

## French Fighter Cover

This subject of this project is the Mirage 2000 from the model company Kinetic. A nicely detailed that offers the modeler a good representation of France's delta-winged aircraft.

In this article I will be demonstrating how a few basic painting and weathering techniques can result in a very attractive finish. I have chosen to represent a Mirage in a 2-toned camouflage scheme operating in the dusty environment of Afghanistan.



The first step was to give the model a quick wash with soapy water to remove any greasy fingerprints and dust. Following the wash, I mixed white and grey primer together so as to create a slightly lighter shade of grey from my primer color and proceeded to spray this color over the entire model. This primer layer also serves to help us detect any surface flaws that I may have missed during our inspections.

I used AMMO Rubber and Tires Color (A.MIG-033) as a pre-shade color along the panel lines and around many of the surface details. Pre-shade is a common technique used when painting aircraft models and is used to enhance definition and create shadows.

The engine exhaust parts are a resin upgrade from the Aries range of products. I cleaned the parts of flash and then test fit them to the model to ensure a good fit. The parts were then sprayed with AMMO grey primer prior to painting.



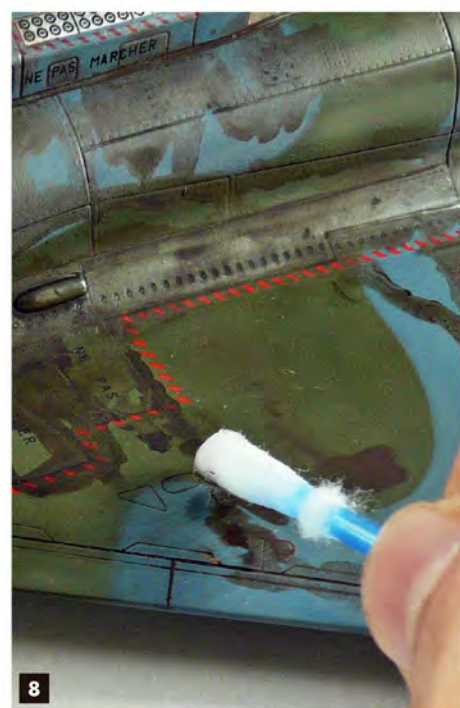
The afterburner was painted using an assortment of Mr Metal paint colors. Mr.Metal Iron was used as the basic color and then dry-brushed with the stainless steel color to bring out the highlights. Once the base colors had dried, I applied a light pin-wash using thinned black artists' oils to bring up the details. The afterburner's internal rings were painted using Mr.Metal Color bronze and a mix of aluminum and stainless steel.





5 The method I used to create this camouflage scheme was to apply White-Tak material in order to create a nice edge between the two colors. For the green color I used Gunze H330 and for the blue-grey a mix of H331 and H42 in a 70/30 ratio. The various shades and highlights came from using the basic color with some drops of Tamiya's matt white.

6 After finishing with the paintwork I gave the model two overall coats of clear gloss varnish from AMMO range. The gloss surface is important for settling the decals as to avoid air bubbles and silvering.



7 I began the weathering process by using three Panel Line Washes mixed together in equal amounts. These were; PLW Orange Brown, PLW Black Night and PLW Neutral Brown. I applied the wash using a small brush, allowing the liquid to flow into and along the panel lines.

8 After allowing the PLW wash to dry for approximately two hours the excess is removed with a clean cotton bud moistened with some thinner.





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Oil stains and streaks are created near the flaps and other surface details. First, a small dab of AMMO Streaking Grime is placed at the location, then, using a small cotton bud or fine brush lightly moistened with thinner, the color is drawn back across the surfaces in the direction of the air flow.



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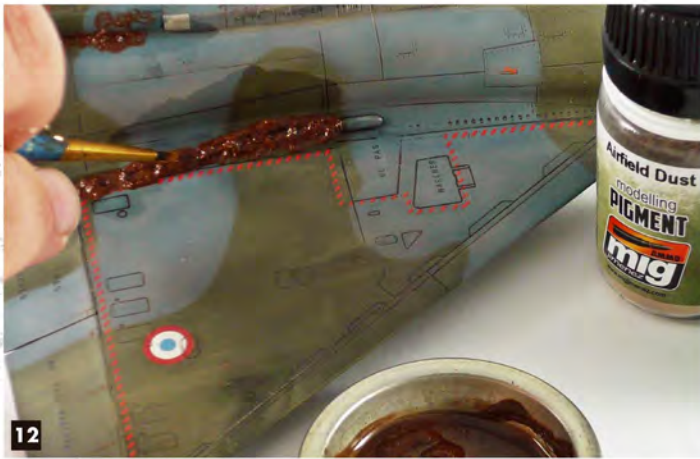
The fuel tanks were painted overall in the same colors as used on the aircraft, however, I added some wear and scratches created by using AMMO Chipping Fluid. To begin, I sprayed a layer of metal color followed by a layer of chipping liquid. This was left to dry for an hour and then I continued to apply the camouflage colors as usual. The camouflage colors were allowed to dry after 20-30 minutes, after which I lightly scrubbed over certain areas using a relatively stiff brush to reveal the small chips of the metal color underneath. Finally, I applied AMMO pigments (Airfield Dust & Light Dust) using a soft brush.



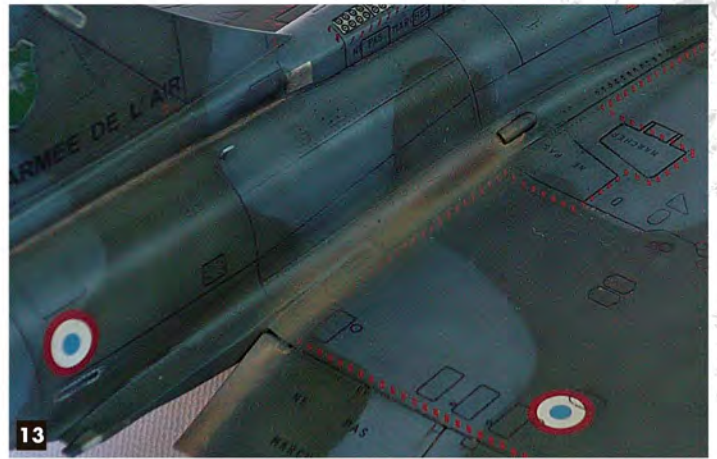
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I wanted to represent an aircraft operating in the dusty environment of Afghanistan. To achieve this appearance, I used a large, flat brush to apply a light layer of AMMO Pigment Airfield Dust all over the entire model. Care is required so as not to leave visible brush strokes.





I represented heavier accumulations of dust and grime where the dust might have mixed with oil or grease. To do this, I mixed Airfield Dust pigment with thinners into a thick paste, and then this paste was carefully brushed onto the areas of where I wanted to present the heaviest staining.



After about one hour the heavy accumulation of pigments were cleaned away using a soft brush, leaving these nicely defined areas of heavier discoloration over certain portions of the surface. To finish, a light layer of AMMO Satin Varnish was applied overall in order to unify the appearance and help fix the pigments in place.

At this point, I would like to thank Mr. Miguel Jimenez, Mr. Carlos Cuesta and the rest of the Mig Ammo Team for their help and support... Thank you all guys!!!!

