

GUNSHIP HOG

The UH-1 Huey should need no introduction to anyone, but the HobbyBoss brand may, so it was with some degree of trepidation that I embarked on this, my first, kit from this manufacturer

Upon opening the box you are greeted with, I have to say, one of the nicest moulded 1:72 helicopters I have seen in a long time, the detail is crisp and delicate with no moulding flash present. Usually when I start a new model, I cannot help myself from removing the biggest parts from their sprues and doing a mock-up to get an idea of what the finished model will look like. So with this kit I removed the two halves of the body and the large transparency moulding to have a look, and the first thing that struck me was how well the windshield fitted to the body. It was a perfect fit with no gaps at all; on most models this can sometimes be a bit of a headache, trying to fill and sand without damaging the transparency moulding. So hats off to HobbyBoss for doing such a good job on such a complicatedly shaped moulding. A quick glance over the instructions and you can see there are quite a few decisions to make as to which configuration you want to build, as options for both internal and external stores are catered for. Also in the box is a colour marking and painting chart, which is always a welcome addition, as some of the black and white equivalents can sometimes be confusing to follow. You have the choice of two colour schemes, one in overall Olive Drab and the other in three-tone camouflage over grey. I chose the Olive Drab scheme, as this is one of my favourite colours for pre-shading and highlighting to add depth to the finished model.

THE BUILD

The construction sequence is well laid out in the instructions and very easy to follow, my only criticism being that there was not enough information

on what colours to paint each of the parts, and those that were indicated contradicted the photo documentation I had. So I opted to use the photos I had to hand. The cabin/cockpit assembly is first to be assembled; the detail on these parts is well represented for this scale and the fit of the parts is excellent. The cabin assembly and internal surfaces were given a coat of Halford's Plastic Primer followed by Vallejo Model Air 907 (Pale Grey/Blue). The details were then picked out in their applicable colours, with the console instruments having small amounts of gloss varnish to represent the glass dial faces and seatbelts added made out of lead foil. These assemblies were drybrushed in the appropriate colours and given a wash of Raw Umber oil paint. I decided to add some scuffs and scrapes and a good dose of dust in the form of MIG Productions pigments to the cabin seats and floor as the Huey had a hard life in service. With the internal assembly finished the two body halves were joined, this again was a very good fit, the only parts requiring any filling were the two halves of the engine assembly. All the transparencies were fitted with Humbrol Clearfix and then masked off with a combination of Tamiya masking tape and Bare-Metal Foil. I opted to have the mini-guns fitted to the sponsons, so these were assembled separately from the airframe to make painting the body a little easier.

PAINTING

The first part of the painting sequence is to spray the cabin transparency with the same colour as the internal assembly as this will be visible from the inside, followed by a coat of grey primer. Next the pre-shading around all panel lines and rivets was applied with

BUILT & WRITTEN BY BEN PALLISTER FROM THE UK

Vallejo 057 (Black), then the whole body was sprayed with 043 (Olive Drab). When using Olive Drab I like to highlight the centre of the panels with 044 Light Grey/Green, as this adds some depth to the finish and is also useful to very lightly overspray the whole model as this adds a sun-faded look and ties all the shading together. Any hard-edged parts of the model such as the engine louvres and cabin vents were drybrushed with Lifecolor UA003 (Olive Drab Weathered) to highlight them. The sponsons, stabilisers and rotors were painted in their applicable colours as sub-assemblies to minimise the amount of masking necessary and to not get in the way during applying the decals.

The model was given a coat of Johnson's Klear prior to decalling, which aided the somewhat thick decals to sit properly along with Microscale's Micro Sol and Set. Unfortunately as usual I made a boo-boo, and stuck the gun pod and antennae to the front of the model for painting without thinking about fitting the sharkmouth decal!

Some careful pushing and pulling later, I thankfully managed to remove these with minimal damage to the painted surface and the decal could be applied. Again this took a lot of fettling with gallons of Micro Set and Sol to get it to go over the double curvature of the nose, but eventually an acceptable result was achieved.

At this stage I decided to replace the antennae with some thinner ones made from stretched sprue, as the supplied parts were a bit too chunky to look realistic. I also made the small aerial fitted to the top of the fin. The individual assemblies were now fitted together for another coat of Klear followed by a wash of Raw Umber oil paint to the panel lines and details. The last part of the painting process was to apply a layer of Xtracolor mattvarnish. ■

YOU WILL NEED...

Before starting:

- Humbrol Liquid Poly
- Tamiya Masking Tape
- Scalpel
- Tweezers
- Razor Saw
- Microscale Micro Set & Sol decal solutions
- Lead Foil
- Bare-Metal Foil
- Humbrol Clear-fix

Paints Used:

- Games Workshop acrylic:*
- 6I-17 Bleached Bone
 - 6I-51 Chaos Black
 - 6I-54 Skull White
 - 6I-55 Mithril Silver
 - 6I-57 Boltgun Metal

Lifecolor acrylic:

- UA023 Grey
- UA003 Olive Drab Weathered

Vallejo Model Air acrylic:

- 002 Yellow
- 043 Olive Drab
- 044 Light Grey/Green
- 057 Black
- 058 Gloss varnish
- 085 Italian Red
- 095 Pale Green

Vallejo Model Colour acrylic:

- 836 London Grey
- 907 Pale Grey/Blue
- 988 Khaki

Xtracolor enamel:

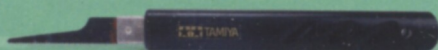
Matt Varnish

MIG Productions pigments:

- P028 Europe Dust
- P033 Dark Mud

Dimensions

- Main Rotor Dia. - 48ft (14.63m)
- Length overall, rotor turning - 57ft 9.7in (17.62m)
- Fuselage Length - 44ft 7in (13.65m)
- Height - 14ft 5 1/2in (4.41m)





The excellent level of detail moulded into this kit is very good and from the box this kit builds into a very impressive model

1:72

HOBBY BOSS

MODEL INFO

SPEC: HobbyBoss 1:72 Bell UH-1C Huey

KIT NO.: 87229 **MATERIALS:** IM

AVAILABILITY: Creative Models (UK Importer) and HobbyBoss stockists worldwide

PRICE GUIDE: £9.99

"Any hard-edged parts of the model such as the engine louvres and cabin vents were drybrushed with Lifecolor UA003 (Olive Drab Weathered) to highlight them"



It is best to leave off everything on the nose until after the sharkmouth decal has been applied

PLANE FACTS

Developed from the Bell 204 via the XH-40 and YH-40 prototypes the first production model was the HU-1A, which was redesignated the UH-1A in 1962 and 182 were built. This was followed by the HU-1B, redesignated the UH-1B in 1962, with various external and rotor improvements of which 1,014 were built. The UH-1C was an improved UH-1B with a more powerful engine, modified rotor blades and rotor-head for better performance in the gunship role, 767 were built.

REFERENCES...

- Huey by L. Drendel - Modern Military Aircraft (Squadron/Signal Publications, 1983)
- Huey In Action No.75 (Squadron/Signal Publications, 1986)
- UH-1 Huey In Color (Squadron/Signal Publications)
- UH-1 Huey, Walk Around No.36 (Squadron/Signal Publications 2004)

Dimensions - 1:72

Main Rotor Dia. - 203.2mm

Length overall, rotor turning - 244.7mm

Fuselage Length - 189.6mm

Height - 61.3mm



FINAL VERDICT

This is an excellent kit and great value for money, the fit of the parts is one of the best I have seen for a long time, requiring filling only in one place on the whole model. My only real gripe is the lack of information in the instructions towards painting and maybe a note about fitting the nose decal before attaching anything to the front end. Accuracy-wise it looks every part a Huey and I could not help myself from humming Jimi Hendrix whilst taking the photos for this article!

This is the first HobbyBoss kit I have constructed and I have to say I am very impressed. Great detail, nice marking options and easy to put together, a great model and worth every penny.