

## Remodelling Dinky's UFO Interceptor

In the 1970/80's, the TV series "UFO" was a popular hit coming from the stables of Gerry Anderson. Using actors rather than puppets produced more realism with a set of characters that brought the storylines alive. Having found the series being shown on U-Tube I reverted to watching what was one of my favourite childhood programs. Produced in the 1970's the storyline was set in the near future. A top secret organisation (Shado) protected the people of Earth against alien intrusions. The first line of defence was a Moon base as Earth's outpost. Key to Earth's defence was the interceptors flying from this base.

A toy of the interceptor was produced by "Dinky" toys and while close in shape it was in a colour scheme and markings that never represented its appearance in the series. Having bought one on ebay, I decided to rework it to more accurately represent the original. The missile was missing and a resin replacement was also purchased.



The toy has a trigger mechanism used to fire the missile on the underside with a release button on the right side that I planned to remove and fill the gaps where the trigger and button protruded through.



The toy was stripped down to remove the firing mechanism for the nose mounted missile. The two halves were joined by screws which I intended to remove with the area around these being re-shaped to better represent the original design.



To try to further improve the look, panel lines were engraved into the body. The hardness of the die-cast metal made this a difficult task both in terms engraving the metal and maintaining lines of even width and straightness. A similar difficulty arose in removing the excess metal around the screw locations having filed down the area for what seemed like hours.



The pilot figure was grossly undersized and was replaced by a 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale figure taken from the spares box. Having removed the trigger mechanism, the gaps in the hull were filled with filler. Having completed all of the modifications, the cockpit and pilot were painted with the bodywork primed and given the primary coat of paint prior to reassembly using super glue.



Based on photographs on the internet, painting began by giving the engines, missile/launcher and landing skids suitable primary paint coats in varying shades of metallic paint. A number of warning signs are prominent on the interceptor including the “danger” sign adjacent to the cockpit; the “nitrogen” warning near the tail fin and the “exhaust” warning on the intakes/burner sections.

These were reproduced on the internet in “WORD” and reduced to an appropriate size before printing onto a decal sheet. Other decals left over from aircraft were taken from the spares box and used although not with complete authenticity in all cases.

A pale grey pin wash was used to emphasise the etched panel lines and a very light weathering of light earth was also applied. The skids were given an overall wash of heavily diluted black paint but the soft polystyrene plastic did not hold it particularly well. If anything, it emphasised the mould lines that could not be cleaned up on the polystyrene.

The final touch was to add the red lines to the hull and the missile from a decal sheet printed with lines of differing widths. The finished product can be viewed in the following photos.





The project was an interesting diversion from the usual modelling, working with a material that was more difficult to handle than expected. Despite this I was pleased with the outcome.

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