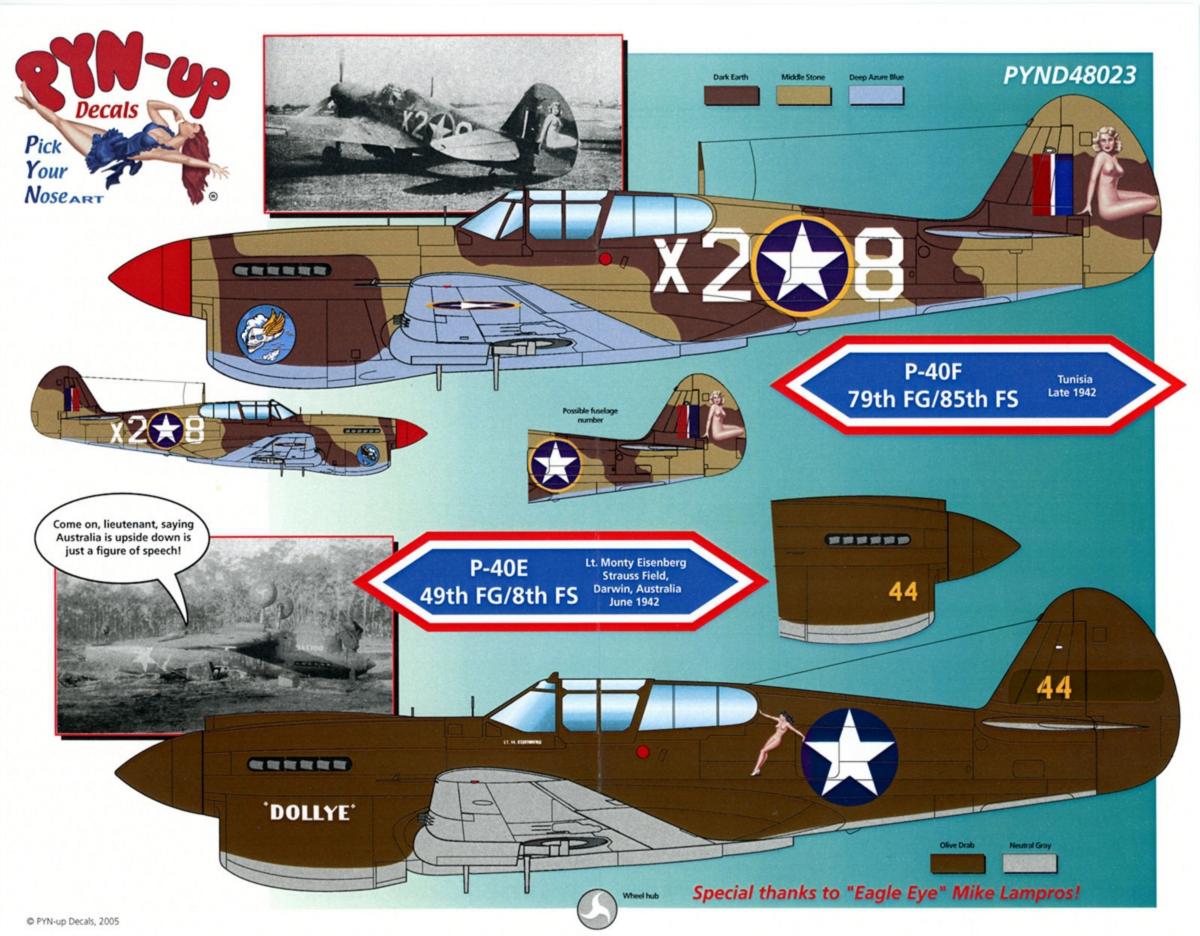
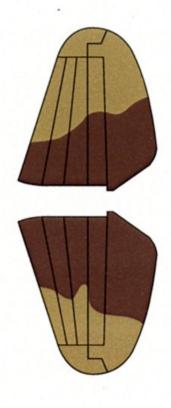


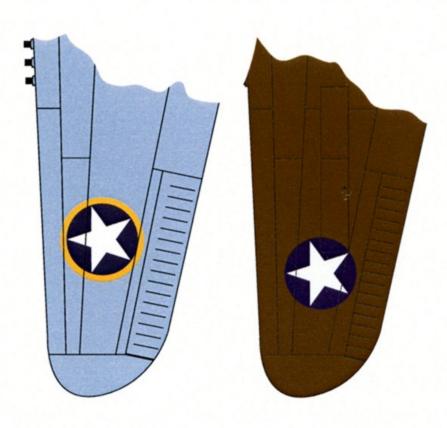
**Curtiss Cuties Part 1** 











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#### **PYND48023 Curtiss Cuties Part 1**

# **Applying the Specialty Nose Art**

PYN-ups has supplied you with the thinnest possible decal material to create a true masterpiece on your model. Some extra care is required when handling these decals. After applying the white background decal from the main decal sheet, carefully trim around the nose art decal to separate it from the rest of the paper. Only use room temperature water. Do NOT leave the decal in the water by itself. The material will curl on you. Place the image in the water and hold the opposite edges down against the paper (either with your fingers or cotton swabs) and wait for the decal to separate from the paper. Once it has separated, the tendency to curl will have passed for the most part. Gently slide the nose art decal on top of the previously applied white background decal.

#### **X28**

- This aircraft was almost certainly a P-40F, although there is a very slight chance it could have been a P-40L.
- From the angle of the complete aircraft photo available, it is not possible to determine whether the last digit of the aircraft code was an 8 or a 9. We have provided both options on our decal sheet. Also, while the X on the right hand side was likely identical to the left, we have included an optional smaller X for the right side such as was seen on some aircraft in the unit.
- The 85th Fighter Squadron badge on both sides of the nose was hand-painted on each aircraft, and there were significant differences in the details, colors, and positions of the elements in the various renditions. In fact, some had white wings and some had yellow wings, as depicted on our decal. Also note the thin black lines below the skull could appear to be folds in a poorly applied decal, they were in fact painted black lines and appeared in every rendition we have seen good photos of.
- The 79th Fighter Group often painted their spinners red. Since only a black and white photo was available, the spinner could have been red, or perhaps Dark Earth.
- All of the girls painted on the rudders of P-40s in this squadron were originally painted nude (as we have supplied), but they later had clothes added.

## **Dollye**

- For some unknown reason, Eisenberg's "Dollye" has often been depicted in profile paintings carrying the white
  Pegasus marking actually applied to another aircraft in the unit. There are plenty of good photos showing the
  Pegasus on the other plane, and three good photos of Dollye with the female artwork between the star and
  rear vision window on the port side of the aircraft. The Pegasus was never applied to this aircraft.
- Color photos of other 49th Fighter Group P-40s from the same squadron show, surprisingly, spinners with medium blue spinners. We cannot verify the actual spinner color on Dollye from the black and white crash photos available, but it was most likely either medium blue or olive drab
- The background color on the wheel hub covers could have been the standard Neutral Gray, the same medium blue as the spinner, or some other color. We suspect it was Neutral Gray, since that's the color on the hubs in the color photos of other aircraft in the unit.
- Note the aircraft number was painted on top of slightly darker Olive Drab paint that was used to obliterate the full serial number on the fin and rudder.
- A number of previously published color profiles of this plane have incorrectly shown the aircraft number 44 as
  white. A multitude of color photos of aircraft from this unit prove the numbers were yellow, and even in the
  black & white photos the numbers have a darker tonal value than the white of the US star. The size and style
  of the "44" on our decal sheet is consistent with other aircraft in the squadron at the same time Dollye was
  flying.
- It was normal practice in the unit to have the aircraft number repeated on both sides of the nose. In the
  Dollye's case, the name overpainted (if it was ever actually applied) the number on the port side of the nose.
  We provide the number for the starboard side of the nose as well as the fin sides.

# **Applying the Decals**

You probably already know all this stuff, so feel free to use your regular process; however, if you're new to aftermarket decals, here goes:

- Generally, use the Microscale Finishing System. We don't recommend extremely strong decal solvents such as Solvaset.
- Your model must have a smooth, glossy surface, as decals won't adhere well to matte surfaces. Use gloss paints
  or your favorite clear gloss overspray over matte or semigloss paint.
- Cut each subject out without trimming off the slight excess film (this helps the decal film disappear when dry).
- Put the decal in warm water that has a drop or two of liquid dishwashing soap or photo-flo for 10 seconds.
- When the decal will slide off the backing paper without forcing it, apply it to the proper position on your model.
   Slide the backing paper out from underneath.
- Gently blot off excess water and smooth out bubbles under the decal surface. If you wish, carefully brush on a mild decal softener such as Micro-Sol.
- When all decals are completely dry, gently wash off all excess decal adhesive.
- Finally, overcoat your model with a good quality gloss coat, followed by your choice of matte or eggshell clear topcoat.

### FS 595 Color Cross Reference

Olive Drab FS 4087 Xtracolor X111, Floquil 303108/303170/303263, Gunze Sangyo H304,

Modelmaster 1711, Mr Color 304, Pro Modeler 88-0028

Neutral Gray FS 6173 Xtracolor X158, Gunze Sangyo H053, Pro Modeler 88-0035, Floquil 303176

Dark Earth Xtracolor X2; Floquil 303145
Dark Green Xtracolor X1; Floquil 303143
Middlestone Xtracolor X9; Floquil 303153

Azure Blue Xtracolor X26

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