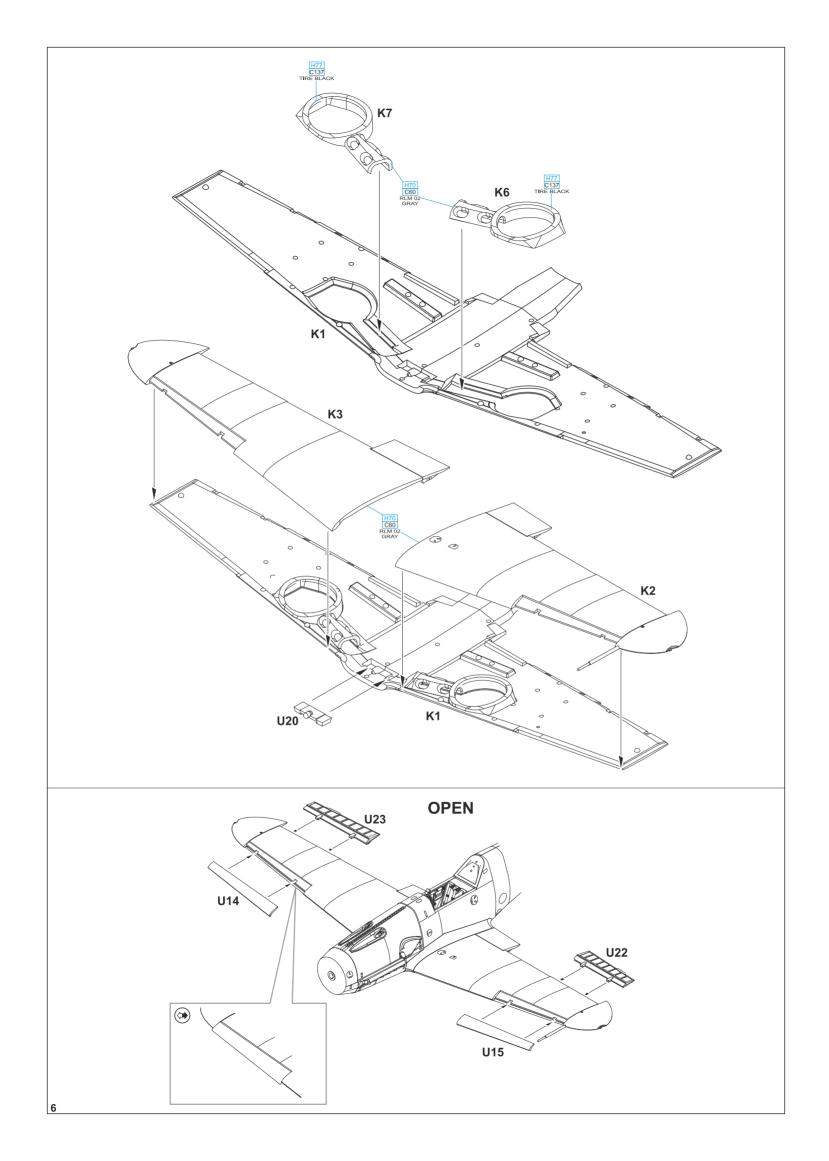


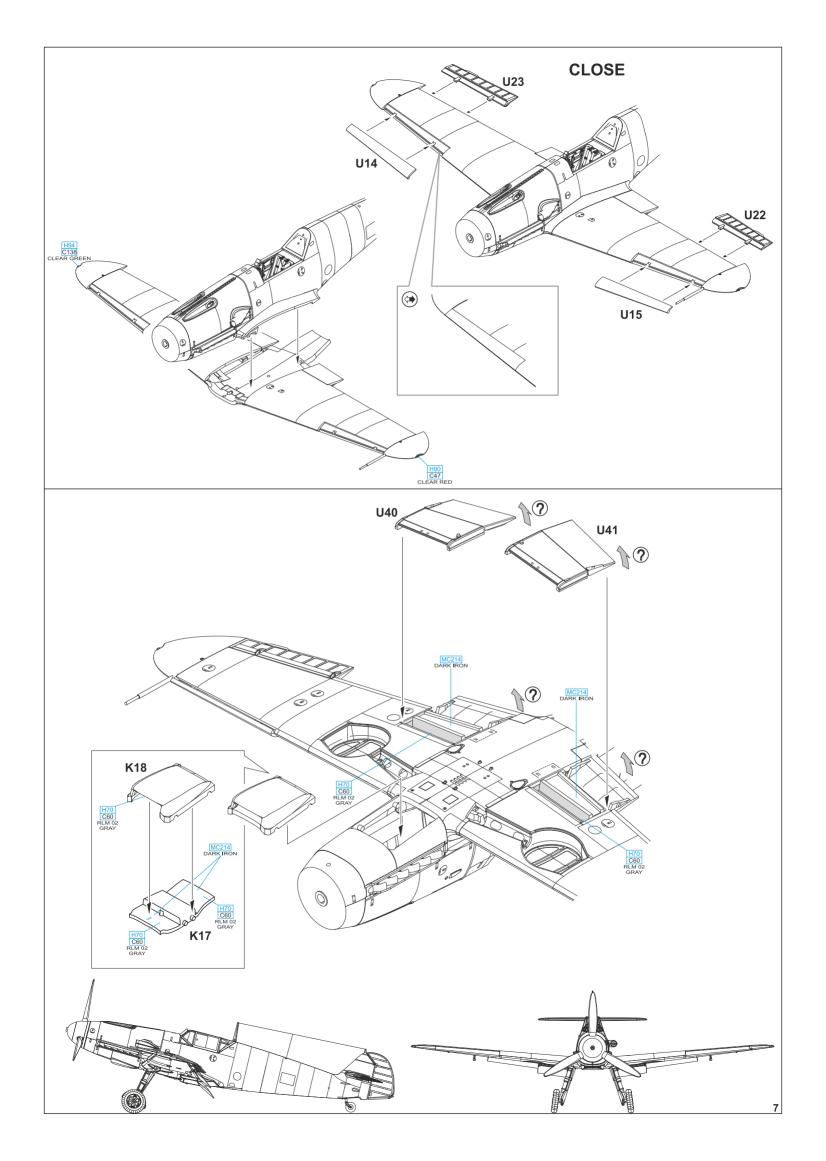


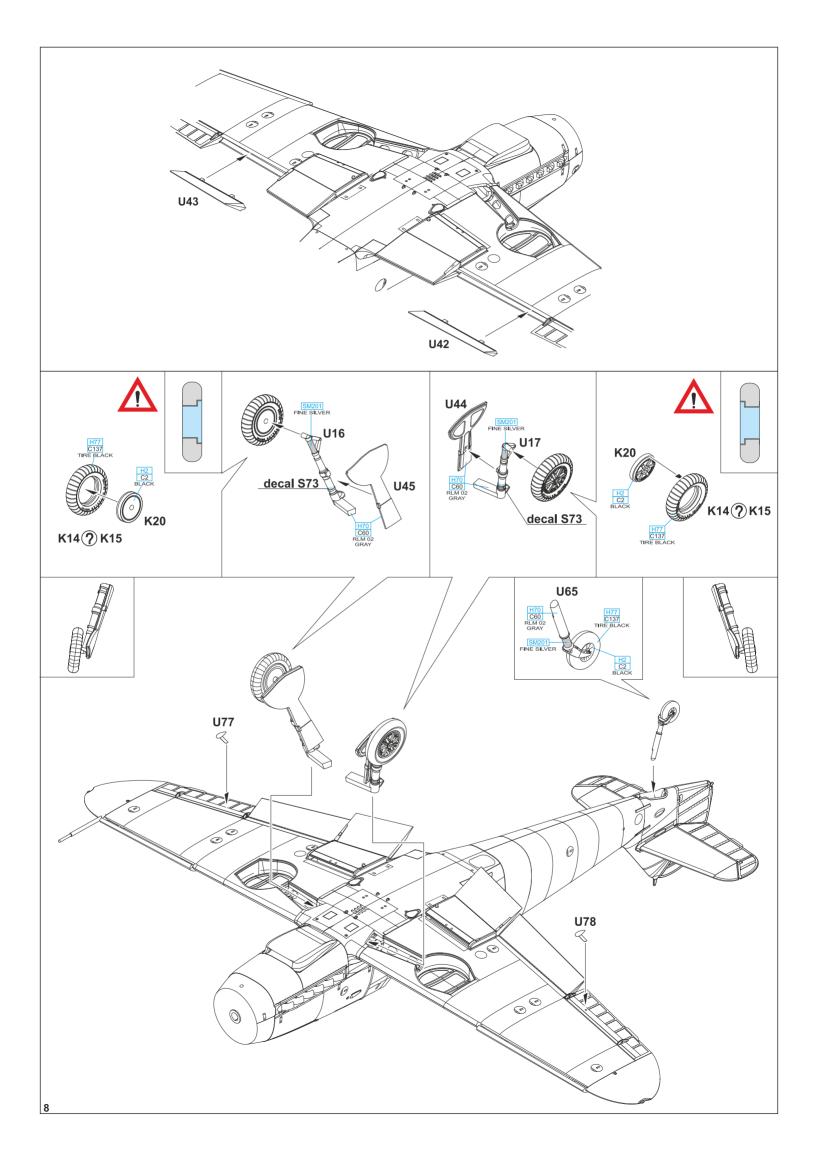


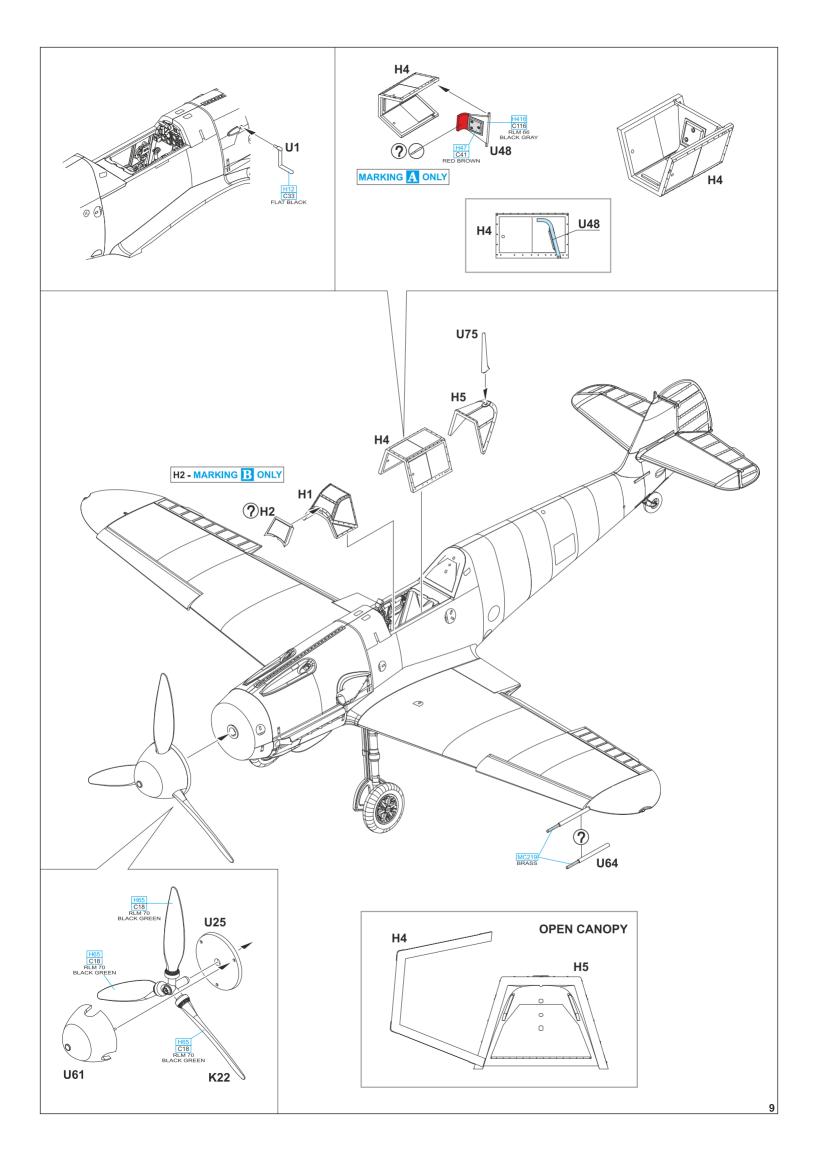






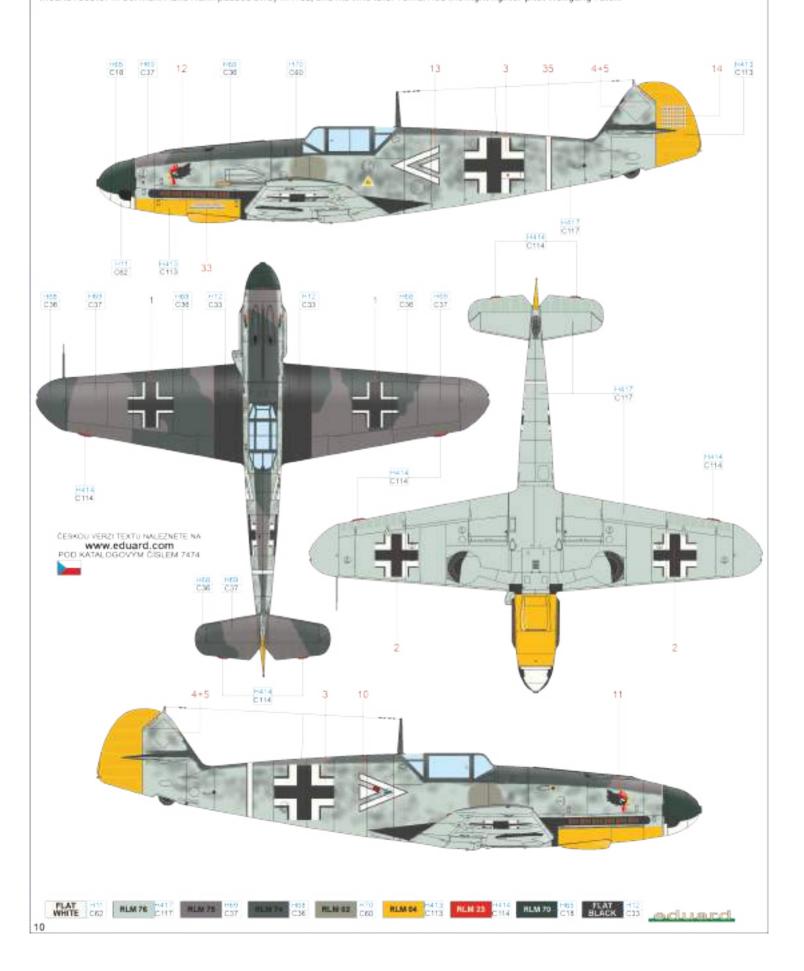






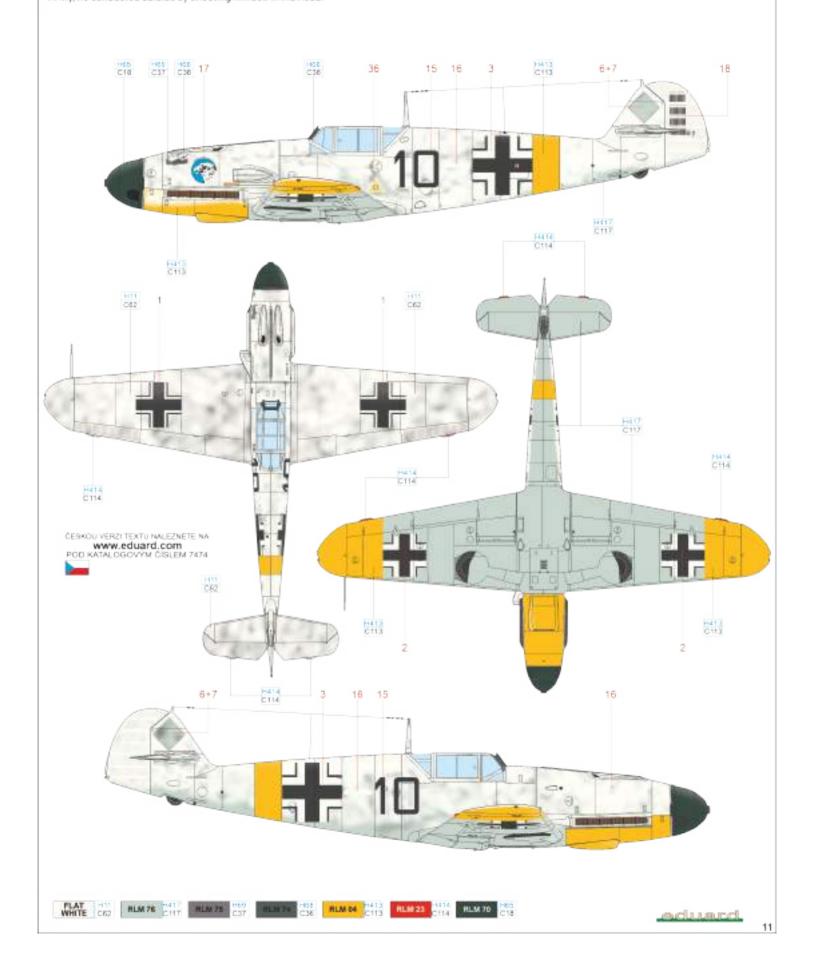
## A Hptm. Hans Hahn, CO of III./JG 2, Saint-Pol-sur-Ternoise, France, July 1941

Hans "Assi" Hahn, a fighter ace and recipient of the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves, led the 4./JG 2 from December 1939 and the III./JG 2 from October 29, 1940. A total of 31 victory symbols on the tail of his aircraft were tied to Hahn's operations on the Western Front. His 31st victory was achieved on July 10, 1941, near Saint-Omer, when he shot down two Spitfires. Beginning on November 1, 1942, he took command of II./JG 54 and led this Gruppe until February 21, 1943, when he was shot down and captured by Soviet forces. Hahn was not released from captivity until 1950, during which he wrote a book about his experiences in prison titled lich spreche die Wahrheit! () speak the truth!). Before his capture, he achieved 108 victories, 66 of which were on the Western Front. The rooster's head painted on his aircraft symbolized the III. Gruppe JG 2's staff planes and was derived from Hahn's surname, as "Hahn" means rooster in German. Hans Hahn passed away in 1982, and his wife later remarried the night fighter pilot Wolfgang Falck.



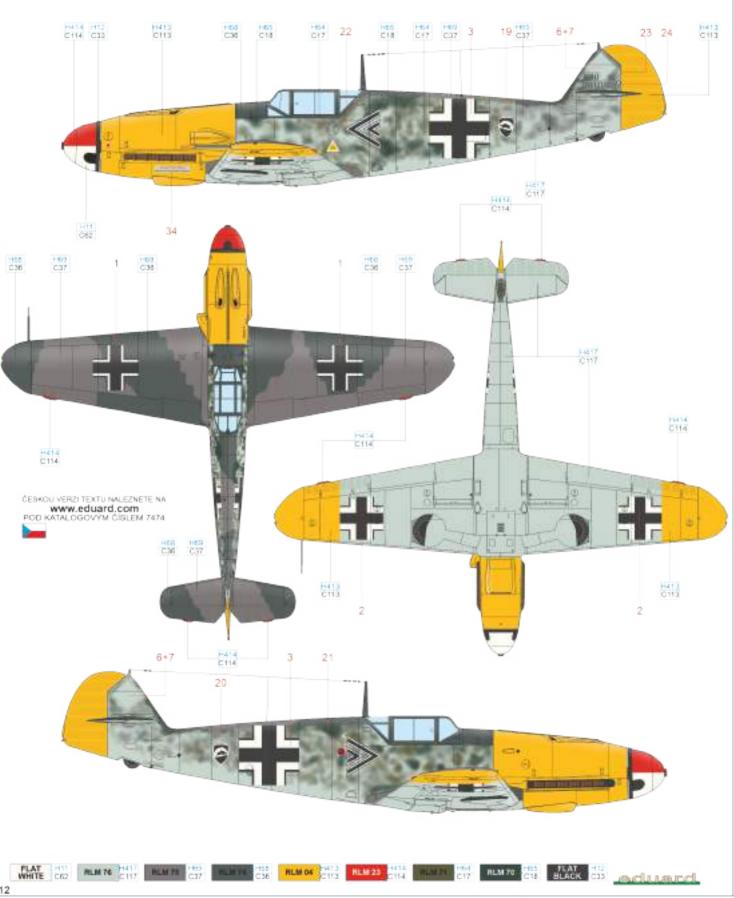
## WNr. 8239, Lt. Hans Strelow, 5./JG 51, Bryansk, the Soviet Union, March 1942

Hans Strelow was born on March 26, 1922, in Berlin. In 1939, he voluntarily joined the Luftwaffe. After completing training in February 1941, he was assigned to 5./JG 51. From the start of Operation Barbarossa, he flew on the Eastern Front. He achieved his first aerial victory on June 25, 1941. In January 1942, he was appointed Staffelkapitän of 5./JG 51. On March 24, 1942, he became the youngest recipient of the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves. His Black 10 was painted with white on the upper surfaces during the winter period. The JG 51 insignia was displayed on both sides of the nose. The yellow band behind the cross and the yellow wingtips were identification markings used on the Eastern Front. The victories he achieved were marked on the left side of the tail. On May 22, 1942, Hans Strelow was shot down by a Pe-2 crew and forced to make an emergency landing behind Soviet lines. Fearing capture by the Red Army, he conducted suicide by shooting himself in his head.



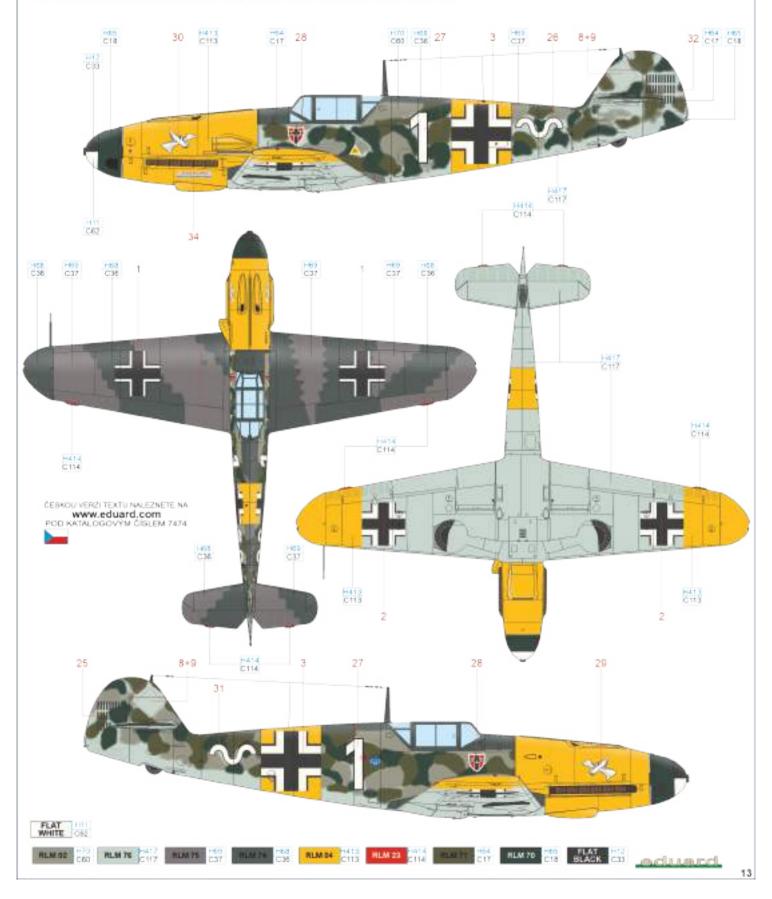
## C WNr. 8165, Hptm. Karl-Heinz Leesmann, CO of I./JG 52, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, June 1941

Karl-Heinz Leesmann was born on May 3, 1915, in Osnabrück. After completing pilot training with the Luftwaffe, he participated in the French campaign and the Battle of Britain as a member of JG 52. On August 27, 1940, he was appointed Staffelkapitän of 3/JG 52. On May 24, 1941, he became Gruppenkommandeur of I./JG 52. His WNr. 8165 aircraft displayed victories achieved on the Western Front on the port side of the fin below the swastika. Before Operation Barbarossa, I./JG 52 was transferred to the Eastern Front. On November 6, 1941, during combat with Soviet aircraft, Leesmann made an emergency landing near Ruza with a shattered right forearm. After a long hospitalization and recovery, he returned to 1./JG 52 in May 1942. In March 1943, he transferred to III./JG 11. On July 25, 1943, while flying a Bf 1090-6, he was shot down during an attack on a B-17 over the North Sea near Heligoland. His body was washed ashore on August 16, 1943, and he was buried in Recklinghausen.



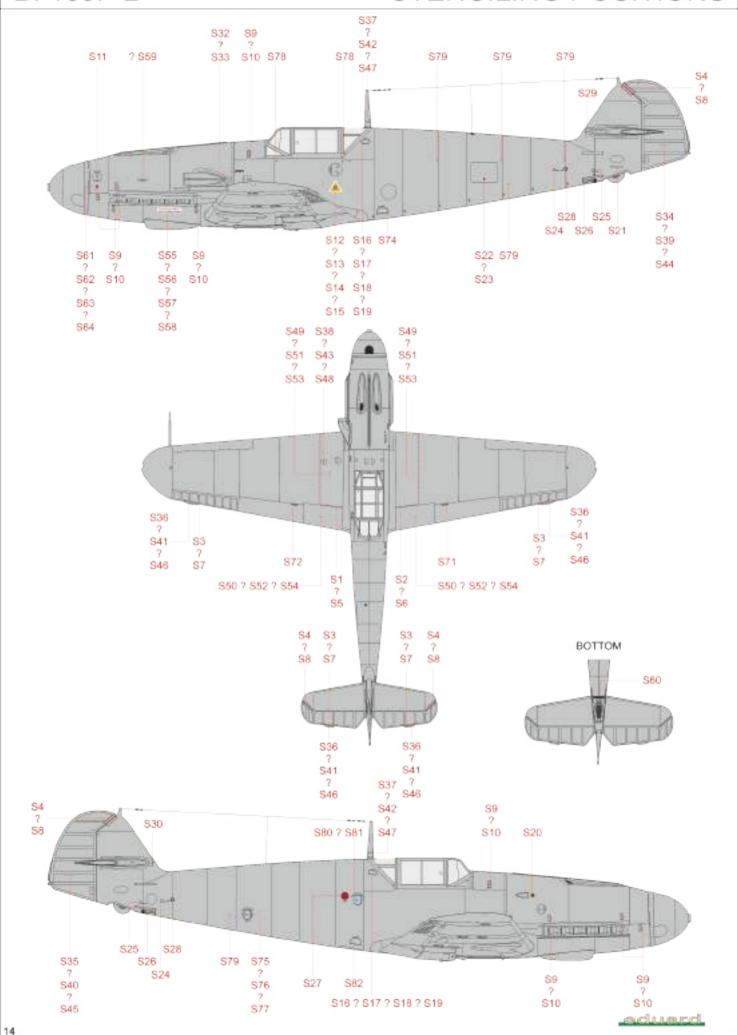
#### Lt. Max-Hellmuth Ostermann, 7./JG 54, Dugino, the Soviet Union, September 1941

Max-Hellmuth Ostermann was born on December 11, 1917, in Hamburg. In 1937, he joined the Luftwaffe and became a pilot. His first unit was I/ZG 1, flying the Bf 110s, and he participated in the invasion of Poland. Before the start of the French campaign, on April 7, 1940, he was transferred to I./JG 21. On May 20, 1940, he recorded his first aerial victory. After moving to the English Channel coast, I./JG 21 was renamed III./JG 54, and in April 1941, the unit saw combat in Yugoslavia. Ostermann achieved his ninth victory on April 6, 1941, over Belgrade, shooting down a Bf 109E-3 flown by Karl Štrbenek, who was killed in action. During the early stages of Operation Barbarossa, on June 23, 1941, he shot down two SB-2 bombers. By early September 1941, his aircraft, White 1, bore 25 victory markings on its tail. The sides of the fuselage were darkened with spots of RLM 02, 74, and 70 paints. The nose displayed the insignia of 7./JG 54, and below the windshield was the emblem of III./JG 54. In November 1941, Ostermann was transferred to 1./JG 54, and in March 1942, he assumed command of 8./JG 54. On May 12, 1942, Ostermann became the second pilot in JG 54 to achieve 100 victories. During this engagement, he was severely wounded but managed to return to his home airfield. His luck ran out on August 9, 1942, during a confrontation with P-40s. After scoring one victory, a group of LaGG-3 fighters emerged from the clouds. Ostermann's Bf 109G-2 was hit in the cockpit and crashed behind Soviet lines near Lake Ilmen. He became the first recipient of the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves to be killed in action.



# Bf 109F-2

# STENCILING POSITIONS





# **Eduard goodies for**

# Bf 109F-2 1/72

