

# 1:48 Scale Hasegawa Ki-61 HIEN (TONY) Model, Text & Photos by: Rodney J. Williams

For those of you who do not know me, here is a bit of history. I grew up in Akron, Ohio/U.S.A. From about 1937 to 1954 I built solid wooden and “flying-stick” models.

During WW-II my father worked at Goodyear Aircraft Corporation, better known as G.A.C. in Akron. He was a “Tool & Design” engineer. Somehow I got to go to the factory and become one of many delivery boys on weekends and full time in the summer months. The Vought Corsair became my airplane, bar none.

After the war, the “Cleveland National Air Races” resumed so we went to see my dad’s Corsairs race and beat out all those other “no-name” airplanes from 1946 to 1949.

I left Ohio in 1971 and spent 7 years in American, Samoa producing documentary films, then returned to San Jose, California and made it our home for 25 years.

I have been back into the model hobby since 1977. I joined “IPMS/USA” in 1984, including a local model club in San Jose, ([www.svsm.org](http://www.svsm.org)). I am also a member of the “Society of Air Race Historians,” (S.A.R.H.) since 1984. S.A.R.H. has its’ own web site and a bi-monthly news letter. Annual dues are still \$20.00. Headquarters are located in the Cleveland area.

With a background in “photojournalism” I was encouraged in 1985 to write stories for model magazines such as “FineScale Modelers,” car magazines and the IPMS/USA Journal.

With the advent of the digital revolution and the “net” I have continued to write what I call “HOW TO” model building stories and have several dozen of them posted on a few web sites.

We moved from San Jose in 2004 and now live out in the desert near Cortez, Colorado.

## MODEL CONSTRUCTION

In November, 2011 I drove down to Mesa, Arizona and attended the annual IPMS/Craig Hewitt “ModelZona” contest with 43 models. I have about 170 built models here in my home so I do not need to buy any more kits, however as any modeler knows.....”JUST ONE MORE.”

I bought this 1:48 scale Hasegawa Ki-61 HIEN, (TONY) kit from one of the vendors for 20 bucks. The kit was open and the previous owner tossed in some extra parts.



I viewed the excellent “extra” clear plastic one-piece “windscreen/canopy “ part. This was a “shoe-in” for me as I do not like to build my models with the canopy in its’ closed position.

While at the 2006 IPMS/USA Kansas City National Convention I purchased a new type of razor saw from one of the vendors. I think the company is named UMN (??).

Any ways, I have used the saw many times and knew that I could cut the windscreen/ canopy apart. If I screw-up I use the second unit.

My kit review was A-OK, so I cut all the parts off the trees and put the model together with some strips of masking tape. There’s always some good and bad points to a model so no need to go into detail.

I started to work on the cockpit and once it was painted I used white glue and glued it to the right side of the pre-painted fuselage. I dry fit on the left fuselage half and then glued the two parts together with super glue

I like to drill out the holes in my torque links so they look more realistic. My drills range in size from .006” to 3/8” diameter. I bought these small drills from a place called “Small Parts, Inc.” You can find them on the web.

My photos shows the drilling process, including the use of my 4” long #6-cut files.

About 25 years ago I contracted “Starstruck” who sold me special “Jewelry & Watchmaker” fine cut #4 & #6 files. There are 12 files in each set so I bought four sets. The sets come in two sizes and are 6 inches and 4 inches long. Each set Cost me \$75.00. Wow!!! \$300.00 plus tax and shipping. Then I got another special curved #6 file for \$30.00. To say the least, these files have saved that day for me in model building and are worth their weight in “GOLD.” I have used these files on every one of my models and they are still good today.

One of my photos will show you a round disk that I put in the recessed area, which will represent the wing’s landing light. I have been using my Waldron’s punch sets to punch out .005” thick aluminum from cola cans. The disks are attached using Future Floor Wax, (FFW). Later I will glue in the clear lens cover with FFW.

After a couple of days drying time, I apply super glue on top of the FFW to adhere the lens to the wings plastic. It’s then sanded down using #400, 600, 800, 1,000, 1,200, 1,500 and finally 2,000 grit “3M wet/dry sandpaper.” I polish the lens using Blue Magic Metal Polishing paste. Presto, I now have a realistic looking landing light.

When I attach my lens cover with FFW first, I have never had the super glue seep in and fog up the inside of the landing light area.

Most times I glue on my windscreen’s using the FFW method, then add the super glue, sand and polish. At times, if my windscreen’s fit next to perfect I just use FFW for glue.

I have used #11 “Surgical” knife blades for a few decades and save some of the lead foil wrappings. A couple of photos show my seat belts for the model. Look real close and you will see the Waldron “PE” buckles next to the penny.

## PAINT & DECAL TIME

I use mostly Tamiya Acrylic paints since the mid 1980’s and mix the paint with at least 4 parts of “Denatured Alcohol,” (DA) to one part paint. I have used this process very successfully over the years with my Badger-200 Internal-Mix airbrush.

I have 3 different needles for my Badger: (Fine, medium and heavy duty). Air pressure is about 10-15p.s.i. I use water and “DA” to clean my equipment after each color use.

I use a thinned down mixture of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black paint and apply it to my models then sand it off with 600 grit 3M wet/dry sandpaper. This shows all the flaws on the model that needs fixed. I may have to apply this application a few times so I get a model that comes close to being a perfect model.

I have been a local, regional and national judge and have judged at about 300 shows. I have never seen a perfect model to date, which includes all of my models.

Just prior to applying my paint to the model I clean it with some “DA” on a cotton ball then rub down the plastic with more clean/dry cotton balls.

For the exterior, I applied Tamiya X-32 TITANIUM SILVER to the bare plastic and let it dry for about 24 hours. As you can see in the photos I found a couple of flaws on it. All of the other colors are by Tamiya.

The data on the instruction’s had a copyright of 1994. The decals did not look very good and had hair line cracks in them. I choose to paint on the insignias and the blue fuselage stripes which turned out really fine in my book. I applied the tail’s “faded” white decal. It came apart in some places and I’m not happy with it. I should have taken the time and made me a spray-mask and then paint on the design.

Final assembly went along just fine by added the pre-painted drop tanks, landing gears, tires, doors, prop, canopy and additional cockpit parts. My hand crafted brass “pitot” tube was installed just before I started the painting.

I have drilled in my two .011.5” diameter holes into my antenna posts and then I installed my “black human hair” antenna wires.

My model passed my final inspection test so it was photo time.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

I have been using a “CANON POWER SHOT SX20 IS” 12.1mp camera for the past couple of years to take my model photos. The camera has two “macro” close-up settings, which is ideal for model photography. The viewing screen pulls out and the “user” can move it in a couple of different directions. You can also use the eye piece viewer. Great camera!

My set up is simple: I bought some 2’ x 3’ flat white 1/16” thick paper stock at a local “DOLLAR” store and pin it to my shelf that is on the back of my 3’x 6’ modeling table. I roll it out and tape it down. I have two swivel light fixtures that I can move in any direction. A couple of years ago I bought the new 6500K daylight florescent curly 26w light bulbs. These light give off nearly the same light as the sun and are much better than your regular “4200K” light bulbs.

I use the “IMAGE STABILIZER” system on my camera and just compose my image and go for it, nothing real fancy for my “in-progress” photos. As you can see I use a penny with some of my parts, which shows a size relationship.

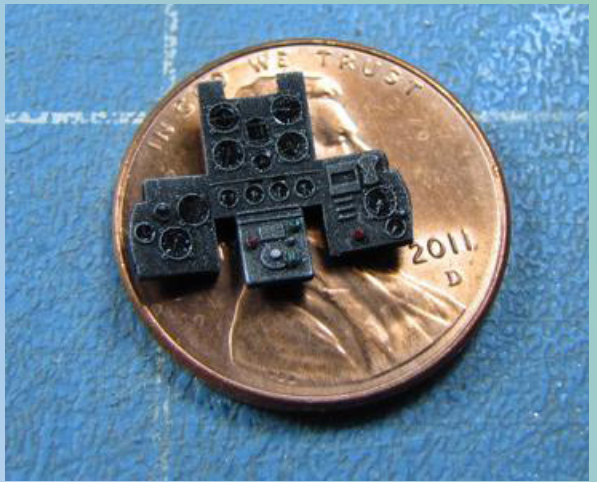
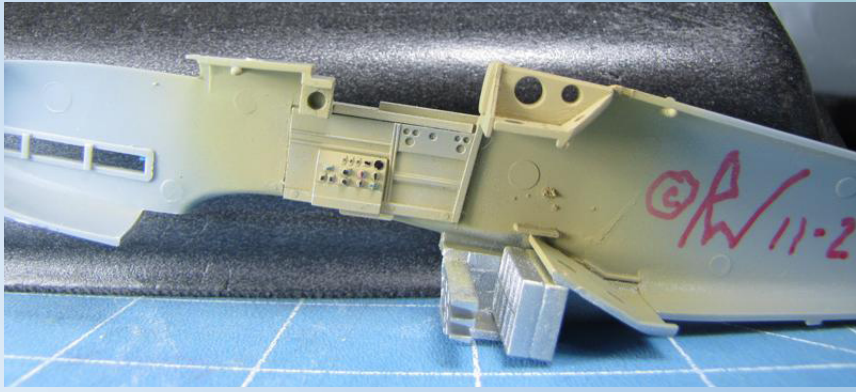
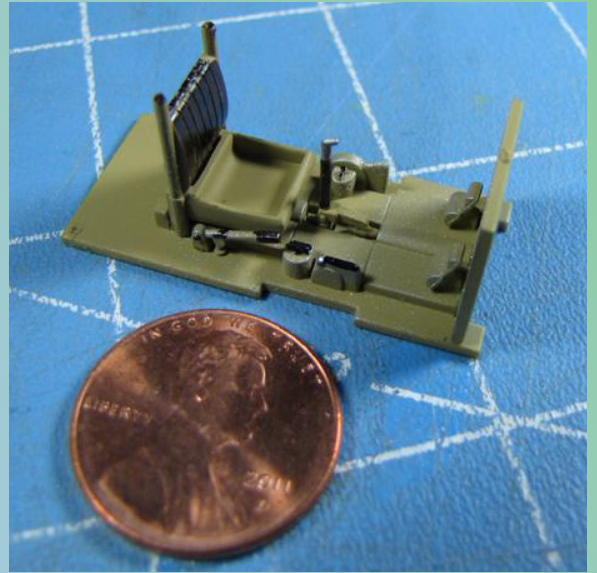
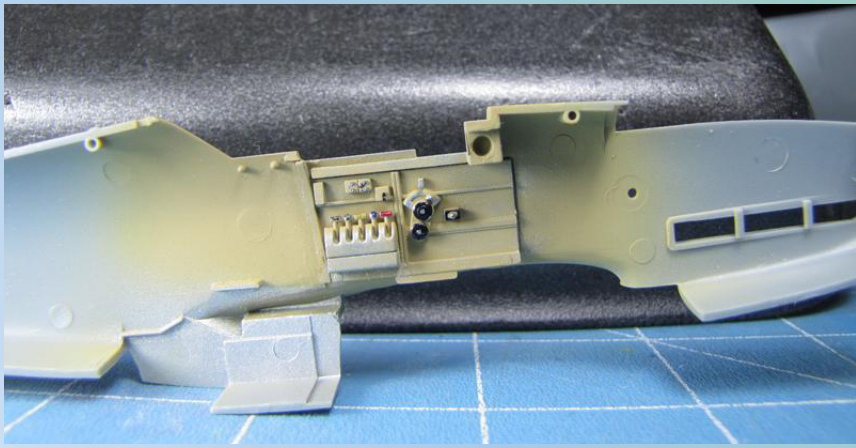
My final photos are composed a little bit better. Sometimes I turn off my work lights and just use the camera’s strobe light. However it’s “NO GOOD” when you are using one of the “macro” modes as the lens covers half of your picture and you wind up with a black “half-moon” spot on your photo. Long ago when I used my 35mm camera I had a “ring” light that I could attach to my special “Macro” lens.

As a retired professional film/still/video & digital person, I wonder when the camera companies will design a camera with these built-in ring lights, including a viewing system so that you don’t flatten your nose out of shape?

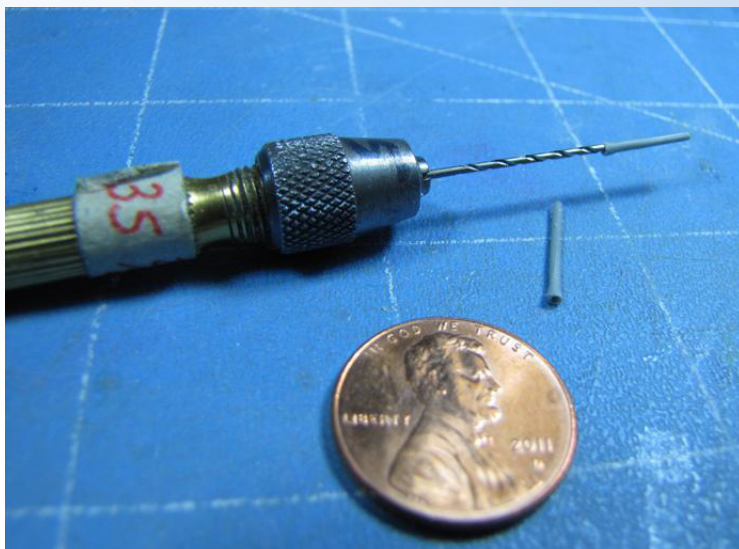
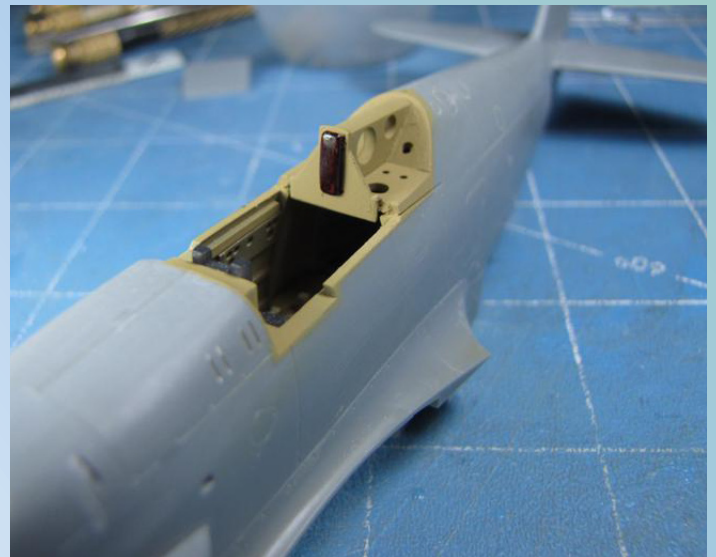
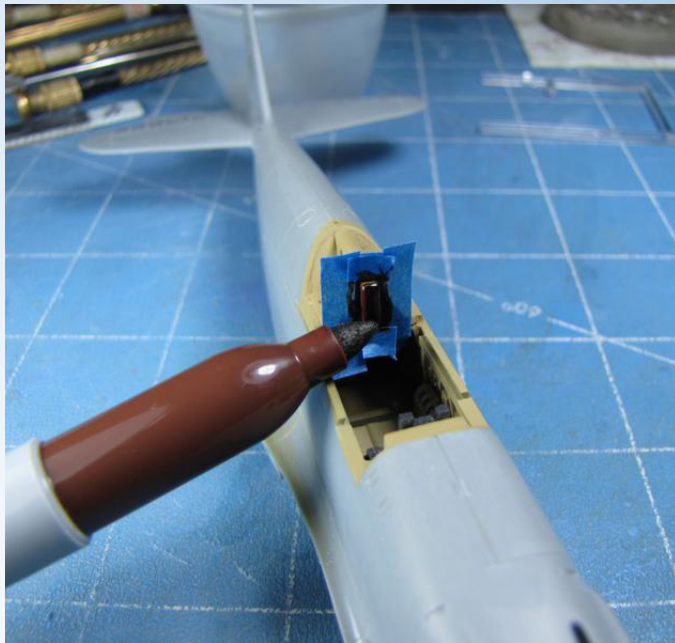
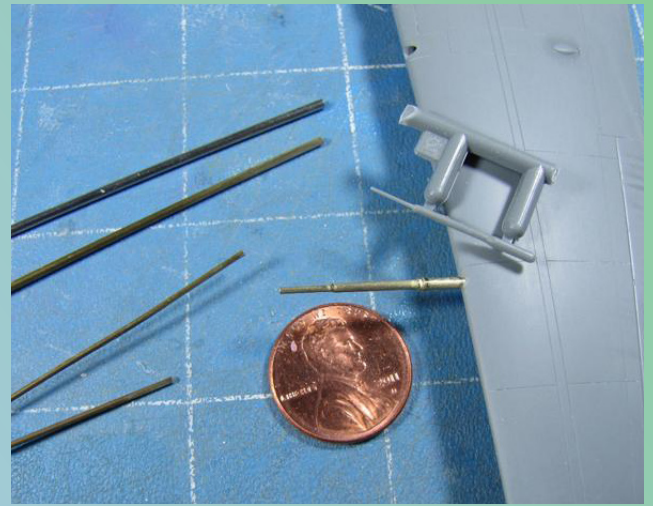
I am including a photo of my paint table, which is out in our garage and a photo showing my work bench/photo studio combo.

Enjoy,  
Rodney J. Williams

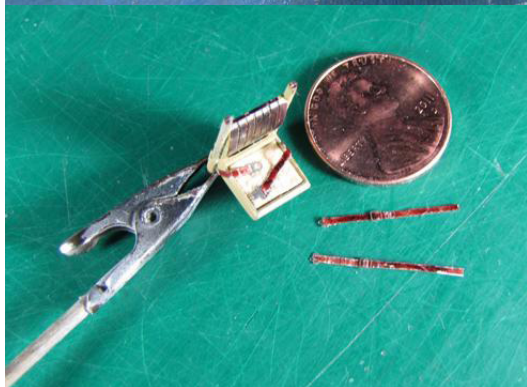




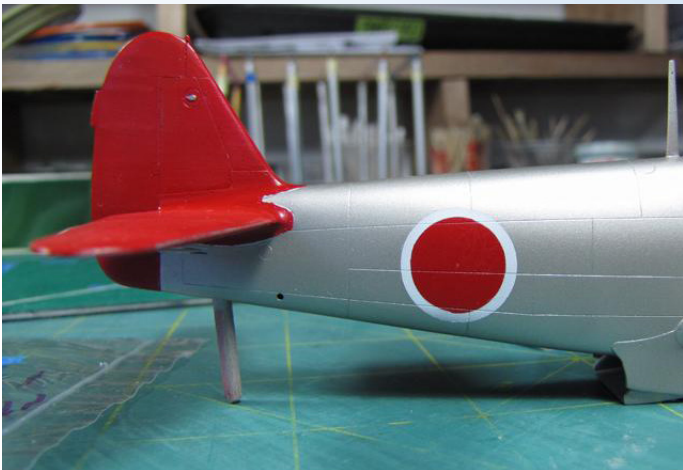
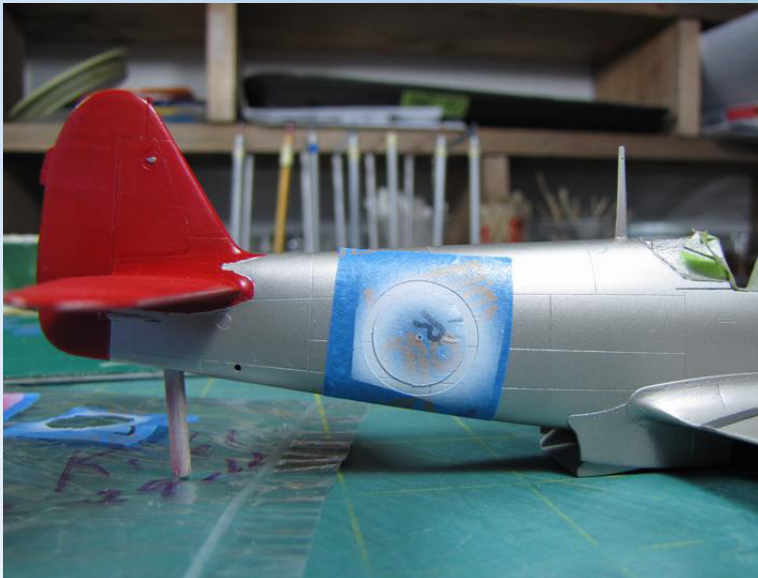
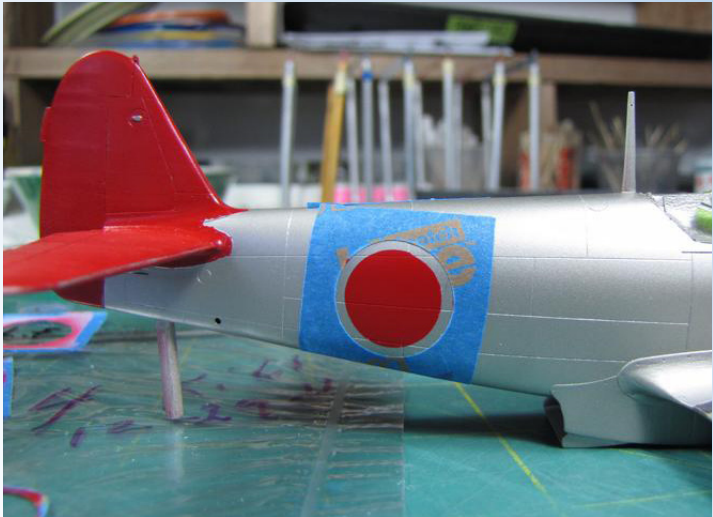
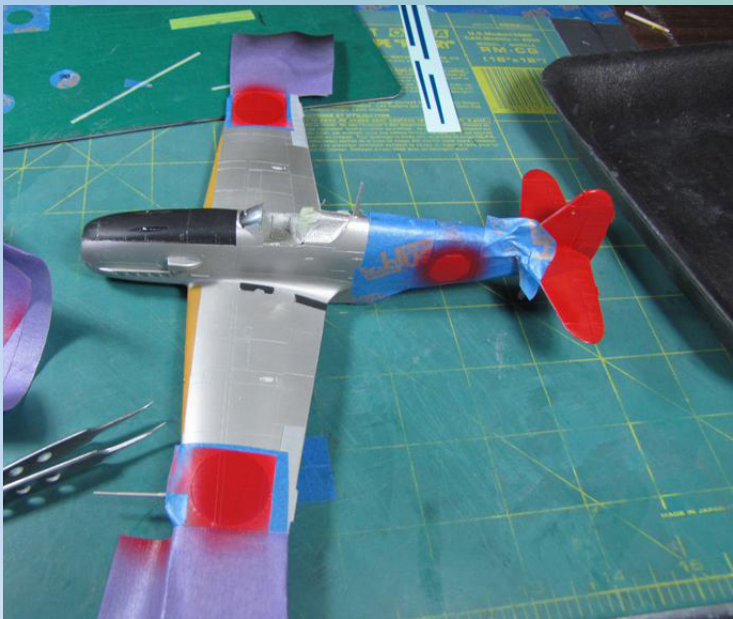
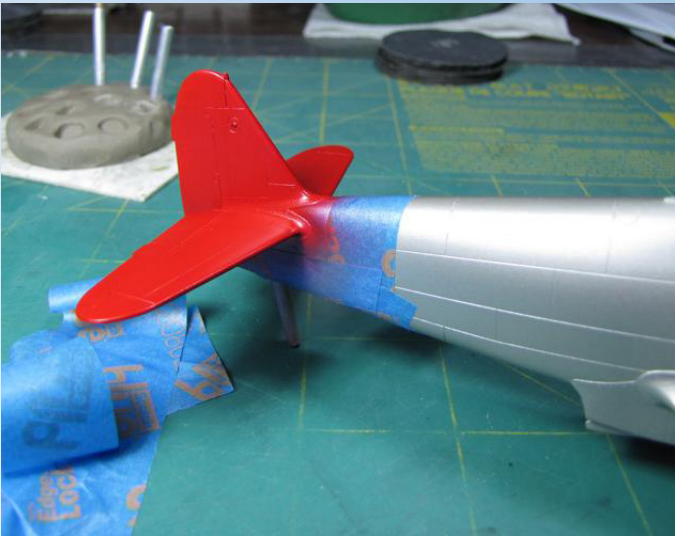
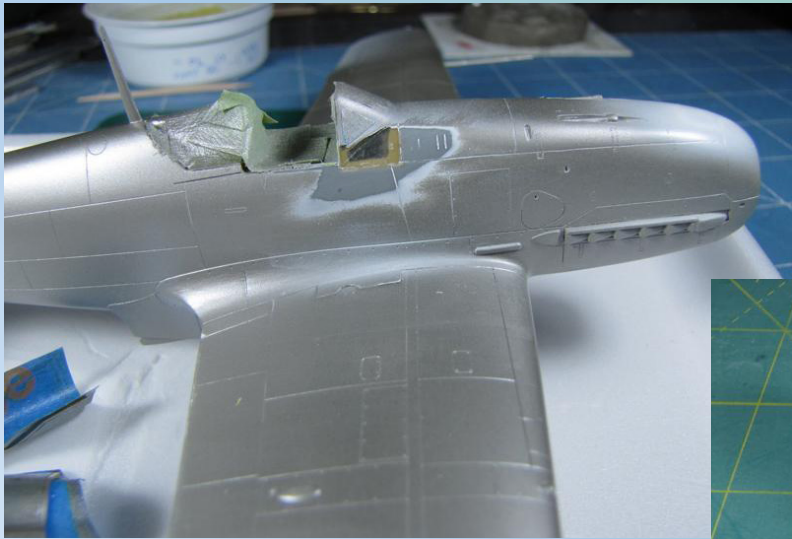
























1:48 SCALE HASEGAWA "KAWASAKI TYPE 3 FIGHTER HIEN (TONY) "244th Fighter Group."  
MODEL & PHOTO BY: RODNEY J. WILLIAMS  
© 01-06-12 VALUE: \$2,100.00

