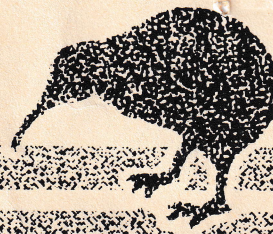


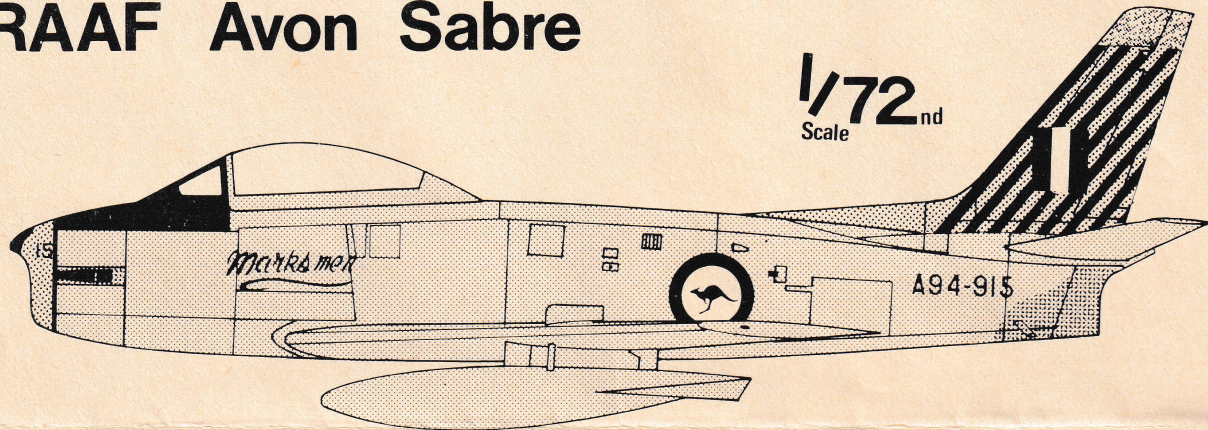
# TASMAN

## Model Products.

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## RAAF Avon Sabre



The North American F-86 Sabre was manufactured in Australia by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation but modified to suit Australian AF requirements. The major requirement was for the installation of the Mk 26 Avon engine giving the aircraft more power than its American-built counterpart. The Avon engine required a greater quantity of air which necessitated a deeper intake and thus a lower nose profile. The only other significant change was the installation of an Aden cannon in each side of the nose.

The first flight of the Avon Sabre was on 3rd August 1953 and a total of 113 were built. For a total of 17 years the Sabre formed an integral part of the RAAF's front line fighter squadrons. It underwent a number of modifications in the early years that increased its fuel capacity and firepower (including the capability to carry Sidewinder missiles, 500lb bombs and additional underwing tanks). The definitive variant was the Mk 32 commencing operations in 1960 (all earlier variants were upgraded to Mk 32 standards). The Sabre enjoyed a varied operational service with the RAAF including deployment to Ubon in Thailand (from where it visited Vietnam in the late 60's) as well as going into action against communist insurgents in Malaya in the late 50's. The last RAAF Sabre flew on 31 July 1971 and was replaced by the Mirage IIIIO (which lasted an identical number of years before the F-18 in turn replaced it). Two other countries have operated the Avon Sabre, Indonesia and Malaysia. Between 1969 and 1971 a total of 16 were presented to Malaysia (one of which was returned to the RAAF and currently flies with the Museum Flight) and in 1973 16 were gifted to the Indonesians who still operate them (with some incredibly colourful schemes).

### CONSTRUCTION.

This conversion kit has been specifically designed to fit the superb 1/72 Fujimi F-86F kit (Kit F-19 'Mig Killer' is recommended but other solid-winged kits in the Fujimi range may be suitable). With only a minimum of adjustment, the Tasman fuselage should fit snugly onto the Fujimi wings. The surface detailing on the fuselage has been exactly matched to that on the wings. Care should be taken when aligning the cockpit/intake channeling parts - locating lugs will need to be glued inside the fuselage nose to ensure the parts fit properly. The front of the intake channeling should be cranked open a millimetre to match up with the deeper nose cap supplied in the conversion. Some puttying will be needed to blend the two together. There are a number of differences in surface detailing between the standard and RAAF Sabres (intakes, grills, panel lines, etc) on the fuselage and all of these have been incorporated. The Fujimi canopy will fit precisely, however, for those who want the clarity and scale accuracy of a vac-formed canopy, a Falcon Clear-Vax canopy has been supplied.

### PAINTING AND DECALING.

All RAAF Avon Sabres had an aluminium paint scheme with only the area at the bottom of the rear fuselage left in natural metal. The panel surrounding the cannon port is a darkened steel colour as is the area around the jet pipe. The anti-glare panel is semi-matt black. At the time of production only two decal options are available for the RAAF Sabre, a 76 Sqn one on ESCI's European/US F-86 sheet (a little crude by today's standards but useable) and the scheme illustrated above on Tasman Decal's sheet V7207 (available where you bought this kit). A number more RAAF, Indonesian and Malaysian Sabre schemes will be supplied on upcoming Tasman sheets (there are dozens to choose from!).

### REFERENCE SOURCES.

There are a number of excellent published reference sources on the Avon Sabre and the best are listed here:-  
Australia's Military Aircraft by Ross Gillett (Network Distributors, 54 Park St, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia.)  
Sabre, Meteor & Vampire in RAAF Service (published by above company).  
Aircraft of the RAAF 1921-78 by Geoffrey Pentland (Kookaburra Technical Publications Pty).  
Aircam Aviation Series Nr 20 Vol 2 Commonwealth Sabres.  
Aircam Aviation Series Nr S12 Vol 2 Aerobatic Teams 1950-71.  
Various issues of IPMS-Australia's Modelcraft magazine (P.O. Box 1187K, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia).  
Various issues of Australian Plastic Modellers Association magazine (P.O. Box 51, Strathfield, NSW 2135, Australia.)