

Now
119
members in
24
countries!

ASIAN AIR ARMS NEWSLETTER - March 2018

ASIAN AIR
ARMS



Asian Air Arms SIG is a Special Interest Group of IPMS (UK)

March 2018

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Sri Lankan Order of Battle Report (2011)



By Stefan Goosens of



A COMPREHENSIVE TOUR OF THE SRI LANKAN AIR FORCE Reported by Stefan Goosens of "4Aviation Airfield Tours"

A visit to Sri Lanka by a group of enthusiasts, in February 2011, has yielded a lot of information on this Asian air force. Since the majority of the aircraft were seen during the visit, a lot of details have surfaced and we have not presented a complete rundown of this air force before, we decided it was time for a complete rundown of the aircraft types currently in use. On 19 May 2009, the Sri Lankan government formally declared an end to the 25-year civil war in the country, after the army took control of the entire island and killed the leader of the Tamil Tigers. We will not get into too much detail on the conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers and their Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, but fact is that this conflict has helped shape the Sri Lankan Air Force as it currently is.

[Read Stefan's fully illustrated Order of Battle here.](#)

UNPAID RESEARCH HELP WANTED FOR INTERESTING PROJECTS!

I'm looking for some members who can help with the occasional project, which would then feature in the Newsletter.

Two at the moment, come to mind.

The first is deciphering the squadron bars, either side of the Sri Lankan roundels.

Which squadron used which colours?

And the second, is clarification of Malaysian roundels.

Which aircraft had dark blue on the outside, and which had light blue?

I think I know but would appreciate some confirmation.

So, wanna help the SIG? Drop me a line if you're interested.

Also, if you have a project you'd like to see researched let me know and I'll "advertise" it!



www.asianairarms.com

asianairarms1@outlook.com



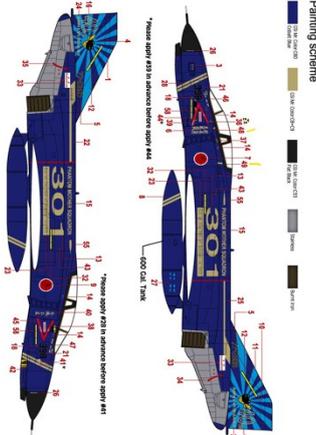
DXM DECAL NEWS

1/48 F-4EJ Kai
JASDF 301 Sqn,
40th Anniversary
 Order decals through us for
your 10% discount!

JASDF 301SQ 40TH ANNIVERSARY
F-4EJ KAI
SUPER PHANTOM
 第301飛行隊創隊40周年
1/48 DECAL



DXM
 Double Excellent Model
 41-4114



See DXM Decals' superb contemporary
 JASDF and US markings here



RECENT KIT RELEASES
(that you might have missed)

ZVEZDA 1/72 Mi-24P Hind F (now used by Indonesian Air Force)



Trumpeter 1/72 Nanchang Q-5C Fantan
(Used by PLAAF, PLANAF, Pakistan & Myanmar)



Freedom Kits 1/48 F-CK-1A—Lovely tail art! (Used by ROCAF)



AFV Club 1/48 F-CK-1C (Used by ROCAF)





What the heck? Continued



My question last month as to whether this F-4EJ camo scheme was real or photo-shopped, was answered by member Paul Thompson, proprietor of the brilliant Japanese aviation website www.j-hangarspace.jp. Paul says:

Without doubt the most striking colour scheme on show at the end of 2017 was that applied to an F-4EJKai Phantom of the Gifu-based Air Development & Test Wing (AD&TW), which was flown in its new look for the first time just three days before the base's open day on November 19.

At first glance, the two-tone green, brown and black design seems reminiscent of the effective German World War I "lozenge" camouflage or even an artwork by the British modern artist Bridget Riley, well known for works involving coloured-shape sequences. Although more of a splinter design, a similarly fetching scheme was adopted by the Swedish Air Force for the Saab 37 Viggen.

In this case, the concept behind the digital pixelated scheme is a modern take on the dark green camouflage applied to the Type 3 Hien fighter, which was both locally designed and produced at as well as flown from then Kawasaki Aircraft's Kakamigahara factory. Sections of the leading edge of the main wing were painted yellow, as was the norm for JAAF fighters at the end of the war. Yellow was also used for an edging around the aircraft's serial and nose numbers, the AD&TW tail marking and the name of the maintenance crew chief above the grey armament status placard on the nose. The February 2018 issue of Koku Fan reported that the design, officially (and dubiously) named Passion Wind, was said to evoke the handing down of the aviation technologies accumulated during the war to the AD&TW, which is responsible for the JASDF's research and development.

Applied across the aircraft's undersides [link] was 各務原飛行場100周年 (Kakamigahara Airfield Centenary), the reason for the lavish paint job. Selected in 1915 as the location for the Imperial Japanese Army's second airfield, following that at Tokorozawa in Saitama Prefecture, the work to change the use of an artillery firing range was completed in 1917. See March 2018 Model Art Magazine <http://www.madelart-shop.jp/?pid=127549126> for another photo.

NEW MEMBERS

We've gained **22** new members since my last Newsletter! So, a big welcome to :

David Lonnen, Steve Komar, Stuart McClelland, Kejia Wu, Steve Crow, Aidan Kiely, Derek Far, Dominic Stinchcombe, Abul Kalam, Philip Fox, Peter Terry and Michael Atkinson from the UK;

Jeremy Neo from Singapore; Matthew Borlandelli, Jim Sanders and Chris Thornburg from USA;

Ben Griffin from Ireland; Jess Santos from Qatar; Samee al Shadman from Bangladesh;

Dai Hyun Ji from Republic of Korea; Marco Abrate from Italy; and Filip Fraeyman from Belgium.

We're now up to 119 members—from 24 countries!

BEST F-4EJ KITS

Courtesy of [Scalemates](http://Scalemates.com)

1/144—Platz



1/144—Tomytec



1/100—Tamiya



1/72—Hasegawa



1/72—Fujimi



1/48—Hasegawa



1/32—Tamiya





AROUND THE SHOWS

2018 MODEL SHOWS WE'LL BE ATTENDING

14th April
Poole Vikings
Poole

14th April
Sword and Lance
Darlington

20th May
E. Midlands Model Show
Hinckley

2nd June
IPMS Salisbury
Salisbury

3rd June
Northern Model Show
Newcastle

8th July
IPMS North Somerset
Weston-Super-Mare

5th August
IPMS Avon
Thornbury

15th September
IPMS Farnborough
Camberley
(To be confirmed)

23rd September? (TBC)
IPMS Brampton
St. Ives

13th October
Royal Tank Museum
Bovington

10-11th November
THE BIG ONE!
Scale Model World
Telford

London Model Show
To be confirmed

SOUTHERN EXPO
Hornchurch Sports Centre—17th & 18th March 2018



Back in a minute.
Just popped out
for a cuppa!

Alan's
1/144
JASDF
F-15Js



Alan's 1/144
JASDF
F-15J &
F-104J



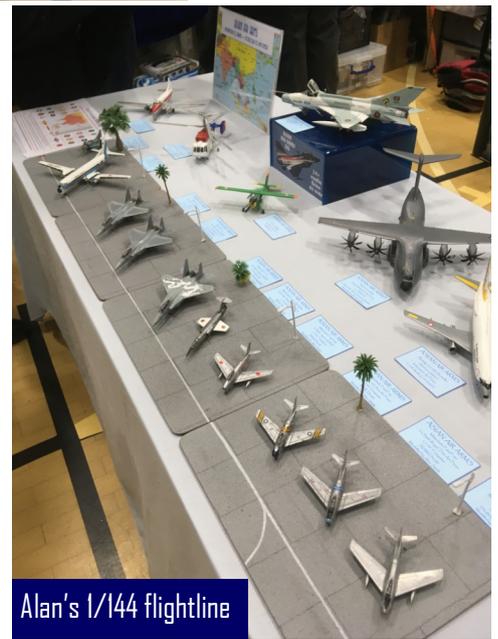
Brian's 1/48
Bangladesh
Guizhou
FT-7BG



Brian's 1/48
Bangladesh
Chengdu
F-7BG



Brian's 1/48
Indonesian
BAe Hawk
109



Alan's 1/144 flightline



The SIG's first
trophy!
Best Club/SIG
Display
Southern Expo
2018.
Hurray!



ASIAN AIR FORCES UPDATE

Japan

* The JASDF Kawasaki EC-2 is now flying from Gifu AirBase. Note the new lumps and bumps and lots of aeriels underneath.



* Japan Maritime Self Defense Force has retired its last Shin Meiwa US-1A.

* Japan will seek an international partner to help develop and build a successor for its F-2 fighter fleet, abandoning plans on a solo development of a next-generation fighter however, there are also plans in place to simply acquire additional F-35 Joint Strike Fighters.

* The Japanese Ministry of Defense is considering purchasing US F-35B fighter jets to deploy on the country's JS Izumo helicopter carrier, Minister of Defense Itsunori Onodera said on Friday during hearings of the budget commission of the House of Councillors.

Indonesia

* Indonesia has approved the purchase of two A400M transport aircraft from Airbus with plans to use them in the civilian role. The cargo-lifters will be put to work by the Indonesian Trading Company (PTI) moving goods around the eastern part of the country, with training and maintenance assistance provided by the Indonesian Air Force.

South Korea

* South Korea's first F-35A Joint Strike Fighter will roll off the assembly line later this month (March) at Lockheed Martin's Forth Worth facility.

Taiwan

* Minster of National Defense said that the F-35B's short takeoff and vertical-landing capabilities definitely meet the needs of the air force. He added that the government has yet to approach the US over such a purchase and Washington is reluctant for fear of irritating China. It seems to have suggested leasing second-hand F-15C/D Eagle instead. However, Taiwan's Ministry of Defense has now dismissed these reports.

* A major event in the Republic of China Air Force was the retirement last December of the last S-2T Tracker maritime patrol aircraft being superseded in its entirety by 12 P-3C Orion purchased in 2013, the final one being delivered mid-2017. The Orions were taken from former US Navy stocks and were re-winged and re-equipped before delivery to bring them up to the same standard as those still in US service. If the P-3s last as long as the S2s, the last one will be withdrawn in 2063!



India

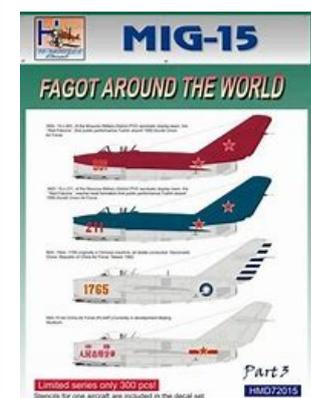
* Indian Air Force (IAF) officials have denied earlier reports that the military had requested a classified briefing on the F-35. Speaking to The Indian Express, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa said New Delhi had "not officially asked for a briefing on the F-35 nor has any request been made to the Americans." News that the IAF had approached the manufacturer Lockheed Martin for a classified briefing on the F-35 came amid news that the government had decided to scrap the proposal to make a single-engine foreign fighter in India.

Pakistan



Pakistan's Air Force has inducted the AW139 helicopter into service, being assigned to its No 88 Search and Rescue squadron which is now designated as a advanced helicopter training school.

ASIAN MiG-15 DECALS





AIR FORCES UPDATE (Continued)

Thailand

RThaiAF received their first pair of KAI T-50TH 25Jan18 after a freight delivery flight from Korea. One suffered FOD damage en route and they were delayed at Kuantan for repairs. '40101' c/n 18-0001 and '40102' c/n 18-0002. The second pair (probably '40103' and '40104') was delivered in a Korean Boeing 747F 23Feb18, just to be safe! Next ones not until next year. RTAF serials believed to be in the B.F21-x/xx range, but to be confirmed.



China

One of the features of the PRC military in recent years has been the pace of change in all areas and it is anticipated that 2018 will prove no different. Highlights for this year include the launching of a second aircraft carrier in April and the possible appearance of the Xian H-20 stealth bomber at the Zhuhai Air Show in November. Other developments will see the build up of the fleets of J-20 Stealth fighters (top photo) and the multirole J-10B: both introduced into the PLAAF in 2017. Chengdu are pushing on with the introduction of the J-16 (lower photo), an indigenous development of the Su-30MKK which will initially reinforce, and progressively replace, older types such as the remaining versions of the J-7.



Northrop F-5A/B

F-5A 10th Fighter Wing, ROKAF



Northrop F-5A of the Republic of Korea Air Force (10th Fighter Wing), 1965

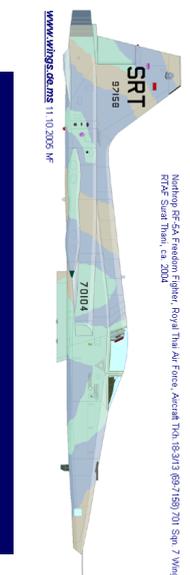
F-5A 935 Regtmt, Vietnamese People's Air Force



www.wings66.ms 13.12.2005 MF

Northrop F5A Freedom Fighter, VPAF, #6528, 935 Regiment, Gian Hoa, CA, 1980

RF-5A 71 Sqdn, Royal Thai Air Force



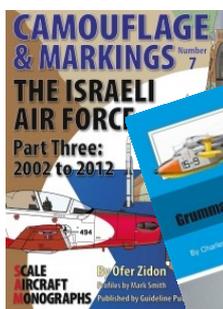
www.wings66.ms 11.10.2005 MF

Northrop RF-5A Freedom Fighter, Royal Thai Air Force, A-6647 714, 8313 (89-159) 701 Sqd, 7 Wing, RTAF, Suvarn, TH, CA, 2000

ASIAN AIR ARMS AND GUIDELINE PUBLICATIONS

Guideline Publications

Guideline Publications, the premier publisher for military aviation literature, is offering **a 10% discount on all its books** for our members who order through Asian Air Arms.



If you'd like to take advantage of this offer contact me directly.

And don't forget the London Plastic Modelling Show on Sunday 4th December, 2018.





DAVID'S DECAL REVIEW

"SKIPPER" 1/48 DECALS FROM TAIWAN



No. 4801 PLAAF/PLANAF Chinese "Flankers"; Su-27SK; Su-30MKK; Su-MK2; J-11B/BS

The pack consists of three A4 sized pages of coloured profiles showing no less than 17 versions of the "Flanker" in its various guises in Air Force (AF) service, as well as three side views of lighter coloured Naval Air Arm (NAA) machines. The sheets also include upper surface views of a single example of both AF and NAA as a guide to decal placement. Instructions as to where individual decals are placed are clear and would be familiar to anyone who has ever used a "Two Bobs" decal sheet.

In addition to the profiles, the sheets also include a total of 16 small photos of the actual aircraft in use. Paint colours are given from the "Mr Colour" range and are thus relatively easy to cross-reference with other paint manufacturers products on the "net".

As far as the actual decals are concerned there are three A4 sheets, plus 2 smaller sheets, which means that you can build just about any "Flanker" that has ever served the Chinese Armed Forces.

Sheet 1 provides national "stars and bars", tail markings and flags as well as yellow numbers, intake warning stripes and white backing decals for all the common markings.

Sheet 2 gives you literally dozens of white and yellow numbers of various sizes and fonts, as well as white and yellow "no walk" stripes and tail plane incidence angle markings.

Sheet 3 is an A4 sheet covered with more blue numbers than I have ever seen in one sheet, again in a variety of styles and sizes and all appropriate to AF aircraft plus a number of the orange formation-keeping stripes found on the "Flanker" and a number of other PLA aircraft.

If that wasn't enough there are two further, smaller, sheets of decals: the smaller of the two carries a number of the large "stars and bars" located on the aircrafts' wings and white backing decals to ensure the dark blue/grey colour scheme of the AF versions doesn't bleed through the decal. Finally, (well sort of) there's one more decal sheet covering the various Division and Regiment badges illustrated on the colour profiles, as well as a number of small (very small) stencil markings.

Then as a final measure the manufacturer also includes a small packet containing three metal nose probes.

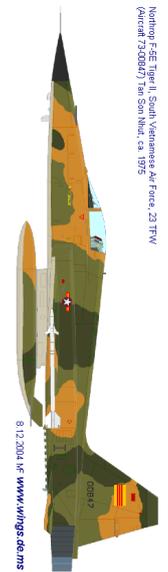
Well yes, you do get a lot for your money, but they are expensive (270 HKD or approximately £25) and to be honest they are not perfect - and considering the price they are sold at they should be! For example, do Chinese aircraft not carry markings below the wings and fuselage? This sheet has no instructions to illustrate that area! Colours too in some areas, such as the badges, seem to be darker than on any of the photographs I've been able to access. That said, if you want to build examples of these aircraft, in many cases, these are the only game available. Certainly the range of "Flanker" derivatives has not been bettered.

Obtainable from Hobbyeasy in Hong Kong (www.hobbyeasy.com)

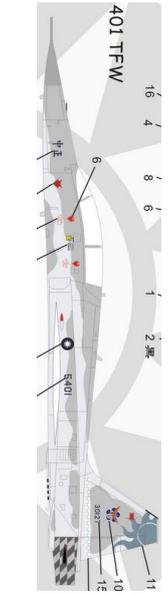
David Thomas—Deputy Leader Asian Air Arms

Northrop F-5E/F

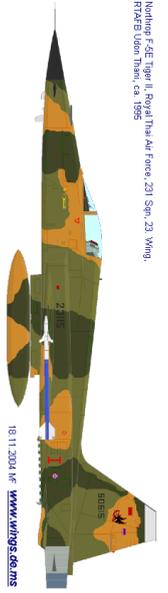
F-5E 23rd TFW, VNAF



F-5E 401 TFW, ROCAF



F-5E 231 Sqdn, RTAF



ASIAN AIR ARMS AND DXM DECALS

DXM DECALS

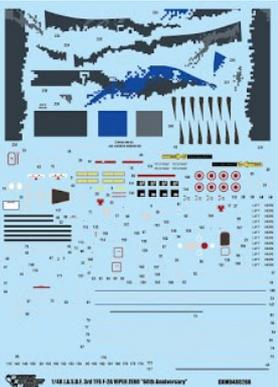
1/72 or 1/48 digital camo

F-2A
J.A.S.D.F.
3rd 17th Anniversary



PHOTO: Y.B. LEE

1/48 DECAL



You'll be pleased to read that we've now reached agreement with the maker of superb Japanese (and other) decals - **DXM**.
This agreement means that **you'll be able to claim a 10% discount** on any decals ordered through Asian Air Arms.
Have a look at their range here <http://www.dxmdecal.com/>
If you want to order any, please contact me directly (until I get the website amended) and I'll fill you in re. postage and how to pay, etc.



Decals from DXM Decal sheet DXMD 48018 JASDF ACM (Also numbered 2013 41-4221)
Model made by David Thomas.

KAI F/A-50 & T-50i Videos

Here are two videos showing Thai and Indonesian Air Forces operating F/A-50 and T-50i.



Возможный вид KAI A-50 "Golden Eagle" ВВС Таиланда в стандартном камуфляже для боевых самолетов этой страны.





A NEW BLUE DIAMOND DECAL SHEET—"HISTORY OF INDONESIAN MARKINGS"

INDONESIAN GENERIC MARKINGS - POST 1945 Indonesian Air Force, Navy and Army Aviation Decals

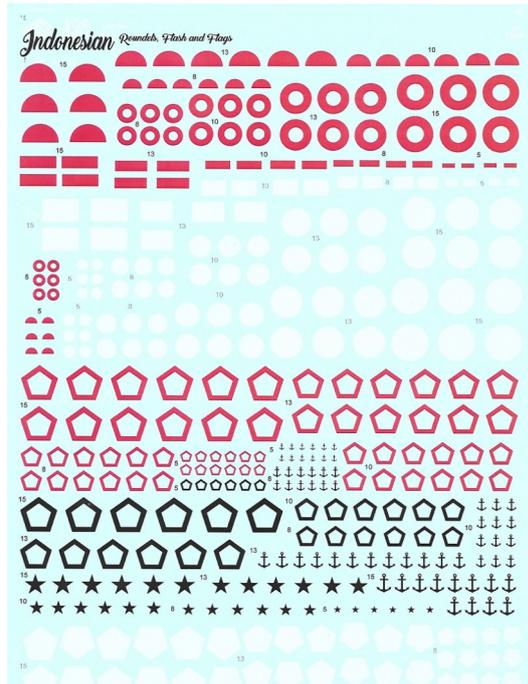


A BLUE DIAMOND DECALS/ASIAN AIR ARMS PRODUCTION
www.asianairarms.com/decals-blue-diamonds

A HISTORY OF INDONESIAN MILITARY AVIATION MARKINGS



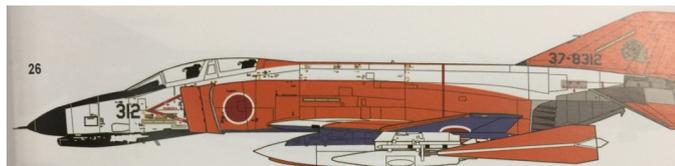
Sources: <http://mmbeloh-anglam.blogspot.co.uk/2011/08/history-of-indonesian-air-force-part-1.html>,
Military Aircraft insignia of the World, Cochran/Tillot, <http://www.abp.be/museum/indonesia/indonesia.htm>



This huge—A4—decal sheet enables you to replicate markings from any period of Indonesian military operations since 1945. They have been drawn in four sizes to make them fit most aircraft and most scales. By combining various components you can make up markings for the Air Force, Army and Navy—and in Hi or Lo-Viz. Price for Members: £13.00; Non-Members: £16.50, both plus Post & Packing. You can order them from our website page www.asianairarms.com/decals-blue-diamonds

MODELLING QUESTIONS

This month, Andy Terrell asked what was the undersurface colour of a particular JASDF F-4EJ Target Tug. Andy Binks, Paul Thompson and Akira Watanabe supplied the info.



It's believed that the undersurface of this a/c is overall "bluey-grey", with the gun area possibly in black. Furthermore, contrary to the drawing, the hinomaru on the undersurfaces didn't have a white surround.



The other request was from David Hart and he wanted a clear shot of the squadron badge of 144 Sqdn RSingAF F-5S. Mark Chen was able to help us with the following shots.



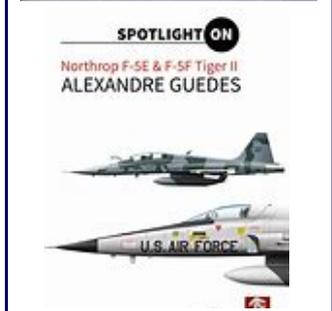
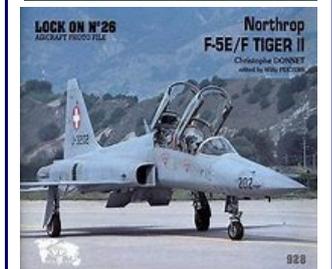
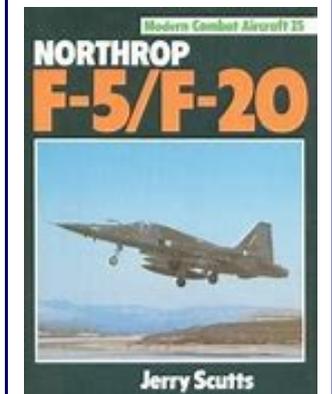
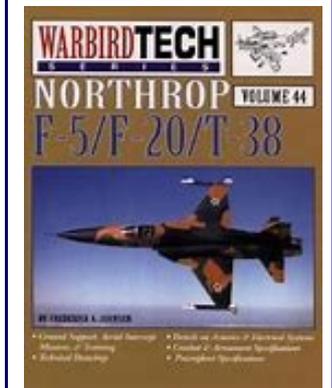
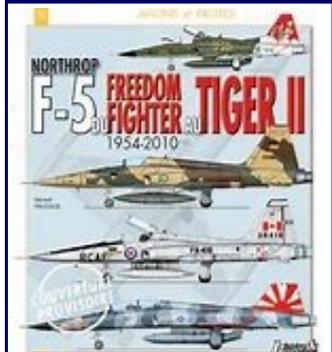
A bit of admin!

Back copies of Newsletters will, in future, be available on the website—find the button on the Home Page. Expanded Links page—please bear with me on this, I'm steadily building it up. You'll find some interesting new links here now.

www.asianairarms.com

asianairarms1@outlook.com

Northrop F-5 Books





Asian Air Arms SIG
 encourages you to join
IPMS
THE INTERNATIONAL
PLASTIC MODELLERS' SOCIETY
 But, why?



IPMS covers not only the UK but also the whole world!
 Over 80 clubs in UK (including 2 on-line clubs) plus 55 overseas branches in over 50 countries
 (from Malta to Venezuela, Russia to Brazil, Australia to China).
Contact these branches for foreign advice!

Like to concentrate your modelling on particular topics?
 IPMS has over 70 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) covering every possible subject, such as:
 "Battleship", "Formula 1 & Motorsport", "Harrier", "Landing Craft", "Sci-Fi & Fantasy",
 "Splash—Flying Boats and Amphibians", "Leopard Main Battle Tank", "Aerobatic Display Teams" etc., etc!
 There is a SIG just for you!
And it's free to members!

Like to keep informed about what's going on in the modelling world?
 IPMS Magazine is published six times a year with all articles written by IPMS members
 and is posted directly to your home.
And it's free to members!

Want technical advice on your modelling themes?
 There is a Technical Advisory Service for all topics including aircraft, figures, shipping and military vehicles.
And it's free to members!

Hunting for that elusive decal sheet?
 IPMS Decal Bank has thousands to choose from—just ask and they'll start searching for you!
And it's free to members!

Lost an instruction sheet and don't know how to proceed?
 The Instruction Sheet Library will put you back on the right path.
And it's free to members!

Wish you could attend the biggest modelling show in the world?
 IPMS Scale Modelworld event in November covers three huge halls, welcoming thousands of visitors
 from all over the world to see the very latest releases and enjoy club displays from UK, Europe and beyond.
And it's free to members!

And what will all this set you back?
 About one pint of beer a night for 8 nights a year!
 Or to put it another way, less than filling your car's tank just once a year!
 Adult membership in the UK from just £22! Equivalent to 42 pence per week or 6 pence per day!!
 For this you get:

- * **Free** fellowship with the whole international modelling fraternity wherever you travel!
- * **Free** access to all Special Interest Groups and Technical Advisory Services
- * **Free** weekend entry to the biggest model show in the world!
- * **Free** access to IPMS Decal Bank and the Instruction Sheet Library!
- * **Free** IPMS Magazine posted to you six times a year!

And all this for just 6 pence per day!

Asian Air Arms strongly recommends that you join IPMS.
 Join here today! <http://ipmsuk.org/membership/membership-prices/>