

The original Avenger was devaloped for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine corp. as a torpedo bomber, and entered service in 1942. Over time the aircraft was further developed to carry girborne radar in anti-shipping and anti-submarine roles. The TBM-35 was an anti-submarine version produced post WWII at the onset of the Cold War. The JBM S usually flew with a TBM-3W as a 'Hunter / Killer' team. The 35 was a converted 3E, with the turret removed, and had a larger rear compartment housing a radar operator / navigator. The radio compartment was retrieved with its operator, but two sonobuoy launch tubes were installed at the river. I search light was mounted under the port wing and an AN/APS-4 radar wounder the starboard wing. The Royal Navy / Fleet Air Arm aircraft were designated AS-4 and their air-to-surface radar was mounted in a 'dustbin' type radome under the fuselage. The TBM-3S and similar TBM-3S2 could carry rockets with zero-length launch mounts under each wing. A single acoustic topedo or 4 bombs / depth-charges could be carried in the bomb-bay. The aircraft had an antenna / receiver for the radar data-link from a TBM-3W. The TBM-3S was used by several countries including Canada, France, Japan, and the Dutch. Details such as conopies and other components varied between countries.

The TBM-R was a converted TBM-3W or TBM-3S. Combat gear was removed and the rear canopy either glazed or covered over. It was developed during the Korean War as a COD (carrier onboard delivery) and had seating for 7 passengers in the rear compartment. It could also carry stretchers in the bomb-bay, or a cargo basket which could quickly be exchanged on the ground or on deck.

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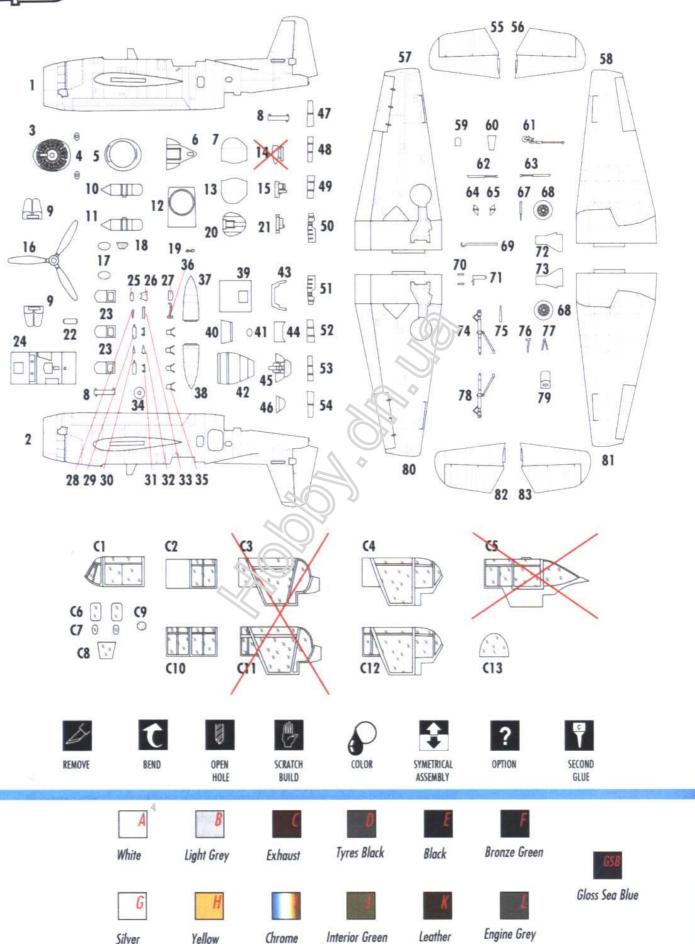
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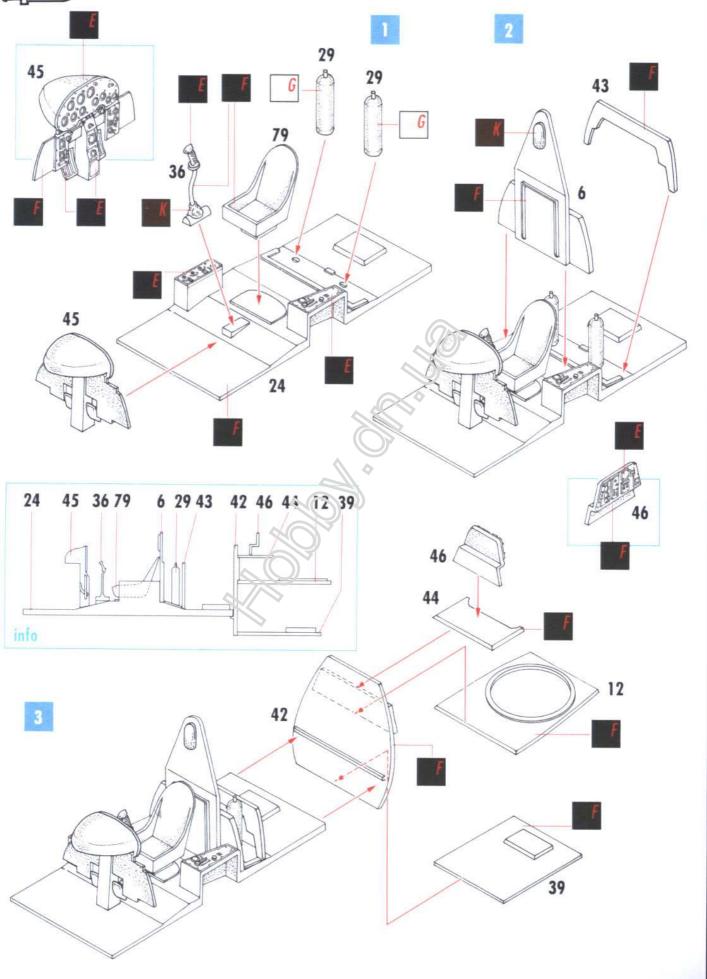
Silver

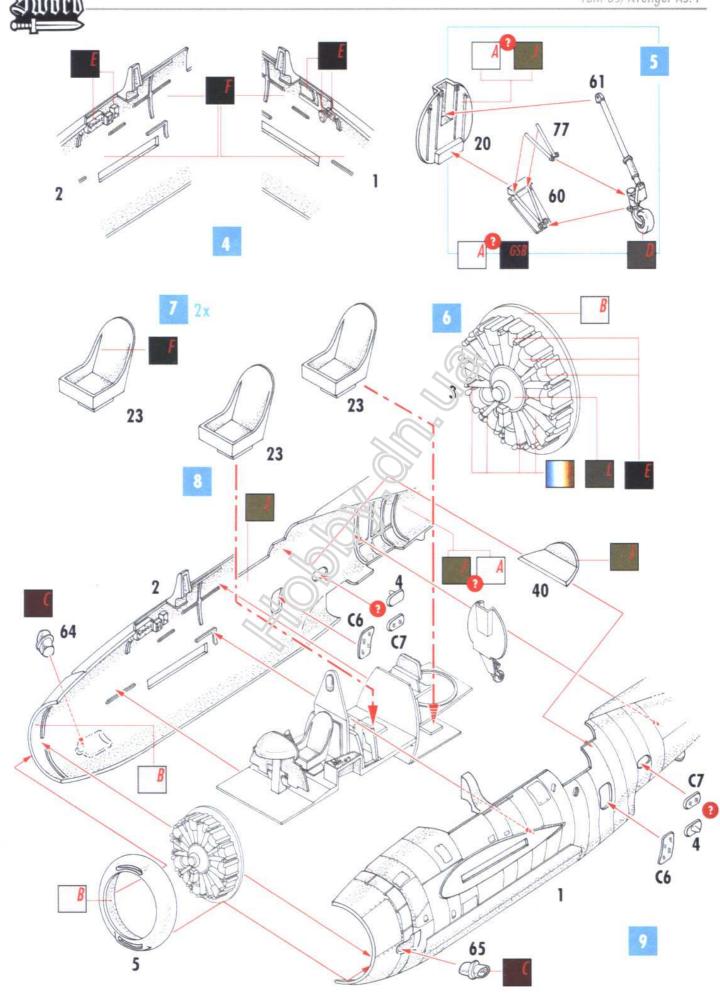
Yellow

Chrome

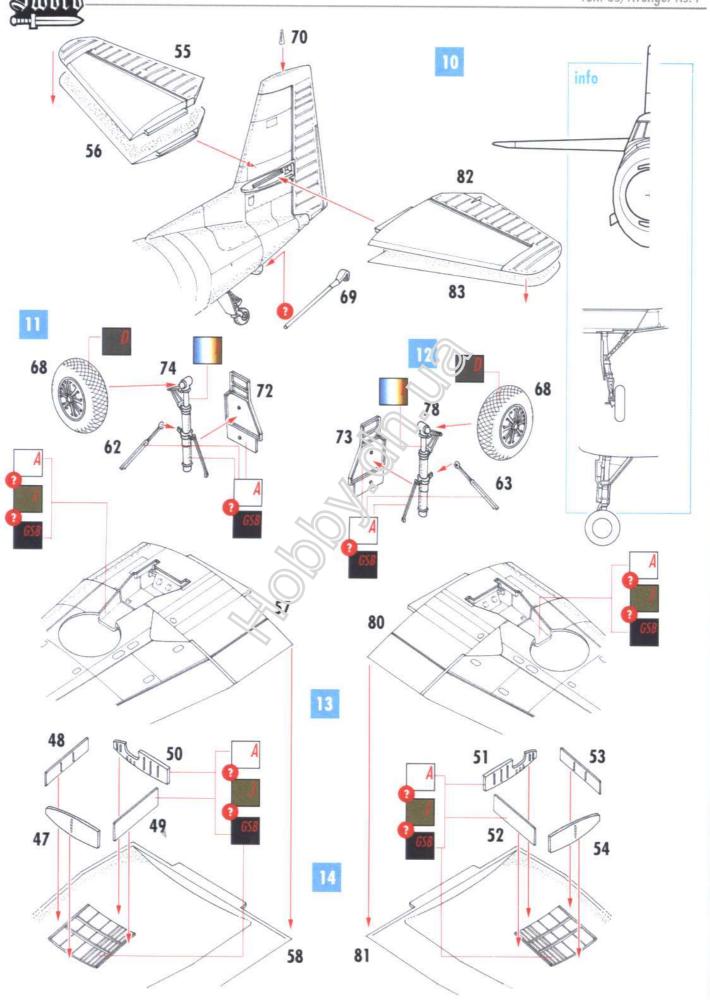


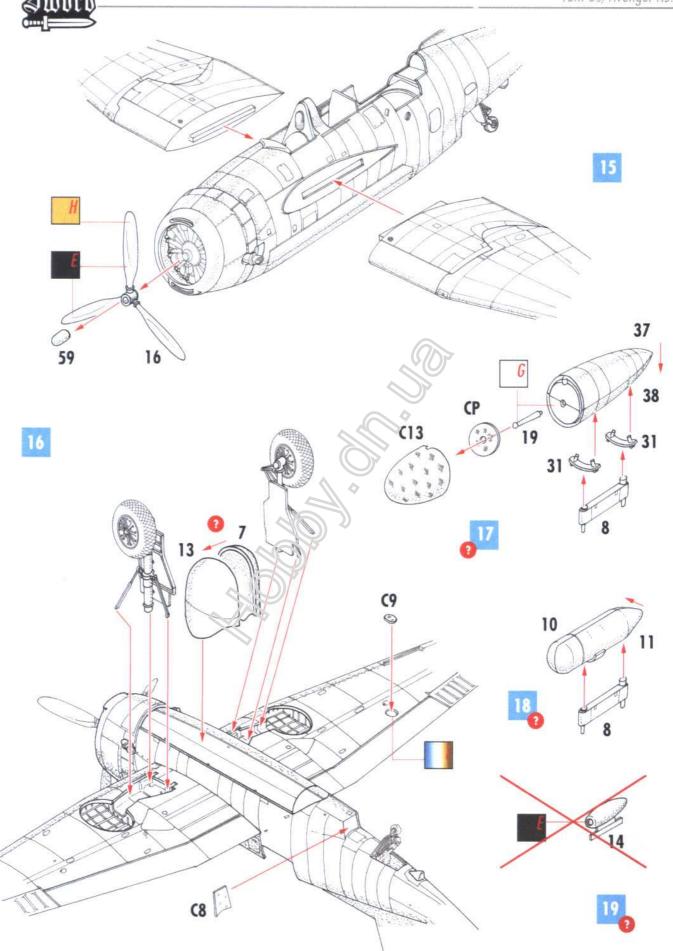


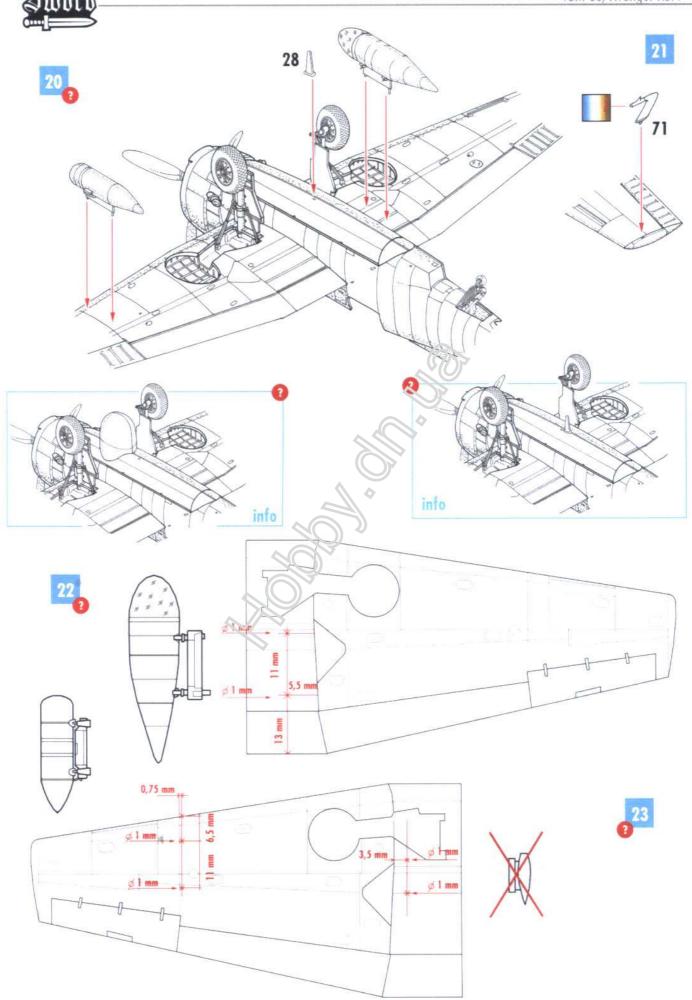




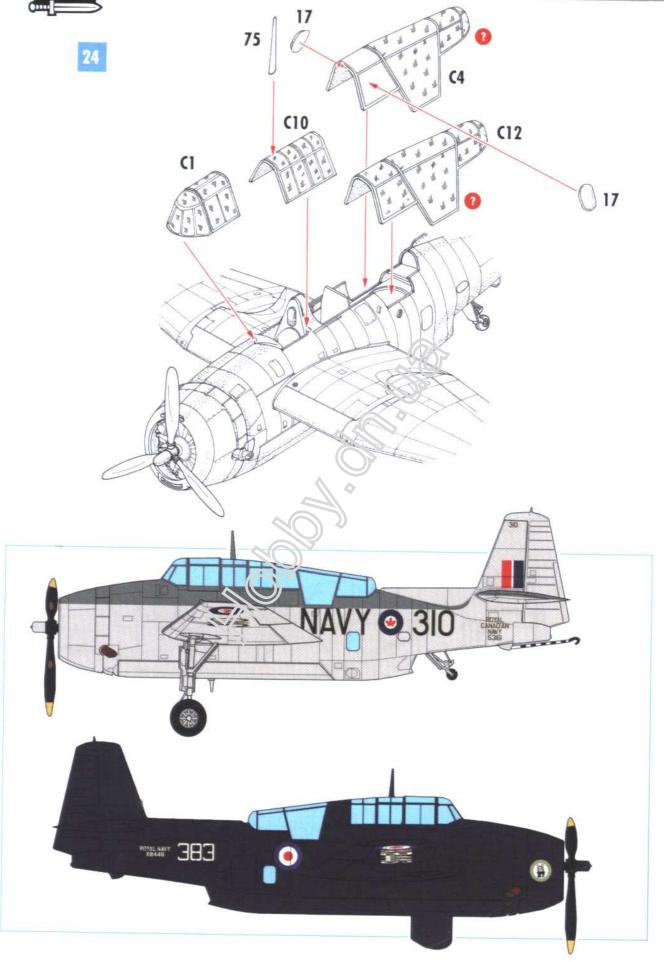
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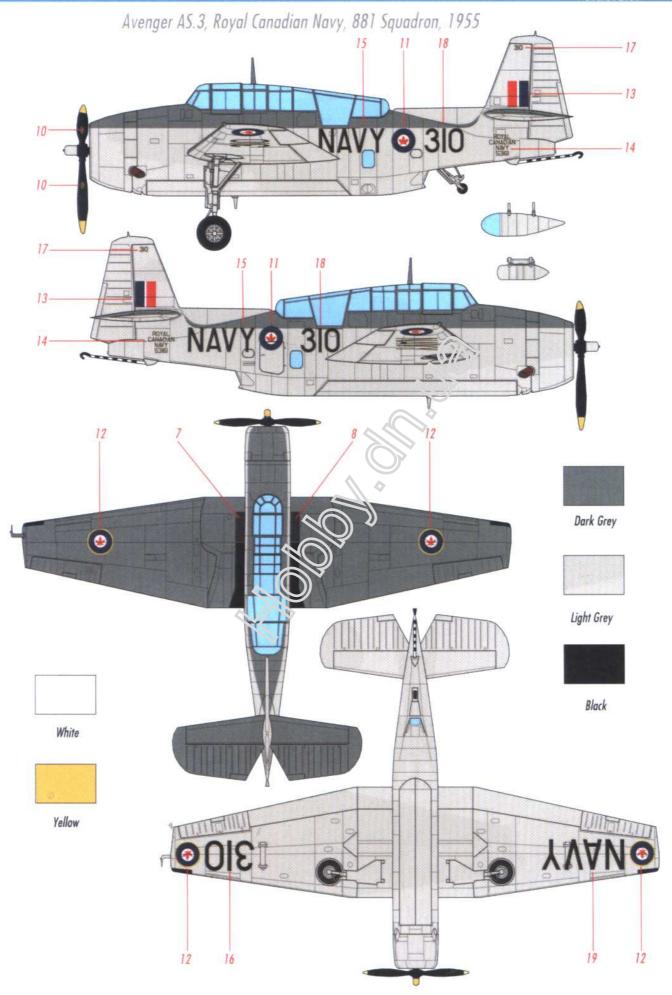












Avenger AS.4/ECM.6, Royal Navy, 831 Squadron, RAF base Syerston, UK, 1958

