



# F-14D SUPER TOMCAT



*Model Created by Rafe Morrissey*

## TOMCAT AT TWILIGHT

*ABOVE: Our VF-31 F-14D Super Tomcat stands ready for its final "sunset flight" prior to retirement in 2005.*

*Note that this Tomcat reflects the final combat configuration of the F-14 incorporating precision air-to-ground ordnance and the LANTIRN targeting pod.*

*BELOW: Laser-guided and GPS bombs were carried on bomb racks fitted on the Phoenix missile pallets. The Phoenix missiles were removed from service a couple years before the final Tomcats were retired from the final two squadrons, VF-31 and VF-213.*



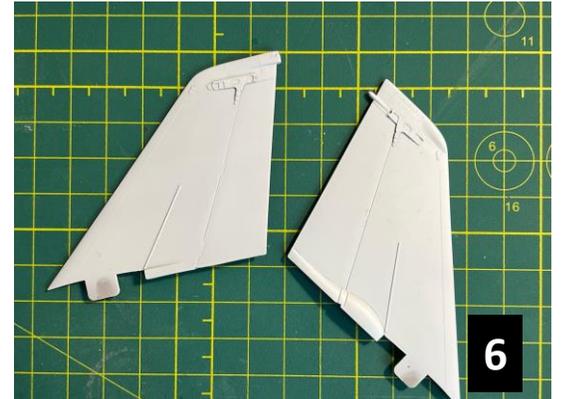
Building an accurate F-14D kit from Revell Requires some patience with fit and upgrades not included in most kits. The kit is based on the 1981 F-14A with some changes to reflect the D-model. A kit in 2009 contained many new detail parts and armament but my kit was released in 2012 and lacked the extra parts. Fortunately, most of what was needed was available from aftermarket companies.

### PLANNING

Before you begin assembly of the model, you need to determine what extra parts are needed. The F-14D had upgraded BOL missile launchers, bomb racks, drop tanks, LANTIRN pod and pylon, different wheels, antennas, and rear instrument panel configuration to control the new weapons suite. The tails also had tip stiffeners added.

The original Monogram molds featured raised detail, so you either need to plan on re-scribing the model or drawing the panel lines with a pencil.

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1. Some additional scratch building is needed. The Programmable Tactical Information Display (PTID) is not represented on the Steel Beach part but can be made from plastic card.
2. Similarly, the Sensor Slaving Panel is not included in any of the sets but can also be fashioned from card stock
3. The kit does include the correct Martin Baker NACES seats.

4. The fit of the Monogram molds is not the best, so a lot of sanding and lost detail results. Panel lines can be drawn in after painting. The kit has raised panel lines, so it is either that or re-scribing.
5. Positioning the details can be tricky but a tape template matched to a panel line provides a good way to confirm the alignment.
6. The tail parts lack the later stiffeners for the tips. Quickboost makes an inexpensive set to fix this.

## CONSTRUCTION NOTES

Most of the details needed to make an accurate F-14D are available on the aftermarket. For the most part, the sets were designed for the Hasegawa kit but fit fine on the Revell kit. The sets used for this model were:

- Wolfpack Bomcat Update set with Phoenix pallets, bomb racks, LANTIRN Pod, BOL Missile Rails
- Wolfpack Drop tanks and pylons
- Steel Beach F-14D Wheels
- Steel Beach F-14D RIO Panel
- Steel Beach UHF Antenna
- Steel Beach AN/ALQ-165 Antennas
- Eduard GBU-38
- Meng GBU-12
- Eduard Photo-etch Mirrors
- Fighertown VF-31 Felix's Final Flight Decals
- Fighertown F-14 Stencils
- Custom Intake Covers from PVC warning flags for underground cables I found on the side of the road



With all of the aftermarket and scratch built improvements, the cockpit looks quite nice. Testors Beret Green is a good color for the display screens followed by a touch of Future in each one.