



## Vampire FB31 conversion for the 1/32 Infinity Models injection moulded kit.

With the advent of the new 1/48 Airfix Vampire I was compelled by a certain fellow at Metro Hobbies to revisit something I did for the Hobbycraft kit 20 years ago, to make a simple FB.31 conversion to make a RAAF version out of the F.3.

What followed after the success of the 1/48 version was a 1/72 downscaled version to suit the Heller kit—and now I've upscaled it and added some mods for the new Infinity 1/32 kit.

If someone asks for a 1/144 version I guess I could... Anyhow, on with the show.



Here's my finished 1/48 model with the conversion set applied. Check uncles.net to see the full story.



Here's my finished 1/32 model with the conversion set applied. It got its first outing at ScaleACT in Canberra in November 2022.

UNCLE LES	RAAF 21Sqn Vampire FB31	A79-915 202	9 2	 	 
	1/32 [set A]	A79-915 202	5 2		

**What you get in the set:**

- Decals Set A on clear sheet,
- 3D printed intake FOD modules.
- 3D printed exhaust bung.
- 3D printed adjustable stand, intakes, 4 chocks, bomb slip and Mk2 MB bang seat.
- Polyurethane cast nose bump.
- Decals Set B on white sheet,
- The waterslide decals are all printed on single sheets and all objects will need to be cut out separately.

So, onto the conversion: Assemble the kit as per Infinity's instructions with the following mods: Before you start be aware the 3D parts are brittle. So careful as you go. Best you soak the 3D in warm/hot water to soften them up before removal from supports. I recommend a razor saw and take your time.

These steps are presented as a basic outline but have a read of the following page before beginning so you learn from my mistakes !

**STEP 1:** Decide which version you're doing and trim the wingtips to the clipped version if you're doing the later FB31. Both Infinity kits have identical parts so the clear wingtips are present in both.

**STEP 2:** If you're making an FB31 omit all seat parts and cut the middle rectangle section out of the rear cockpit wall, part F6.. Use the removed part to form a new wall 7mm to the rear and bolster up the sides with plasticard ( I use bread tags ) The bang seat needs to sit partially to the rear as per the real deal. If you're making an earlier FB30 then ignore the bang seat and check your references. Assemble the rest of the cockpit as per kit instruction. Drop the ejection seat in at the very end prior to the canopy being added—no need to put it in just yet.

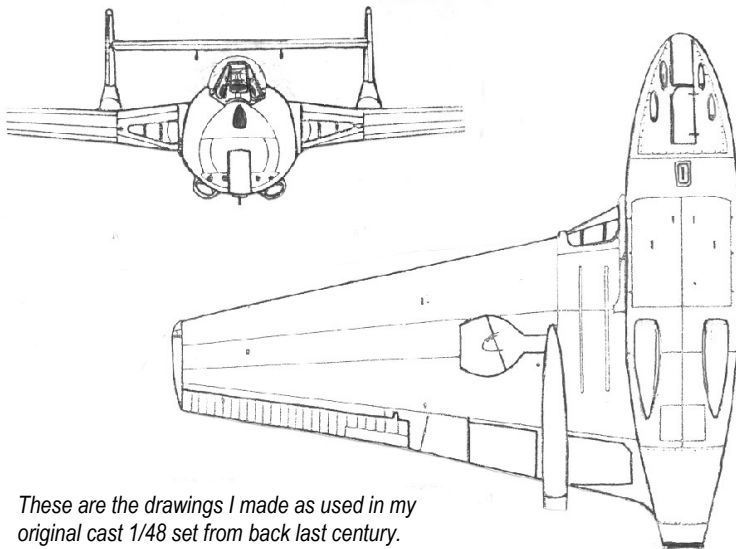
**STEP 3:** When assembling the intake trunking ( kit steps 14 –21) note that the internal detail is a bit grim with the kit—I chose to bung it all up with FOD covers so assemble the internal structures as per kit if only to provide structural integrity. What you do from here will depend on your skill, patience and how much Milliput you have. Note that the intakes are different on the FB31 and it can be sorted by just filling in the small holes ( ancillary intakes on other versions) and blending in the area. Note the shape of the cheeks differ as well and they can also be sorted with little filler and some sanding—refer to your massive library of online sourced JPGs.—pick this up after you've completed the fuselage joining.

**STEP 4:** Before joining the top and bottom sections together ( step 22) consider adding weight. I used a couple of computer mouse balls stripped of their rubber just behind the rear wall. If you don't want to affect the c-of-g you can deploy the trestle provided in the 3D printed parts. When the fuselage

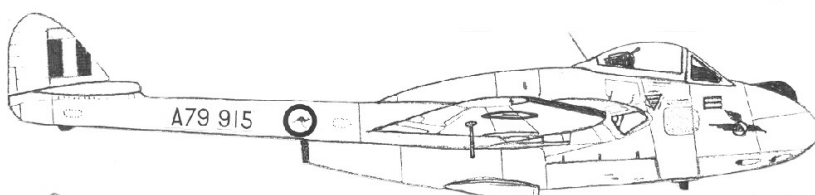
**STEP 5:** If you're doing an FB31 then refer to the pics here for elephant ear location. If you're doing an FB30 they go on top. Remove the intakes from the 3D support structure CAREFULLY and after trimming adhere with Cyano Acrylate glue using the guides here to show where they go—there should be a gap of 12mm between the closest points on the intakes. You can use a smidge of Tamiya putty to close any gap and I recommend using a liquid cement or MEK to smooth it out.

**STEP 6:** If fitted on the airframe you're doing, there's a bump underneath the cockpit which is represented by a 3D piece. Now's the time to whack it on—saw it off carefully and adhere with CA. If you choose to use the bungs you can insert the intake covers straight into the intakes having omitted parts D8 & D9. The exhaust on the Nene engine versions has a larger diameter than the Goblin and I got around this by trimming 2mm from the rear fuselage, omitted the exhaust can and used the disc provided as a FOD bung.

**STEP 7:** Assuming I've covered everything it's now time to spray the whole thing in silver ( I used Tamiya rattle can AS-12 ) and we'll cover decals on the next page.



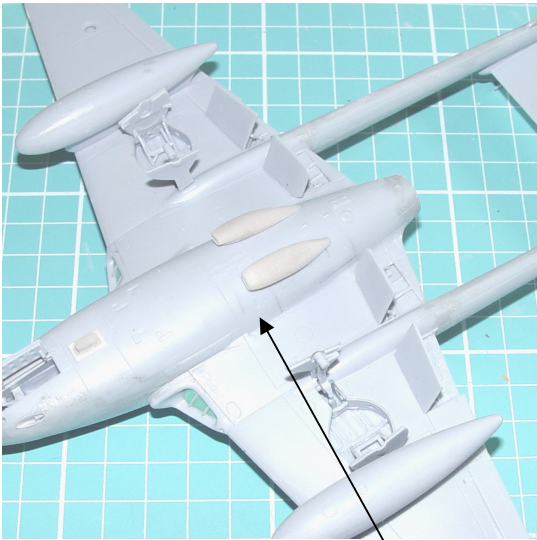
These are the drawings I made as used in my original cast 1/48 set from back last century.





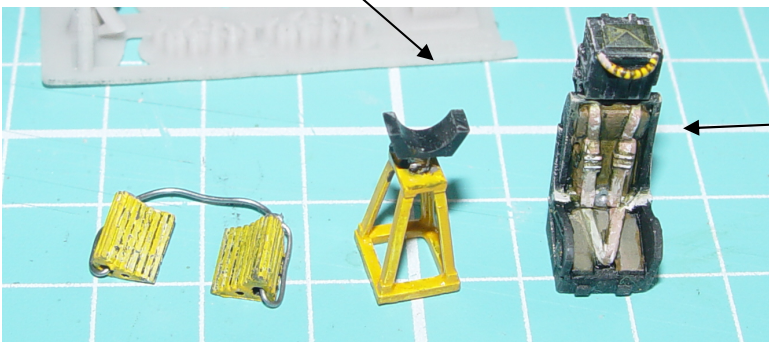
## Vampire FB31 conversion for the 1/32 Infinity Models injection moulded kit.

I'm showing images of both the 1/48 Airfix kit and the 1/32 Infinity kit here as they're the same basic thing, just one's 1.5 times bigger than the other.



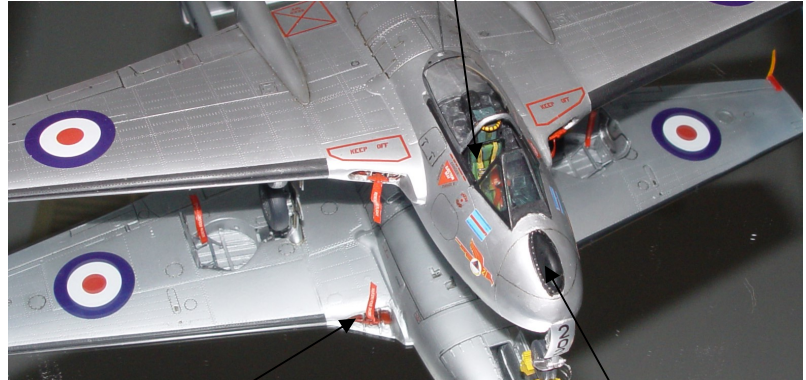
The elephant ears are located mid way on those panels underneath and in a similar position on top for the previous version.  
The distance between the intakes is ~ 12mm at the closest point between them.

I've included the chocks and a stand to assist with display of the model. If you don't manage to get the prescribed weight in the nose you can use the stand I've provided to hold up the tail. The trestle position as seen in many photos out there will show you where the stand should go. I made it so the top will click in place and you can adjust accordingly.



If you want to see an excellent walk-around on this subject go to [http://www.grubby-fingers-aircraft-illustration.com/Walkarounds\\_Air\\_Military\\_Jet.html#dh](http://www.grubby-fingers-aircraft-illustration.com/Walkarounds_Air_Military_Jet.html#dh) and drill down to Vampire A79-202. Thanks to Graeme Molineux and his Grubby Fingers for doing the hard yards.

If you've cut the hole right the seat will just drop in here.



The intake bungs have the intake strakes built in so they can just slot in.  
I added RBF tags for that lived-in look.

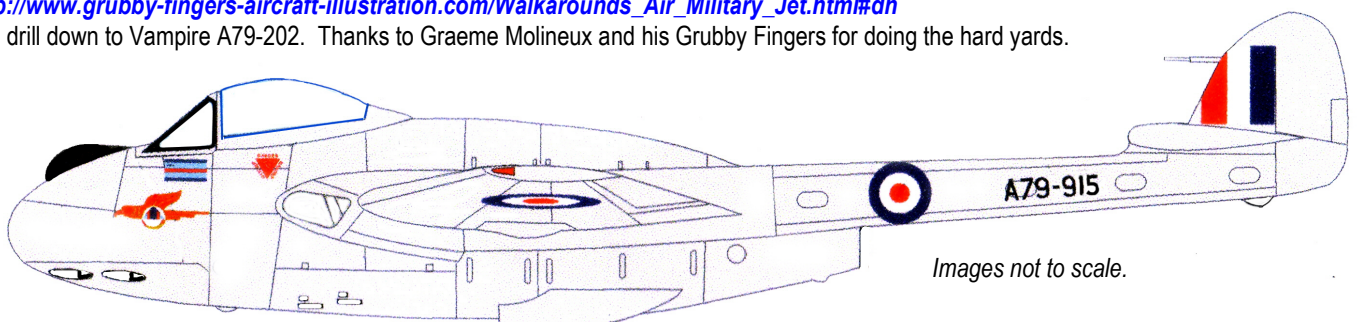
Nose bump location can be seen here.

The decals provided in the conversion set require cutting out as they are laser printed on single sheets and will behave as normal transfers if soaked in water for a few seconds and then applied by sliding off the backing sheet. With the Ejection seat markings I designed it so you can apply the set from the clear sheet FIRST and then just cut out the triangle from the white backed sheet and apply over the top.

Experiment with a strip from the edge if you need to get a hang of how they behave.

Some of the markings from the Infinity kit can be used (cockades, stencilling) however I found some of the stencilling is a bit off so you may need to conscript markings from your spares box—maybe from the MB Sea Venom.

The seat is best just painted overall black, cushioned areas in dark brown, straps in tan, ejection handle yellow with black stripes, all dry brushed lightly with a lighter grey and then ink washed with black over the seat and green over the cushions. (at least that's how I did mine).



Images not to scale.