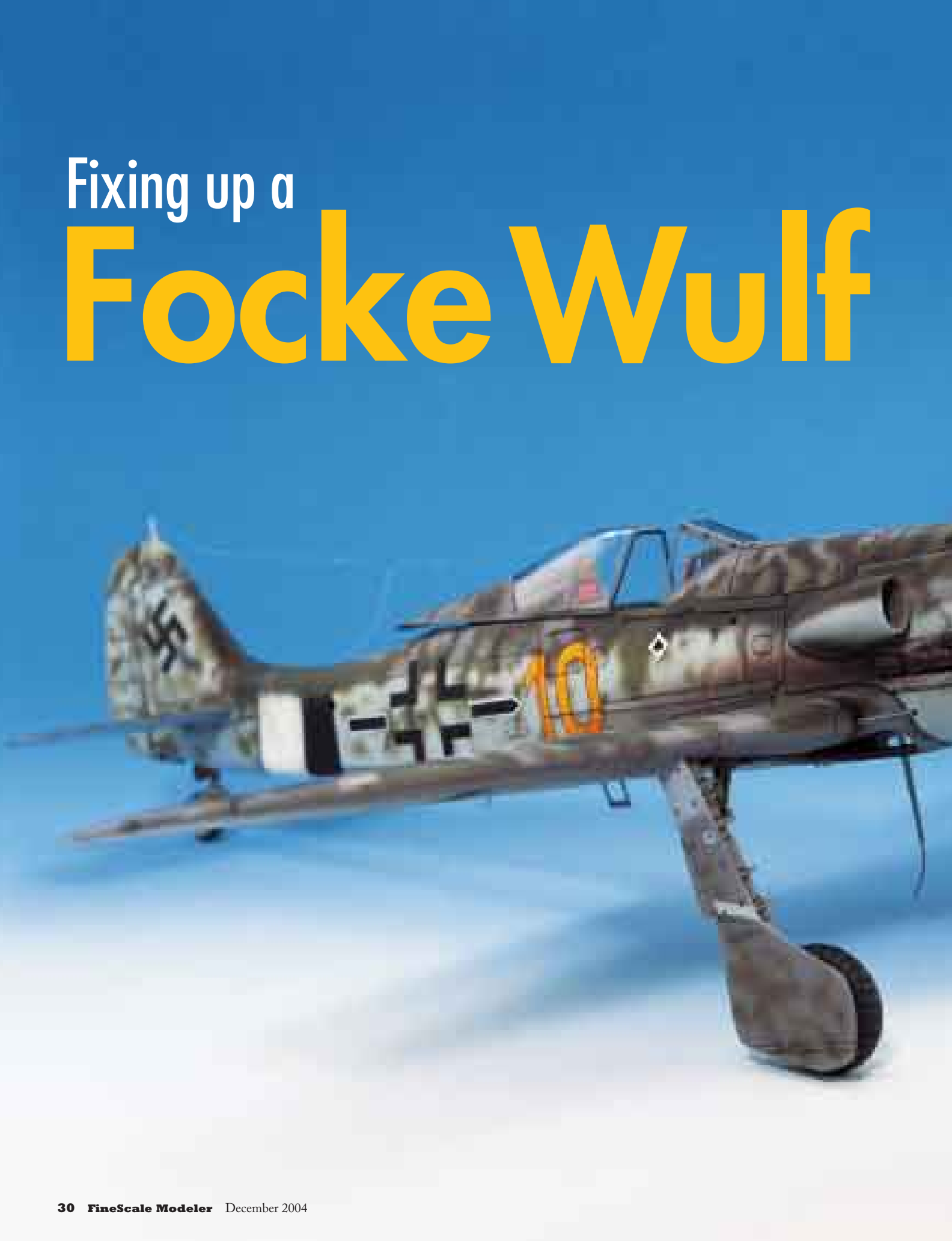
Fixing up a Focke Wulf





Some minor conversion and detailing work makes Dragon/ Revell's kit into an Fw 190D-13/R-11

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Photos by Aurelio Gimeno Ruiz

Production of the late versions of the Focke Wulf Fw 190D trickled off as the Allied war effort cut off supplies and captured manufacturing facilities. Although not the last version, only around two dozen of the Fw 190D-13 model were finished. Several of them featured unusual field-applied camouflage, and that was the mark for me!

The well-documented "Yellow 10" is the subject of Alfonso Berlana's latest 1/48 scale masterpiece.



1 Alfonso added an Aires cockpit and EagleCals' markings to the Revell/Dragon kit.



2



3 To keep track of the minor access panel and vent changes, Alfonso highlighted each with a marker.



4 Revell/Dragon's prop blades were misshapen, so new longer tips were fashioned from sheet styrene.



5 With a little finesse, the Aires cockpit will fit into the Revell/Dragon fuselage.

Quarter-inch Dora

I based the model on Yellow 10, following the Eagle Editions book and using EagleCal decals, **1**. The kit I used was Revell Germany's issue of the Dragon/Trimaster 1/48 scale Fw 190D-11. The conversion to the D-13 version lies mostly in minor panel lines and service openings. I followed the photos and drawings from the book and marked each change with a marker, **2** and **3**. At each spot, I either filled panel details and sanded them smooth, or engraved new detail. I used bits of strip styrene to enhance the dividers between the exhaust stacks.

The kit propeller blades were much too short and squat. I cut off the tips and replaced them by super gluing sheet styrene to the blades and filing and sanding them to shape, **4**.

I replaced the kit cockpit with an Aires resin and photoetched office. It's designed to fit the Tamiya kit, but with a little sanding, the tub fits inside the Dragon fuselage, **5**. I hand-brushed most of the details with Vallejo acrylics.

My kit's fuselage halves were a bit twisted, but instead of trying to bend them back into shape, I gradually glued the halves together and clamped the rear fuselage and tail with spring-type clothespins.

The wings didn't fit the fuselage well, and I had to fill the gaps with slivers of sheet styrene and filler, then sand the seams smooth, **6**. More seams on the bottom of the wing/fuselage joint and the spot where the big air intake meets the right fuselage half required filling and sanding, too.

I added copper wire brake lines to the main gear struts. Next, I flattened the main tires slightly by pressing them to a hot clothes iron.

I attached the windscreen to the assembled fuselage and masked it but left the sliding canopy off and masked and painted it separately. I used small pieces of Tamiya's yellow masking tape; it's thin enough to produce sharp mask lines, and it doesn't leave adhesive residue.

Painting

As documented in the book, Yellow 10 had a complex paint job, and I found that duplicating the camouflage was the most challenging (and the most enjoyable) aspect of this project. The airframe was probably hastily primed at the factory, and quickly delivered, leaving camouflage up to Jagdgeschwader 26. It appears that in addition to a typical two-tone upper-surface camouflage scheme, some artistic license was executed. The bottom surface of the wing was missing primer, and when the machine was documented, this area was still unpainted. I used Tamiya X-11 chrome silver for that area and X-10 gun metal to accent panel lines and wear, **7**.

After masking the unpainted wing area, I proceeded to airbrush the camouflage colors. All were mixed from Tamiya acrylics. I usually start with the lightest color and work my way through all the colors, painting the darkest last. In this case, I first painted the windscreen and canopy frames dark gray (RLM 66) to represent the interior frame color. Then I started with the overall uppersurface camouflage: first light blue (RLM 76), then gray-violet (RLM 75), **8** and lastly the greens (RLM 82 and RLM 83), **9**. I tried my best to duplicate the random pattern in the documentation of Yellow 10.

Accenting details

After the complicated camouflage was applied, I masked around the exhaust area and airbrushed the pipes red brown (XF-64), black (XF-1), and deck tan (XF-55). This combination gives a realistic "hot metal" effect to the exhausts. The black and white bands on the fuselage and the green overspray on the top of them were last to be applied.

To accent the panels, I masked around the major panel lines and lightly airbrushed dark gray (XF-24) over the light colors. Deck tan (XF-55) went over the dark colors. This is not the easiest way to accent panel lines, but I like the way it looks. When the paint had dried for a day or so, I overcoated the entire model with



Alfonso filled the gaps between the upper surfaces of the wings and the fuselage with styrene strips and filler.



The first color to go on was silver for the unpainted wing undersurface.



The topside camouflage was started with the standard light blue and gray-violet.



9

The next colors to be airbrushed were the random mottled-green pattern.



10

A dark oil-paint wash over a clear gloss accents the panel lines.



11

Alfonso used an acrylic wash over the silver undersurface.

clear gloss, then applied a black oil-paint wash for the deepest recesses and access panels, **10**. I used a Vallejo acrylic wash on the aluminum areas, **11**. The model was then ready for decaling, and of course, I used the EagleCals sheet that goes with the *Yellow 10* book.

After the decals had dried, I applied a clear flat overcoat to the entire model. The exhaust stains along the nose were made by airbrushing diluted red brown (XF-64) and flat black (XF-1). The propeller received the final paint work. I painted the spinner white first, masked the spiral with thin pieces of Tamiya tape, and over-painted with green (RLM 25). The blades were painted black green (XF-27). The last step was installing the canopy, landing-gear and doors, pitot tube, gun barrels, and antenna wire.

You'll have to admit, Yellow 10 is a striking example of field-applied camouflage. It's a conversation piece compared to most Luftwaffe aircraft models, and it's one of my favorite models. **FSM**

REFERENCES

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Vallejo Model Color acrylic paints available from AeroMaster/Eagle Strike, 786-293-0411, www.eaglestrikeproductions.com

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