

HobbyBoss 1/48th Scale Focke Wulf Ta152C-0 and -1

by Hal Marshman Sr

I have bought two of the HobbyBoss C-0 kits and one of the C-1. I am building these as a collection for Baycon/2012. The following are my experiences building the first. The Ta 152C-0 and the Ta 152C-1 are virtually the same kit, the sole difference being the wing undersides. The access panels are different between the two kits; everything else remains the same.

HobbyBoss has cast their kit in a light gray plastic with rather petite engraved detailing. There seems to be a slightly pebbly effect to the surface, but once painted it is undetectable. Separate rudders, wing flaps, and ailerons are provided, along with two cowlings featuring opened or closed cowl flaps. There are two cowling tops, one with a small supercharger hump on the left side, the other with a more pronounced hump. There is a small etched brass fret enclosed containing the seatbelts, shelf behind the seat, rudder pedals, and a small semicircular exhaust deflector, meant to prevent exhaust gasses from entering the supercharger scoop. Compared to other German inline-engine-powered planes, this is one large item, the opening being oval in cross section, rather than the normal circular affair. The rudder pedals, and the behind the seat shelf, are also provided on the plastic sprues.

The clear parts consist of a windscreen, blown style hood, and the gun sight. Oddly enough, the gun sight is also duplicated on one of the regular plastic sprues. I gave my clear parts a bath in Future floor polish, and it brought them off nicely.

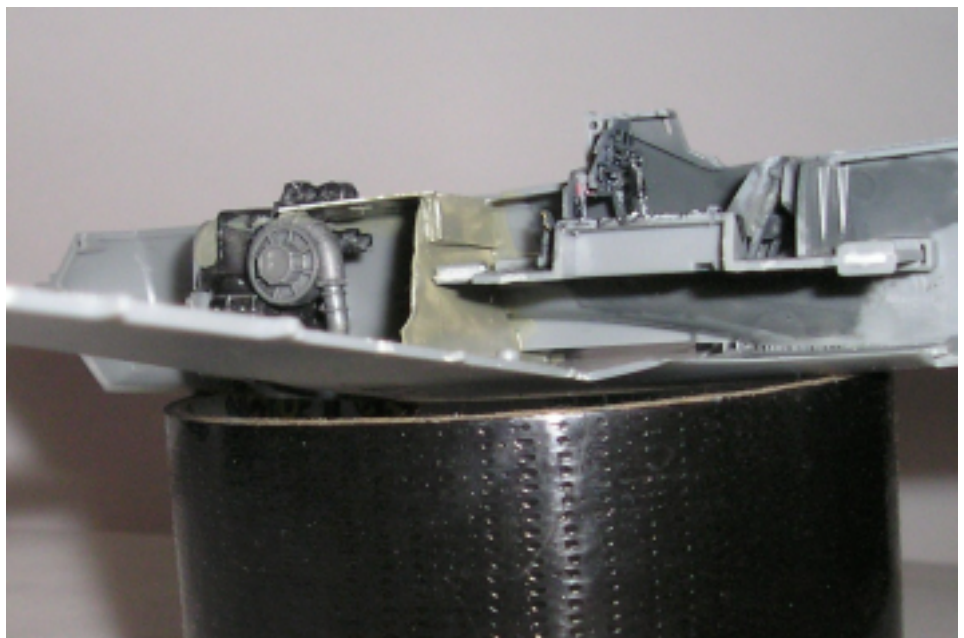
The landing gear is well represented, and nicely detailed. The oleo piston has an attachment that needs to be carefully removed and polished before painting, particularly if you paint the pistons silver.



The gear covers are nicely detailed both inside and outside. This kit provides inner gear doors, and what seemed odd at first, a piston type opening strut. On previous Focke Wulf fighters, we are used to seeing a hinged affair here, but checking what photos are available, it seems like they made a change for the Ta 152. Other external accessories include an RDF loop and an FuG-16 antenna, along with the Morane antenna to go under the left wing. The Ta 152 was armed with two 20mm cannon in the cowl and two of the same in the wings. The spinner carried the muzzle

for an engine mounted 30mm cannon. HobbyBoss gives you breach works for the wing cannon, but the covers are not openable, thus once constructed, they're not visible. Little hitch here, the holes for the muzzles do line up well, and would have the barrels tilted toward the engine cowling. You will need to make an adjustment.

The decal sheet for both airplanes includes some small stenciling, with a small separate sheet containing instrument panel gauges and console top detail. I used the panel



decals, but painted the console tops. Although these decal sheets look quite good on the backing paper, I found them to be much less than adequate when it came to actually using them. Lots of breaking up, folding under or over, etc. It was so bad that I photostatted them onto clear decal sheet. Even coating with the Micro Scale Decal Maker, and coating them with Future did not improve their performance.

Getting down to actual construction, the basic kit went together pretty well. with no poorly fitting parts, On Long Nosed 190s and Ta 152s, the rear of the engine was visible from the gear wells, and HobbyBoss has provided this kit with a nicely done item here, that also goes together smoothly. There is one fly in the ointment, however. There's no bulkhead separating the cockpit area from the open gear wells, thus you can look up into the front of the cockpit. I constructed a bulkhead from sheet styrene, gluing it to the rear of the very nicely done main wing spar. If you'll look at the attached picture, you will note my bulkhead and a ceiling I also made to prevent seeing the inside of the gun mounts.

The kits include a color drawing depicting both side elevations, plus top and bottom renderings. They've color coded the drawings so that you can easily identify what shades are being used. The -0 kit provides decals and instructions for both the factory test version and a proposed scheme for what the fighter might have looked like had it been attached to JG 301. This is the scheme I used on my completed model. The factory scheme is currently being applied to the second -0 kit. The Ta152C-1 kit provides only that factory applied scheme. I find these late war paint jobs very interesting, even for factory schemes

For my purposes, I prefer to not use etched metal, so where there was an injected alternative, I used it. I also prefer to make my seat belts and buckles, and have done so here. I also drilled out the guns, and substituted a fine piece of wire for the plastic Fug-16 antenna. You will

note that the antenna cable is not taut. This is because the blown hood birds did not feature a tensioner, so that when the canopy was opened, the cable drooped. Note also that HobbyBoss did not provide a mast for the fin. Many builders of these kits on the net do not include antenna cables on their birds, but closely inspecting what photos are available, I did find a small mast mounted further forward on the fin than the larger triangular one we're used to seeing on Fw 190s.

My model is painted with WEM Colorcoats RLM 81/RLM 82 for the upper camouflage with RLM 70 for the spinner. The undersides are RLM 76 from Model Master. I must say, I've really enjoyed my modeling experience with this kit, in spite of the few problems. Knowing about these difficulties makes doing the further two in my series more of a breeze. Highly recommended.

