

High Planes 1/72 "Smirnoff" – Kit review

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High Planes Kit No. Race 72013 "Bearcat Racer Smirnoff". 1/72 injection-moulded kit, containing 27 styrene parts, metal landing gear legs, a vacformed canopy, decals and a two-page instruction sheet.

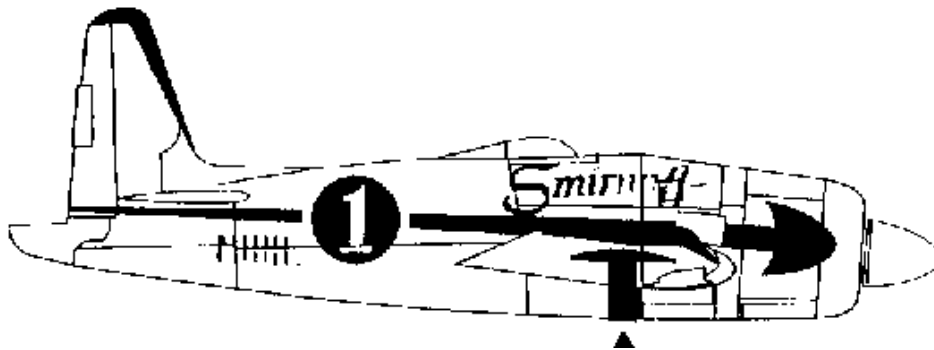
This kit of course contains the same plastic as the earlier "Conquest I" and "American Jet" kits, reviewed in BT#16 and BT#18 respectively, but with a big new decal sheet giving all the markings and all the metallic blue trim.

The decal sheet looks accurate. It is always difficult to tell from a photo exactly what shade a metallic colour is - they often look darker in photos. I have seen a number of colour photos of this plane, with the blue colour varying from bright blue to dark blue. The medium blue colour chosen for the decal sheet looks convincing to me and has a very nice metallic effect. It will be a bit tricky to apply the decals around the leading edges of tail surfaces and wing, and on the wing tips, but it seems there is enough surplus blue decal film to use for touching up and covering any gaps. The propeller blades will also have to be covered with blue decal film, unless you can match the colour and texture of the markings.

Except for the 1966 blue Smirnoff texts, the blue trim decals do not have the gold outlines that are shown by most references. I have never managed to spot these outlines in photos, except for on the blue "Smirnoff" texts, so apart from that text the trim must have been very narrow. There is for example a very good colour photo in the "Air Racing" book reviewed below, where the outline is visible on the Smirnoff text but not on the other trim. I think an outline would not have given the right scale effect.

Note that the underwing trim arrows should continue across the fuselage belly as shown in the figure below. This is not indicated in the kit instruction sheet. Two versions of the blue Smirnoff texts are supplied - the separate sheet with the thinner gold outline should be used.

The history of the "Smirnoff" versions of N1111L were covered in **BT#5**, which also contains Dave Jones drawings of both versions.



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