

# North American F-86F Sabre

"Little Rita", flown by Lt. Dick Geiger, 16th Fighter Interceptor Squadron,  
51st Fighter Wing, Suwon AB, South Korea, 1952/1953.

By Colin Ovens

Kit: Airfix 1:72 (Airfix Club Special Limited Edition)



- Built straight from the box; no extras- kit decals used.
- Airframe hand-painted with Humbrol 191 Gloss Chrome Silver.
- There are more than 110 decals on this model.
- After applying the decals, the model was airbrushed with Xtracrylix Satin Varnish.

I have just one major gripe with this kit: it would have been of great assistance if the outline of the gunnery radar panel- above the intake- had been engraved. It is not an easy shape to paint, particularly as "Little Rita's" gunnery radar panel stands out as it was painted Insignia Red!

A minor gripe concerns the apparent thickness of the decals for the wing and fuselage recognition stripes- perhaps it was just me, but I found that it was necessary to use rather large quantities of MicroSet and MicroSol to help these decals to "bed down". The print quality of the kit's decals was extremely good, their registration was excellent. After applying the satin varnish all carrier film was rendered invisible.

The overall verdict is that this kit is a very pleasurable build, which is typical of the "new generation" of Airfix kits. Any errors are down to the builder- and not Airfix.

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