

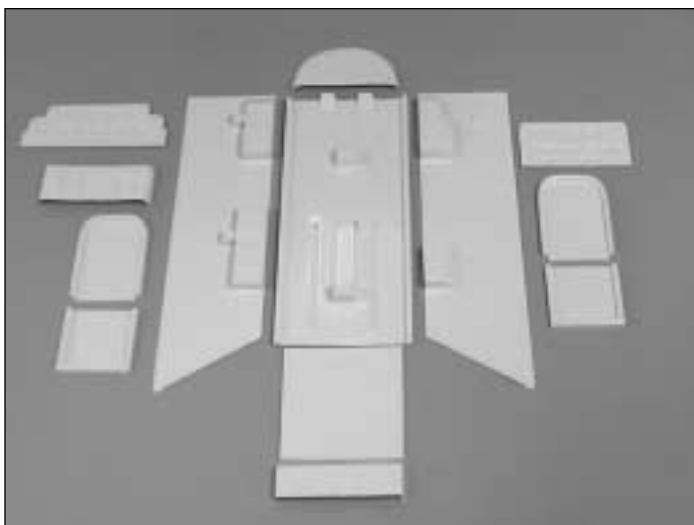


T-34B MENTOR

SCALE COCKPIT KIT – ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for purchasing a Top Flite® T-34 Mentor scale cockpit interior. The parts in this kit represent an interior modeled from drawings and photos of a full-size T-34. Not all T-34's have the exact same cockpit layout so, if necessary, modifications could be made to this kit to make it exactly like the one in your documentation. If precision authenticity is not a priority, simply follow these instructions to end up with a scale-looking cockpit interior that will really put the finishing touches on your model. The parts in this kit must be painted with a paint that is compatible with styrene (Top Flite LustreKote® is not suitable for styrene). Since the cockpit is inside the model, fuelproof paint is not necessary. Acrylic paints found in craft stores can be purchased in a wide variety of colors and in small containers. Small details such as switches, knobs, dials, etc. can be applied with a paint brush, but, if possible, the base coat should be applied with an airbrush for the best results.

Replacement parts may be ordered as listed below through your hobby shop, or online at: www.top-flite.com. For accuracy, be certain to include the part numbers when ordering.



PARTS LIST

These are the parts included in this kit.

- T349CIPL01–Cockpit Floor
- T349CIPL02L–Left Sidewall
- T349CIPL02R–Right Sidewall
- T349CIPL03–Front and Rear Instrument Panel
- T349CIPL04–Seat Back and Bottom
- T349CIPL05–Center Glare Shield
- T349CIPL06–Glare Shield
- T349CIPL07–Rear Cockpit Wall
- T349CIPL08–Clear Plastic for Instrument Panel
- EXTGF25–Control Stick Dowel
- TAPE001–Black Elastic
- #17 White Head Pin
- #28 White Head Pin
- T349CPD01–Instrument Panel Decal

SUGGESTED TOOLS & SUPPLIES

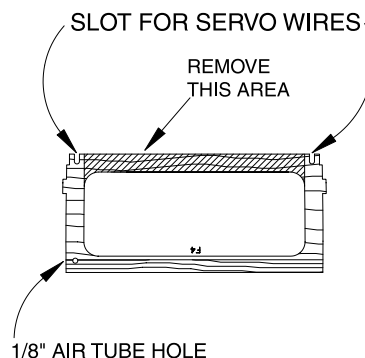
- Curved-tip scissors suitable for cutting plastic (HCAR0667)
- Hobby knife and #11 blade
- Sandpaper and sanding tools
- Airbrush (if preferred)
- Paint brushes
- Paint (acrylic or enamel recommended)
- Clear RTV silicone or Shoe Goo™
- Thin or medium CA
- Sheet of leftover 1/16" [1.6mm] or 3/32" [2.4mm] balsa

GETTING STARTED

Assembling and installing your scale cockpit interior will probably require minor adjustments and "tweaking" to fit your particular model. This is because of variations in building technique, parts alignment and glue fillets that may interfere with proper positioning of the parts. A little patience is all that is required to obtain a good looking installation. Trim parts a little at a time, checking the fit after each adjustment. Remember, you can always remove material, but it's hard to put it back on.

1. Start by trimming **all parts** to the embossed "trim lines." Use a hobby knife or scissors to "rough cut" the parts. Then, sand the parts with a sanding block to straighten the edges. You can evenly sand the edges by simply taping a sheet of 220-grit sandpaper to your workbench. Then, work the part in a circular motion while pressing down gently.

Note: Save all scraps of smooth plastic in case you need them later.



2. Before fitting any parts in the fuselage cavity, you will first need to modify some of the formers. You will need to cut and remove the top portion of formers F4, F5 and F6 that extend the width of the fuselage.

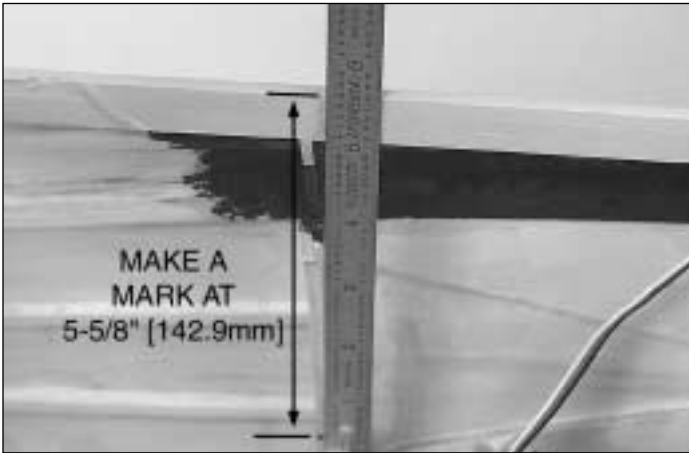


Note: We suggest that you first "dry fit" the parts into the cavity of the fuselage. This will allow you to adjust the parts as needed, and become familiar with the installation.

☐ 3. Install the parts in this order:

- A. Cockpit floor
- B. Front instrument panel
- C. Left side wall
- D. Right side wall
- E. Rear wall
- F. Rear wall top
- G. Rear instrument panel
- H. Rear former of front cockpit
- I. Rear glare shield
- J. Front glare shield
- K. Front and rear seats

☐ 4. After you have finished dry fitting and trimming the parts, it is time to paint and detail your cockpit kit. Before painting, **thoroughly clean** the parts with rubbing alcohol, and then allow them to dry completely. Paint all the parts with the base color of your choice. The prototype of ours was painted all gray. The throttle quadrants, sidewall accessories and the glare shields were painted black. Paint the lightest colors first, and then, detail the cockpit to your liking.



☐ 5. Now that all your cockpit parts are painted and detailed, let's start the installation. Measure from the top edge of the fuselage down 5-5/8" [142.9mm] at former 6 and former 3. Make marks on the formers on both sides of the fuselage at that distance. Glue the balsa sticks across the bottom of former 6 and former 3, even with the two marks. This provides a gluing surface and allows the floor to be level inside the fuselage.

Note: The black paint in the previous photos was applied before the cockpit kit was installed. This was used to dress up the cockpit area for prototype pictures.



☐ 6. Apply a bead of medium CA along the balsa sticks that were installed earlier in step 4. Install the cockpit floor, lining up the front with the front edge of former 3.

☐ 7. Before you install the front and rear instrument panels, you must decide on how you want to install the gauges from the decal sheet.

A. You can apply the decal sheet to the front of the instrument panels without cutting out the individual gauges.

B. You can cut out the individual gauge locations on the instrument panel, attach the clear sheet of plastic to the back of the instrument panel, and then cut out each gauge from the decal sheet. After the gauges have been cut out of the decal sheet, you apply them to the backside of the clear plastic with regular Scotch® tape. This process will be time consuming; however, when finished, your instrument panel will look more realistic.



☐ 8. Install the completed front instrument panel against former 3. You can either glue the instrument panel to the former, or use pushpins to hold the lower sides and then glue the top to former 3a.

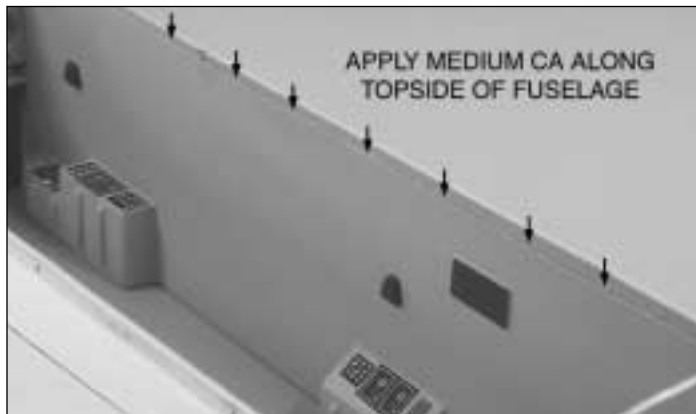
Note: The pushpins will be hidden after the cockpit walls are installed.



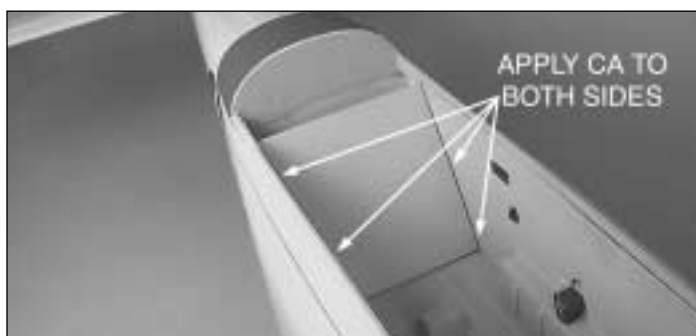
☐ 9. Apply a bead of medium CA to the topside of the fuselage. Install the left sidewall against the topside. **Do not** glue the bottom of the

sidewall to the floor at this time. Once the rear wall has been glued in place to each sidewall, then you can wick some thin CA under the bottom of the sidewalls, which will attach the floor to the sidewalls.

the back of the instrument panel for strength. Make a mark 9-1/8" [232.2mm] from former F3 on both sides of the fuselage. This will be the location of the rear instrument panel.



10. Install the right sidewall in the same manner that you installed the left sidewall in step 9.



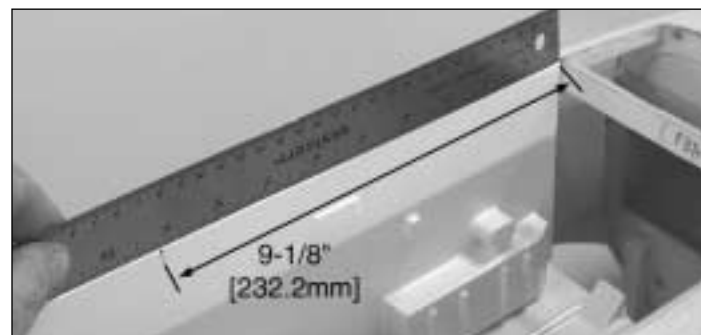
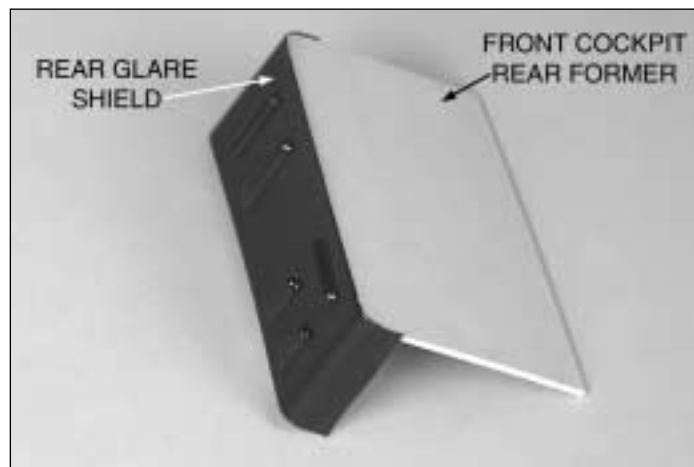
11. Located at the rear of the sidewalls are two angled rails. These are the gluing surfaces for the rear wall. Apply a bead of medium CA to each rail and install the rear wall.



14. Trim the rear instrument panel to the shape shown in the above photo. Install the rear instrument panel at the marks you made in step 13. Place the rear glare shield on top of the rear instrument panel to determine how much of the top is raised above the fuselage sides. Once the instrument panel is in place, remove the glare shield and glue the rear instrument panel in position.

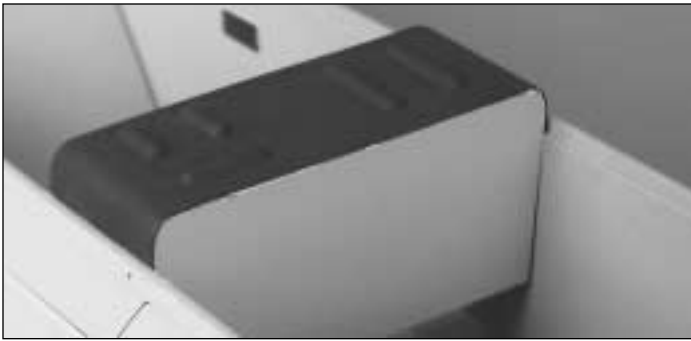


12. Use two pieces of masking tape to set the rear wall top into position. Use thin CA to glue the rear wall top to the sides of the fuselage, and to the top of the rear wall.



13. After you have finished applying the gauges to the rear instrument panel, attach a leftover piece of balsa (not included) across

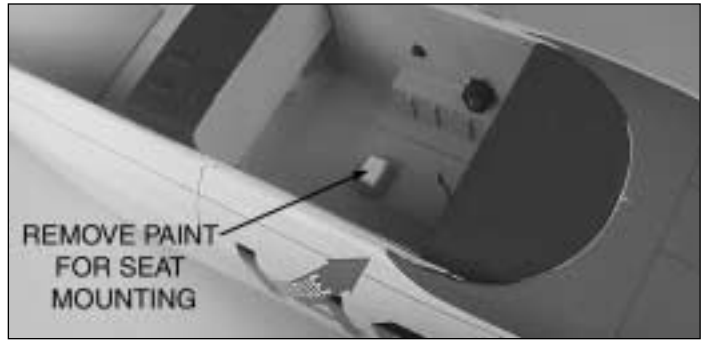
15. Before installing the rear former of the front cockpit, glue the rear glare shield to the former. This will make it easier to determine where the former should go.



16. Install the former and the glare shield, with the glare shield overhanging the top of the rear instrument panel by 1/8" [3.2mm]. Use thin CA to glue the rear former to the sidewalls, and the glare shield to the inside of the fuselage rails.



17. Install the front glare shield, with it overhanging the front instrument panel by 1/8" [3.2mm].



18. Glue the seat back to the seat bottom as shown in the three previous photos. Before installing the seats you must remove the paint from the seat mounts on the floor. This will allow the glue to properly adhere the seat to the mount. The seat belts are made from the black elastic included in this kit, and the buckles are made from a chrome trim sheet (not included). The seat belts are glued to the rear of the seat, and to the bottom of the seat. Install both of the seats into the cockpit with medium CA.



When you take your T-34B Mentor to the field, try to be gracious in accepting all the praise you will undoubtedly receive. Good Luck and Happy Flying!