

To start the Parkzone spitfire cockpit upgrade we need to remove the canopy without damaging the foam beneath .

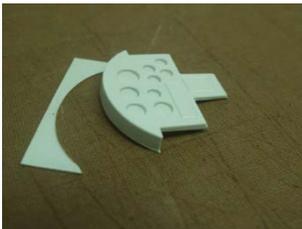
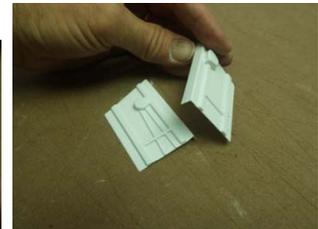
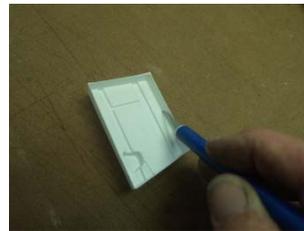


Lightly cut the paint coat along the edge of the canopy to keep from tearing it off. Slide a playing card between the two to upset the bond and remove the canopy. Use a hobby saw or steak knife to cut the center of the cockpit away. Copy the angle of the instrument panel on the front. along the back follow the aft bulkhead angle just behind the seat. on the sides cut parallel to the fuselage right at the edge where the pilot hole is. Down below there is a straight hollow area that will help guide the knife.



Remove the foam and clean up any gaged edges with the knife. while you are there use epoxy to lock down the pushrod tubes for a more positive feel to the controls . If you test them you will see they have some play.

Trim the plastic taking advantage of the corners to guide the hobby knife. The glair shield has all the flange cut off. The, side panels and seat back keeps the flange across the top with the rest removed, The cockpit bottom keeps all four sides so it looks like the pilot is sitting on a box.



See the instruction section of the website for detailed pilot assembly instructions and tips. Basically you sand the back of the pilot until the material gets thin at the body edges; cut the halves free and bond the edges together.

Besides the pilot pieces; each part is painted individually with the bond area protected with tape to save the trouble of scraping it off later

About any paint is compatible with the plastic but keep in mind it is very smooth so a light coat of primer will prevent the brush strokes from showing up.



The parkflyer plastics website has a beginners tutorial on how to paint pilots and can be applied to the other cockpit details like taking advantage of the white plastic to scratch the instrument markings in the faces.



When the painting is done fit the instrument panel flat against the foam and seated with the edges against the cockpit edge. Apply a small amount of model cement to the top of the panel and use the fuselage to set the angle while the cement sets.



Note a bit of the glare shield edge will need to be trimmed to prevent the canopy from being raised from the model when it is bonded in place. Test fit the seat back and trim away plastic or foam preventing it from seating completely.



Bond the cockpit sides in place with the slanted end at the front and the aft end flush with the aft corners of the cockpit bottom. After the glue sets, test fit the pilot assembly. The upper lip of the cockpit sides are wider than the foam edge and will require trimming. Practice the installation of the cockpit up grade before applying epoxy. I found that installing the pilot in place first then sliding the ends in the gaps worked best.



Trim off the ends of the canopy and place it on the fuselage, mark the canopy where the foam has the step meant for it to fit into and trim the plastic away. lightly sand the inside edge of the canopy to prepare it for bonding, Tape off the clear portion of the windows and apply the paint. Krylon has a very good match called Italian olive.



You might consider carefully cutting the canopy and flying with an open cockpit to show off your details. The plastic is thick enough to put up with the wind and I have not noticed any difference in flight performance.