

BUILD IT YOUR WAY

Your model Zero is fabulously detailed, with metal parts that authentically replicate the construction of the actual aircraft. You can choose to build and finish your model in any one of the **five different ways** shown here and overleaf.



Option A

Skeleton model

Leave off the outer panelling to display the amazingly accurate constructional detail of the airframe, engine and internal fittings.



Option C

Half-skeleton model

Leave off half of the outer panelling to display both the internal construction and the outer skin. You also have the choice of leaving the panelling as bare metal (as shown above) or finishing it in one of the authentic paint schemes shown overleaf.



Option B

Alloy-panel model

Attach the aluminium outer skin panels to the frame to reveal the sleek exterior finish of the complete

Metal models (Options A, B and C)

Leaving your model in the bare, unpainted metal will allow you to display the way the aircraft was built and show off your model-making to great effect. **If you choose one of these three options**, you will need to lacquer the parts to prevent them from tarnishing (a clear metal primer can also be used for an even better finish). The step-by-step instructions include information on painting the model in natural colours (see overleaf), but will tell you when to miss out these stages and lacquer the parts instead.



NB: Paints and primer are not included with this series. This symbol tells you when painting information is provided in the instructions.

Painted models (Options D and E)

Painting your model will allow you to recreate the actual appearance of a serving Zero fighter. If you choose one of these options, you will need to prime the metal parts with a grey metal primer during assembly, before applying the final colours (some of which is done while building the internal structure). The step-by-step instructions will provide detailed painting information for Option D, with advice on what to do if you have chosen an alternative finish.



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Option D Light olive-grey (early-period carrier fighter model)

This was the Mitsubishi aircraft company's first paint scheme. The light grey-green covered all the exterior surfaces apart from the engine cowling, which was painted a glossy dark grey. The colours have been matched to actual samples recovered from crashed aircraft.

Option E

Dark green (late-period Pacific War) model

This was the camouflage colour strongly associated with the Zero from 1943 on, with dark green upper surfaces, light grey lower surfaces and black engine cowlings.



Authentic squadron markings

If you choose to paint your Zero, you will need to give it a realistic set of identification markings and paint finish. You will be provided with a wide range of coloured decals, plus a painting guide to help you reproduce the authentic squadron markings for actual planes from different periods and theatres of the war.

Akagi carrier squadron



These markings identified the carrier fighters assigned to the IJN *Akagi*, flagship of the assault force during the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. This Zero was the lead aircraft of the 1st flight of the 1st squadron, piloted by Lieutenant Saburo Shindo at the head of the second attack wave.

201st Air Group



These markings identified the squadron leader's aircraft in the 201st Air Group in 1942-43. Based in Rabaul, New Guinea, this Zero took part in many rounds of fierce fighting.