



Vought F4U-1A CORSAIR®

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Vought F4U-1A CORSAIR®

Der Jungfernflug des Prototyps der Vought F4U Corsair fand am 29. Mai 1940 statt. Die United States Navy verlangte für ihre Flugzeugträger nach einem Kampfflugzeug, das die damaligen Leistungen landgestützter Flugzeuge erreichen sollte. Die Entwurfsarbeit begann 1936 unter Chefingenieur Rex B. Beisel, der eine sehr kompakte Zelle um den neuen Doppelstermotor bauen sollte. Durch die charakteristisch abgeknickten Tragflächen erreichte er den erforderlichen Bodenabstand von 4,06 m für den Hamilton Standard-Propeller, ohne ein überlanges Fahrwerk vorsehen zu müssen. Angetrieben von einem Doppelstermotor Pratt und Whitney R-2800 mit einer Leistung von 1.800 PS war die Corsair das erste US-Kampfflugzeug, das im Horizontalflug mehr als 400 mph (643 km/h) erreichte. Die ersten Corsairs nahmen ihren Dienst Ende 1942 beim Marinefliegergeschwader VMF-124 auf, zunächst landgestützt, während weiter an Anpassungen für den sicheren Einsatz der neuen Maschinen auf Flugzeugträgern gearbeitet wurde. Schrittweise Verbesserungen des Entwurfs während der Produktion führten dazu, dass sich die ersten F4U-1 von den späteren erheblich unterschieden. Die auffälligste Änderung betraf die neue geblasene Rundumsichthaube anstelle des anfänglich verbauten „Vogelkäfigs“. Diese geänderten Maschinen erhielten später die Bezeichnung F4U-1A. Die ersten produzierten Maschinen der F4U-1D-Version wiesen auch die modifizierte Haube auf, doch wurden die meisten später auf die Rundumsichthaube umgerüstet, als diese verfügbar wurde. Die Corsairs wurden sowohl bei Vought in Bridgeport, Connecticut, als auch bei Goodyear in Akron, Ohio, und Brewster auf Long Island, New York, gebaut. Die Bewaffnung der F4U-1A Corsair bestand aus sechs 12,7 mm Browning-Maschinengewehren in den Tragflächen. Insgesamt wurden 12.571 Corsairs gebaut, die letzte wurde im Januar 1953 ausgeliefert. Die F4U-1A Corsair wurde von einem R-2800-8-Motor angetrieben, der 2.000 PS entwickelte und ihr eine Höchstgeschwindigkeit von 671 km/h sowie einen Operationsradius von 1633 km ermöglichte. Die maximale Flughöhe betrug 11.247 m. Flügelspannweite: 12,50 m Länge: 10,16 m Höhe 4,90 m

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The prototype of the Vought F4U Corsair first flew on 29 May 1940 in response to the United States Navy's request for a carrier based fighter that matched the performance then being achieved by land based aircraft. Design work began in 1936 under Rex B. Beisel to build a very compact airframe around the new Double Wasp engine. The distinctive inverted gull wing design gave adequate ground clearance for the 13' 4" (4.06m) Hamilton Standard propeller without needing very long undercarriage legs. Powered by the Pratt and Whitney 1,800 hp R-2800 Double Wasp engine, the Corsair was the first US fighter to exceed 400 mph in level flight. Entering service with Marine Squadron VMF-124 in late 1942 the first Corsairs remained land based due to ongoing work to make the new aircraft safe for carrier operations. Gradual design improvements incorporated on the production line meant that the early F4U-1s were quite different from those that followed, the most noticeable point being the lightly framed blown Perspex cockpit hood that replaced the earlier "bird cage" style. These modified aircraft were later referred to as F4U-1As. Early production of the F4U-1D version also had the modified hood but most were later retro-fitted with clear-view "bubble canopies" as they became available. As well as the Vought production line at Bridgeport, Connecticut, Corsairs were also built by Goodyear at Akron, Ohio and Brewster at Long Island, New York. The F4U-1A Corsair was armed with six 12.7 mm (0.5 in.) Browning machine guns in the wings. Total Corsair production was 12,571 the last of which was delivered in January 1953. The F4U-1A Corsair was powered by a 2000hp R-2800-8 giving a maximum speed of 671km/h (417mph) and an operational radius of 1633km (1015 miles). Maximum altitude was 11,247m (36,900ft.) Wing span: 12.50m (41ft 0in.) Length: 10.16m (33ft 4in.) Height 4.90m (16ft 1in.)

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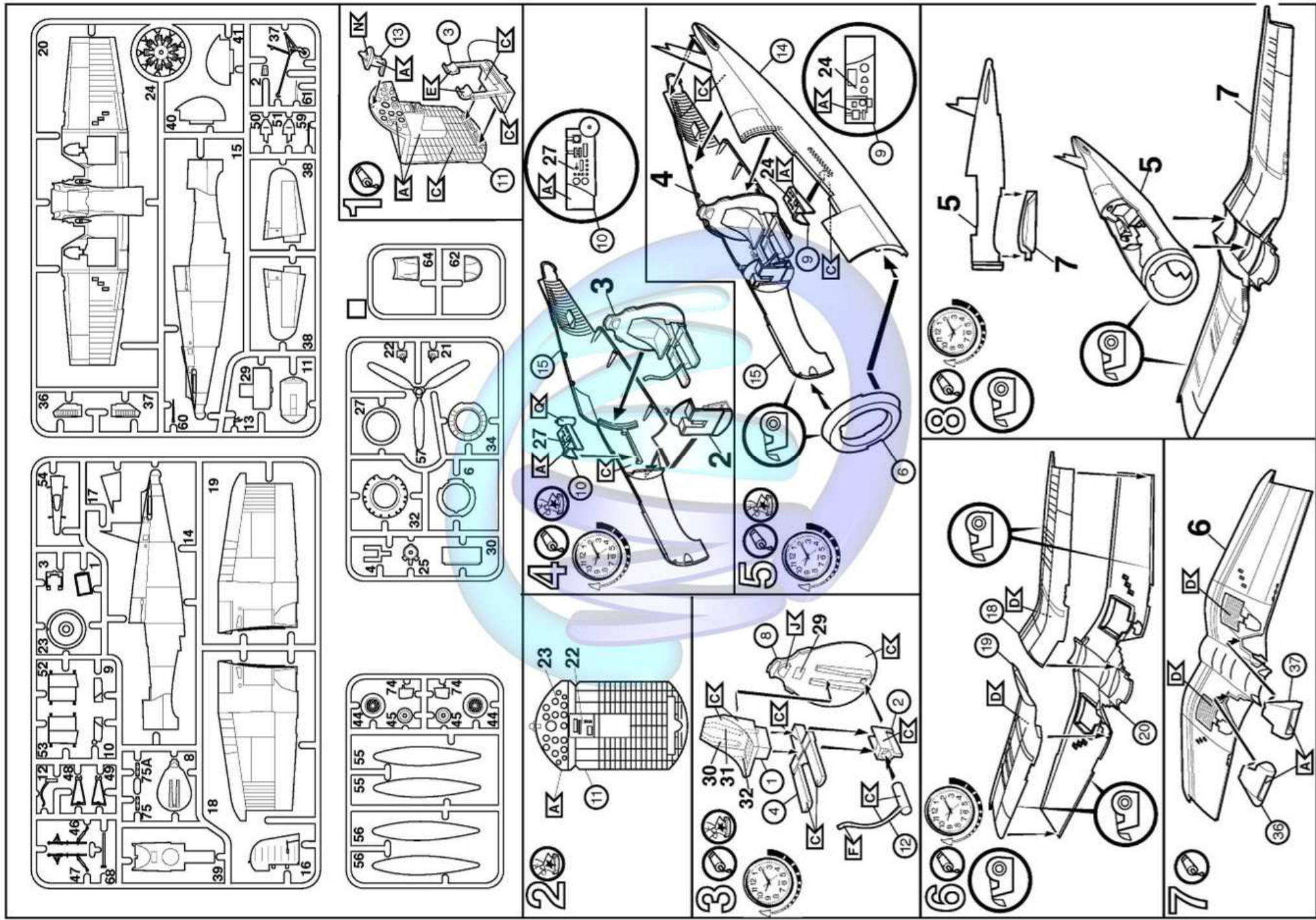
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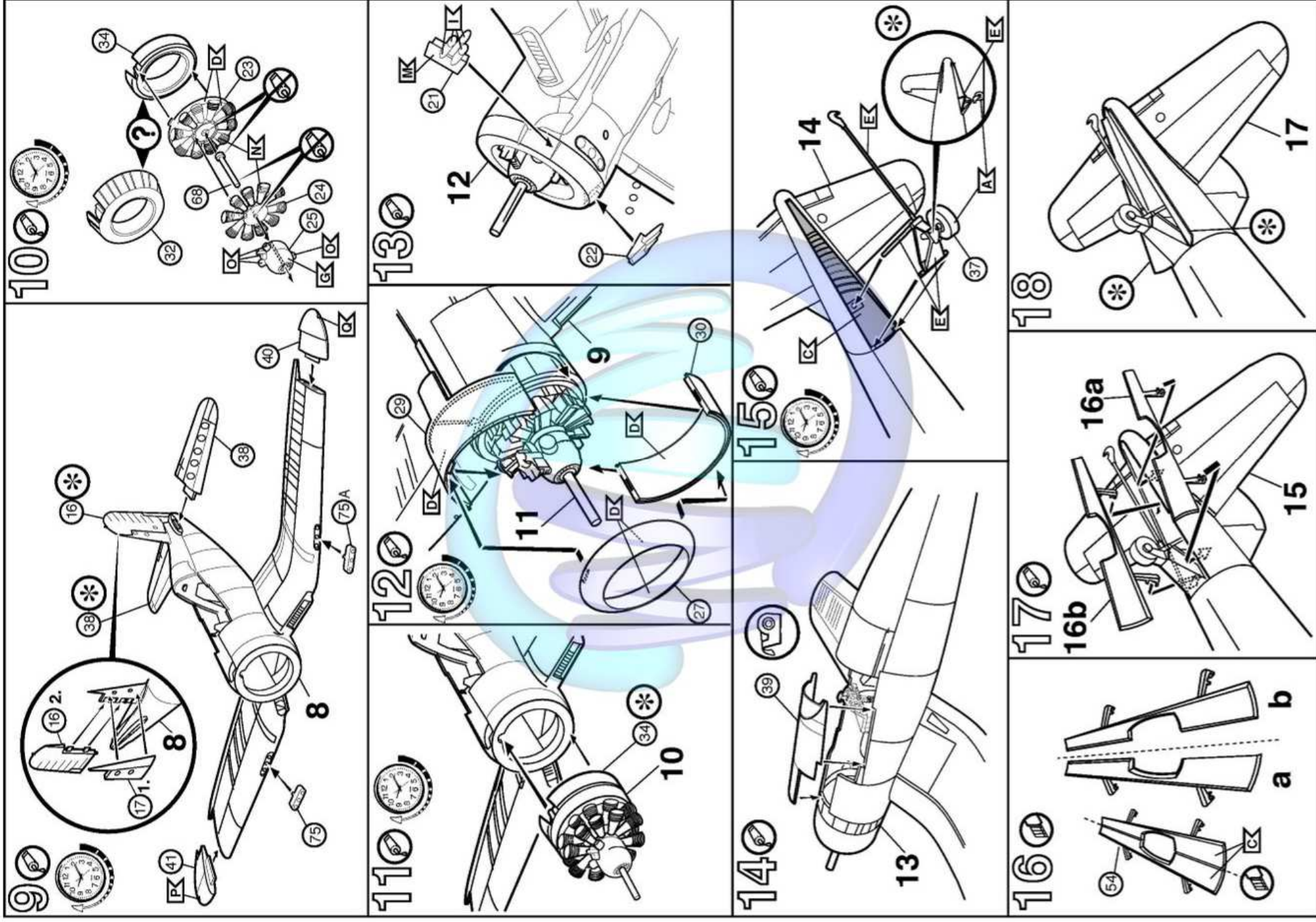
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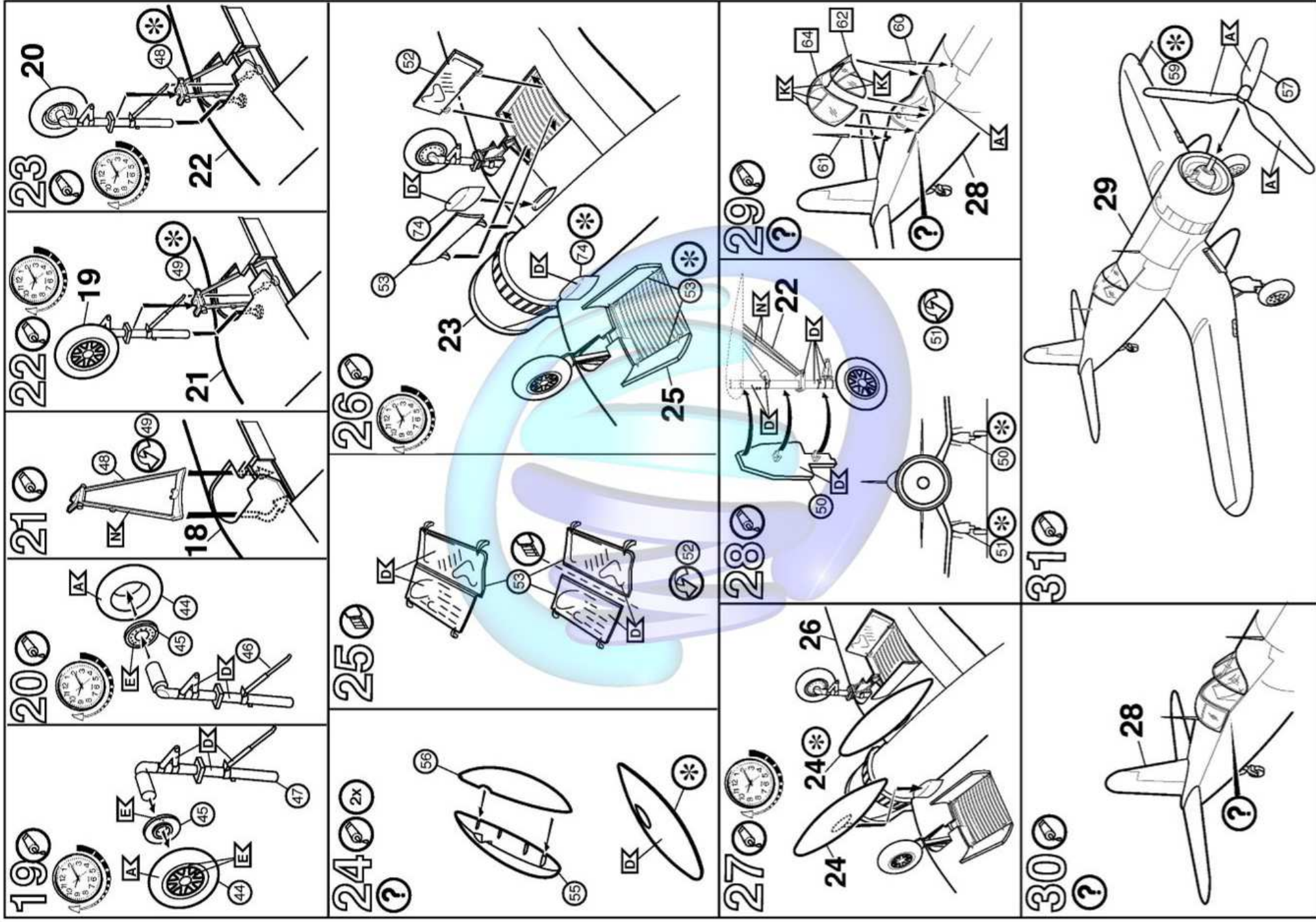
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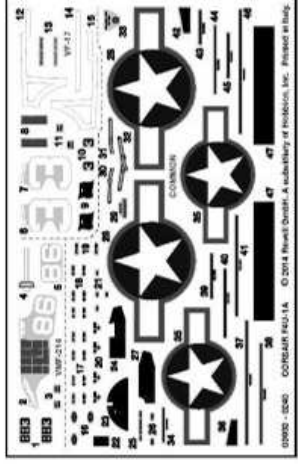
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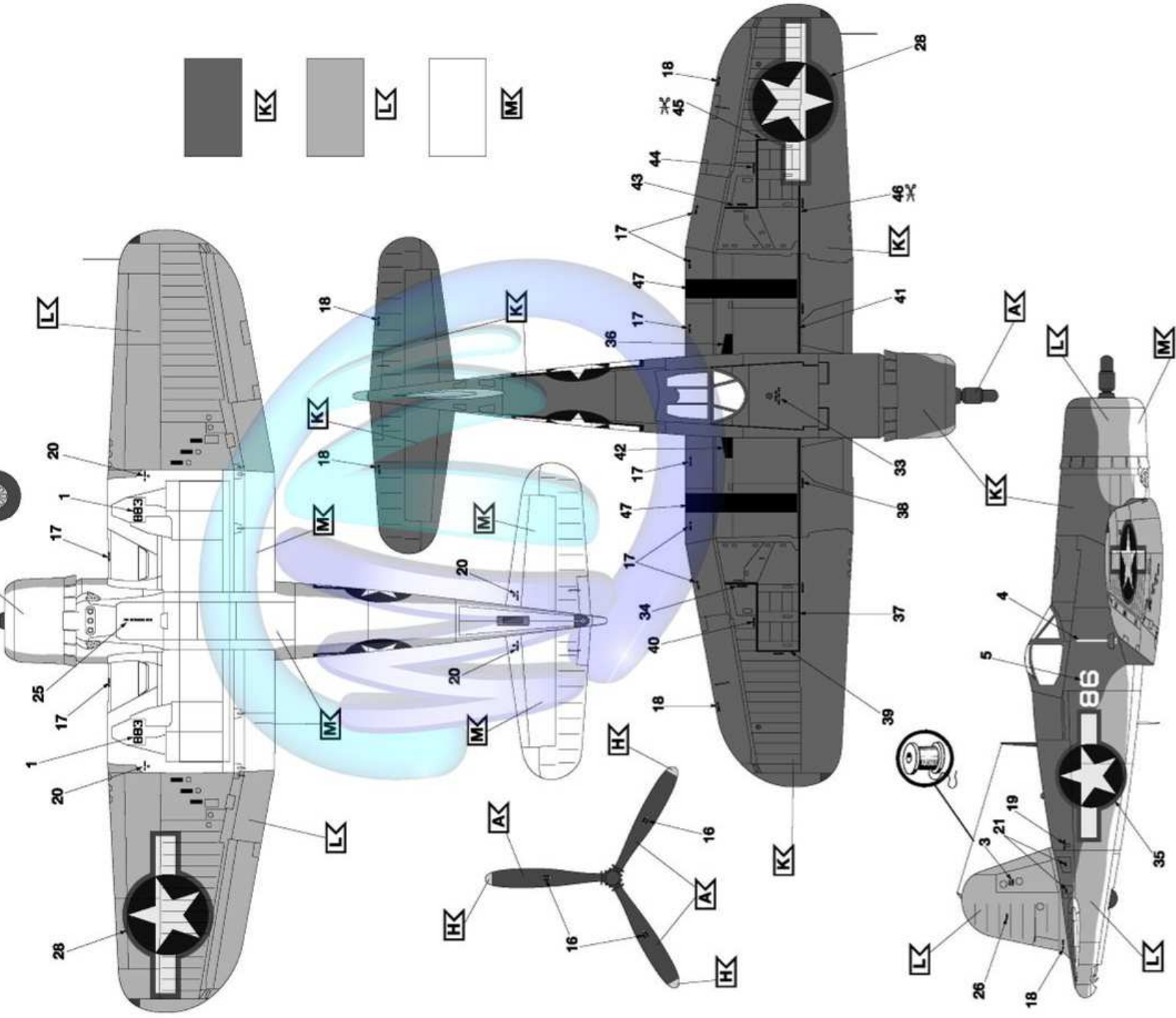
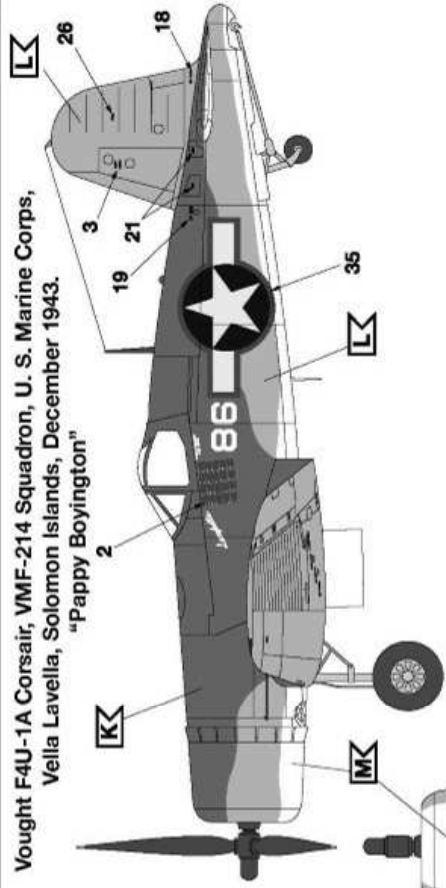


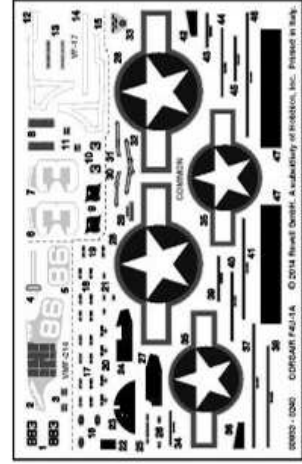
Vought F4U-1A Corsair, VMF-214 Squadron, U. S. Marine Corps,
Vella Lavella, Solomon Islands, December 1943.



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Vought F4U-1A Corsair, VF-17 Squadron, U. S. Navy,
Bougainville, Solomon Islands, February 1944.

