

Kit Registration Number: 41

CURTISS P-40B/C TOMAHAWK

THE AIRCRAFT

While not the best fighter fielded by the U.S.A.A.C. during the first part of WWII, the P-40 was certainly the most famous. Essentially a Curtiss P-36 with an Allison V-12, the P-40 was never to live up to its potential and was replaced rapidly by more advanced types. Only one XP-40-CU was produced with many changes taking place during the testing of the new type. The first P-40s, Model 81A-1s with only two nose-mounted .50 cal. machine guns, no armored glass, armor protection or self-sealing fuel tanks, were produced in record time, 199 being cranked out in just under five months. British and French orders led to several changes in detail, most importantly the addition of two .30 cal. wing guns in the Tomahawk I and IIA, the latter being designated the H-81A-2. Two more guns were added to the H-81A-3 Tomahawk IIB, along with strengthened fuselage capable of carrying a long range fuel tank. With the original four gun wing several of the original P-40s became P-40Gs in American service. Two gun wing variants were P-40Bs and production four gun wing variants were P-40Cs. One P-40A was produced from a H-81A-1 with photo equipment and early model Tomahawks that survived to become training school aircraft were designated RP-40s.

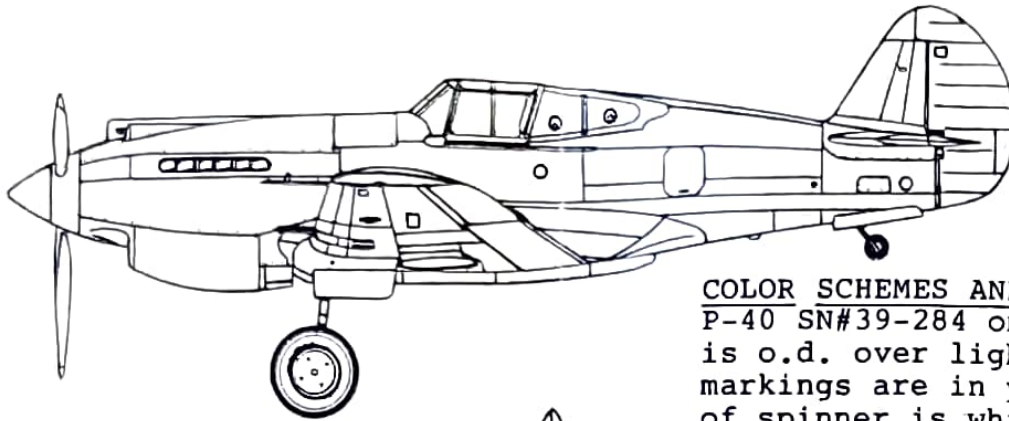
THE KIT

While other 1/72 scale kits of the early P-40 have been produced over the years, we have attempted to provide a model that offers the correct nose and rear fuselage contours that have been so difficult to capture. Any of the Tomahawk variants may be built from this kit. Check photos of the individual aircraft that you are modeling for armament, armor, pitot tube and antennae variations. Note that some foreign aircraft used local equipment not included in this kit. Drop tank was carried only on the P-40C variants except on rare examples of modified earlier variants.

COLOR SCHEMES AND MARKINGS

Tomahawks were operated by the U.S.Army, Great Britain, China, U.S.S.R., Australia, Canada and Turkey. Undelivered H-81A-1s appeared in French markings before being taken over by the British. Our box top shows a P-40C Tomahawk IIB diverted from the British Tigers order as operated by the Chinese American Volunteer Group, the Flying Tigers. This aircraft is from the 3rd Pursuit Sqdn. (Hell's Angels), pilot Charles Older. Color scheme is British sand and spinach with pale blue undersides. Decals are available from Micro Scale on Sheet #72-10. Both aircraft on box bottom are standard o.d. over light grey. The P-40B has full rudder stripes, U.S.ARMY beneath wings, stars in four wing positions, yellow nose and tail markings with 20P 66 repeated in yellow on upper surface of wing. Spinner is red, wheel covers white.

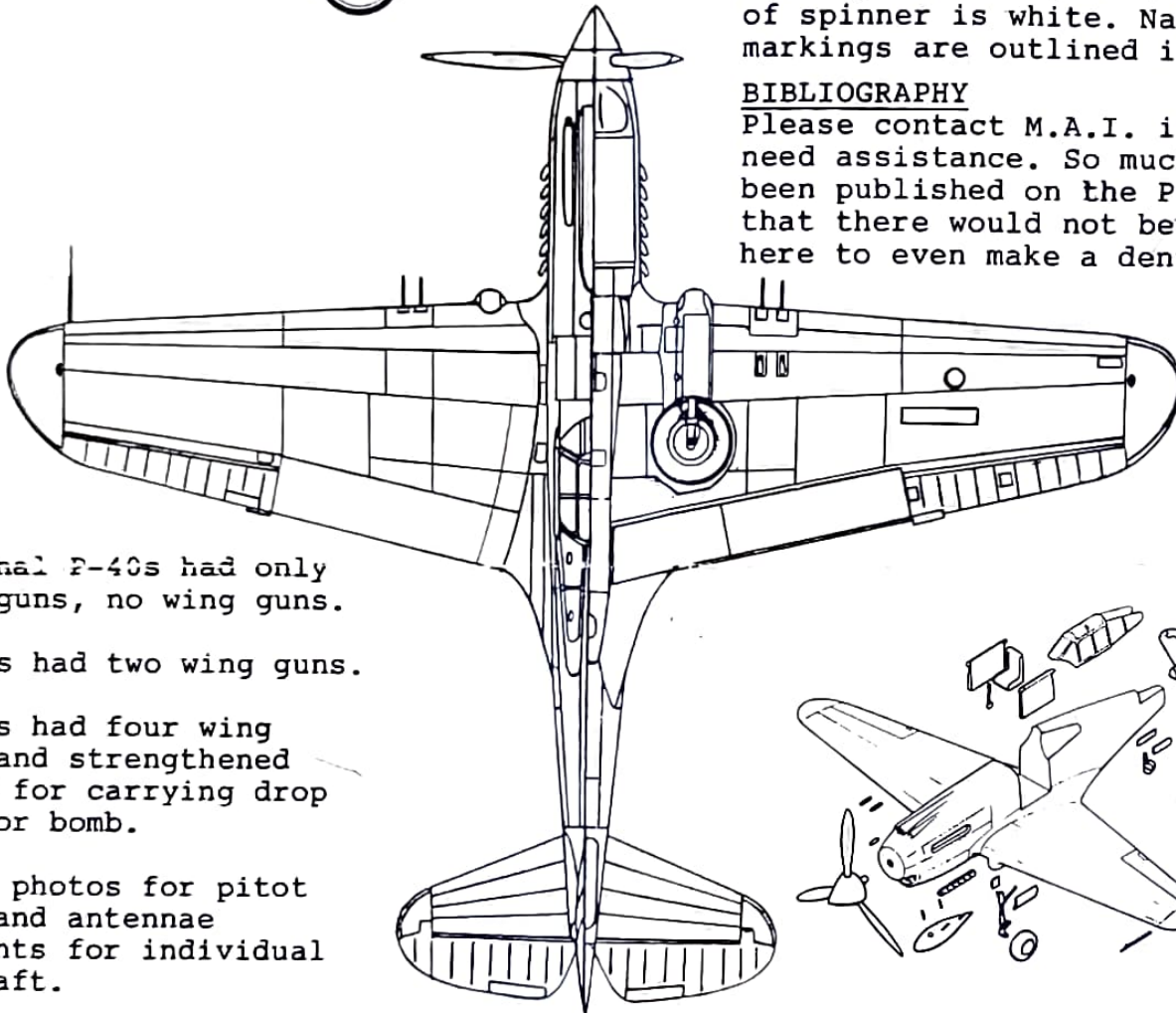
Model-Aire International
P.O. Box 159
Olema, California
94950



COLOR SCHEMES AND MARKINGS
 P-40 SN#39-284 on box bottom is o.d. over light grey. All markings are in yellow. Front of spinner is white. National markings are outlined in red.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please contact M.A.I. if you need assistance. So much has been published on the P-40 that there would not be room here to even make a dent.



Original P-40s had only cowl guns, no wing guns.

P-40Bs had two wing guns.

P-40Cs had four wing guns and strengthened belly for carrying drop tank or bomb.

Check photos for pitot tube and antennae variants for individual aircraft.

