

## ***High Planes 1/72 "Signal Sea Fury" – Kit review***

### ***Anders Bruun***

**High Planes Kit No. Racer 019 "Signal Sea Fury Unlimited Racer"**. 1/72 injection-moulded kit, containing 23 styrene parts, 7 metal parts, a vacformed canopy, decals and a two-page instruction sheet.



This is essentially a standard military Sea Fury kit, with the addition of the small racing canopy. The main kit alternative indicated in the instructions depicts Mike Carroll's #87 "Signal Sea Fury", as raced around 1967 (but the decal sheet also includes a small "Miss Merced" logo). A characteristic airframe feature of this period was that the fairing around the arrestor hook was removed, but the lower end of the rudder was not extended in line with the fuselage bottom line, as was done later. This means the bottom fuselage and the kit rudder have to be trimmed as depicted in the instructions.

The builder will also have to do some demilitarisation of the kit and shorten the wing tips as shown in the instruction plans. The bulges should be removed from the landing gear doors. The overturning structure has to be removed and the new canopy, which is clear and of correct shape, fitted. This will need care, since bad joints will be very visible in this area. In case you want to depict the canopy opened you should note that the canopy did not slide, but was hinged on the right side. Some

versions of the plane had a small blade antenna below the fuselage, between the wing trailing edge fairings.

The decal sheet is well printed and the decals look very thin. The sheet only gives the red parts of the flames. This means that the builder will have to spray the other colours. It is not impossible, I have done it on a model that I built before this kit became available, but it requires a well-adjusted airbrush. Some versions of the plane, and I unfortunately think this applies to the kit "Signal Sea Fury", version, had flames on the wing roots and below the centre section in addition to those on the fuselage. These flames are not provided as decals, which are therefore, as far as the flames go, more accurate for the later "Miss Merced" versions, after the plane was taken over by Sherman Cooper. These versions carried no flames below the exhaust outlets. If you build "Miss Merced" you need a small Pennzoil logo which was positioned between the flames relatively high up on the fuselage.

You should also note that the colours of the flames are not correctly described in the instructions – there was no yellow in the flames, the dark blue toned directly into orange. The red areas were bigger and had a more complex borderline against the orange than shown in the drawings. Refer to photos before you paint – the Warbird Aero Press website gallery contains several good photos! The race number for the top wing should not be used unless you build "Miss Merced" – the "upside down" race number provided was only used on the clockwise-turning Mojave course, where the plane never flew in the "Signal Sea Fury" days.

The kit can not get full marks for the decals, since enough flames are not provided for the "Signal Sea Fury" version. However, it is possible to build an almost completely accurate early "Miss Merced" from the kit!

***A big thanks to High Planes for the review kit!***

*The kit is produced by High Planes Models (<http://www.corryongcec.net.au/~hiplanes/>), 127 Wheeler Street, Corryong, VIC 3707, Australia, phone: +61 260 761961, fax +61 260 761843, e-mail: [hiplanes@corryongcec.net.au](mailto:hiplanes@corryongcec.net.au)*