

## LF Models 1/72 Messerschmitt Bf 109 V-14 – Review

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LF Models kit No. 7278 Messerschmitt Bf 109V-14. 1/72 kit, containing 39 resin parts, one vacuum-formed canopy and complete decals.

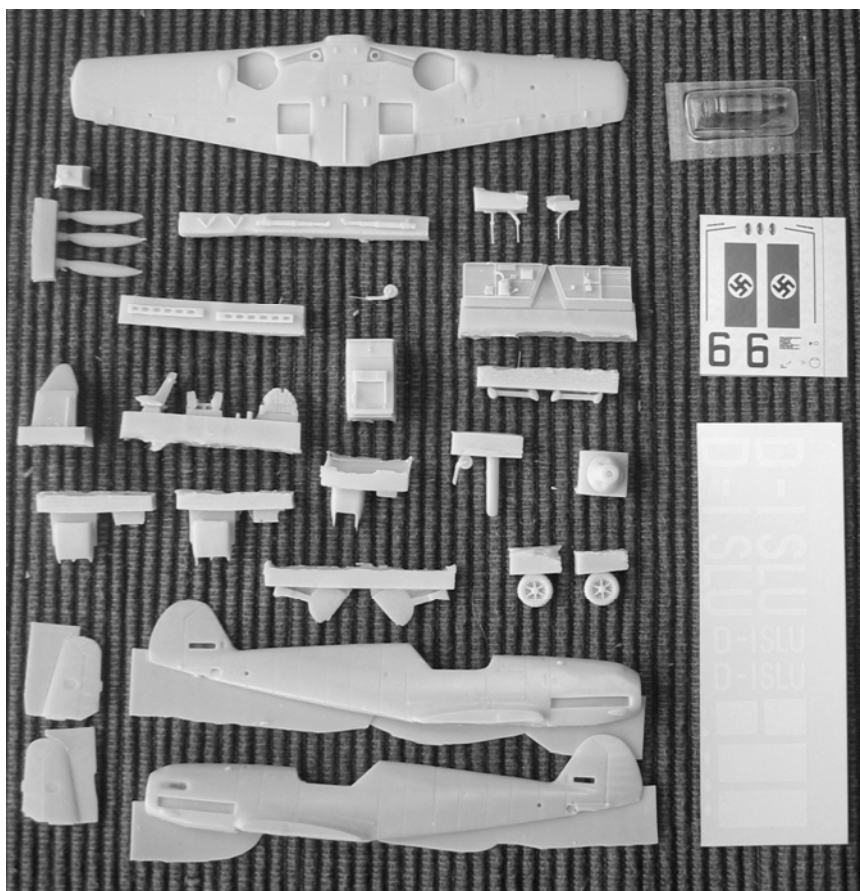
This kit looks very much like an injection-moulded kit - there are many parts and the vertically split fuselage halves are very thin. The very crisp and sharp interior comprises eight parts, including detailed side walls. You will not know until you build the kit whether they fit well and can be assembled easily, but they sure look very good!

As can be seen from the photo, several of the parts are attached to heavy resin blocks and have to be carefully removed. The mating surfaces of the fuselage need to be sanded flat. However, the fit of the fuselage halves looks very good, even though some trimming and sanding will be necessary in order to fit the one-piece wing and the canopy. The canopy is sharply formed, but it needs a bit of polishing and the cross-section should perhaps be a bit more rounded. All the scoops and exhausts are separate parts and have to be fitted to the airframe - nothing too difficult, but I don't really understand why the exhaust ports aren't included in the fuselage halves. The propeller blades are sharp and thin, but lack twist. The spinner front is flat, which is not correct - it should be conically recessed and there

should be some holes and other details in there. A 3 mm drill should do the job, but be careful not to drill too deeply!

The basic airframe parts are very good - nice recessed panel lines (almost too discreet for the wing control surfaces!) and sharp trailing edges. The fabric detail is perhaps a bit too exaggerated for my taste, but it should be easy enough to tone it down. The landing gear wells are a bit shallow and lack detail, but it should be easy to add a couple of ribs. The landing gear itself is sharp and well-detailed, with very nice wheels and thin landing gear doors with the correct triangular extension at the bottom. All little parts, such as tailplane struts, aileron balance weights etc. are provided, so very little extra homework will be needed.

However, there are a couple of things that need to be corrected. The kit shows some military Bf 109 E ancestry in that it has gun bulges and case ejection ports on the bottom wing surfaces and gun doors that partially overlap the upper surfaces of the flaps. I'm sure a Messerschmitt expert can tell which "donor kit" that has been used as basis for the kit parts... The ancestry also shows in the landing gear wells, which are of the angled Bf 109 E type. The V14, like several other prototypes had rounded wells with a little corner for the leading edge



of the landing gear doors - see the drawings in Bent Throttles #14 (which is still available for GBP 3.00, postage included). I also think the three front bulges below the wing centre section should be removed, leaving only the rear pair closest to the radiators. The aileron mass balances of the V14 were different from the later versions.

The decals are printed on two sheets. One conventional-looking sheet contains the white parts and underlays for the coloured markings. The other, containing the coloured marking, looks like it is ALPS-printed. I'm not really pleased with the font of the registrations, so if you

are careful about such things I suggest you buy the SIG-produced decals (still available for GBP 6.00, postage included). Another reason is that then you will get correct white stencils for the rear fuselage, rather than the kit's black.

This is a complete, high quality kit, which, with the little exceptions mentioned above, which should relatively easily create a competition-standard model. Recommended!

A big thanks to Ladislav Fojtl of LF Models for the review kit!