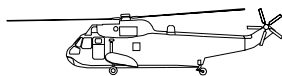


Belcher Bits No. BB26: Canberra / B-57 Tip Tanks 1/48

Belcher
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Why these?

OK, modellers are a funny bunch. We get excited over some pretty odd things. Derek Pennington of IPMS Toronto raised the question some time ago, stating that the tip tanks on the Classic Airframes Canberra B.2 kit were too small. There was discussion back and forth on Hyperscale and other sites, and after a while, the consensus was reached that they were indeed too small, certainly in diameter. Derek asked me to correct this and sent me a set of the Classic Airframes B-57 tanks which were the right size. I made a trip to the RAF museum at Hendon last time I was in London to take a couple measurements.

When Airfix announced they were bringing out a Canberra, I thought the problem would sort itself out, but when I got an example, the tip tanks looked odd. They appear to be about the right size, but the shape is funny, a little too tapered in the forward section. The project got back on the rails and here they are.

Canberra Tip tanks

The Classic Airframes B.2 tip tanks are too small in diameter. The Airfix tip tanks are too tapered in the nose. The Classic Airframes B57 tanks are just right, but lack the leading edge lamp and wiring conduit as do all the others. These resin parts can be used as direct substitutes for kit parts.

The external lamp wiring conduit runs up the nose of the tank, just inboard of the vertical centreline and disappears into the wingtip. If you really want to dress up your model, you can file off the lamps and replace them with red and green stretched sprue. The lamp is big enough (the ruler in the photo is in 1 inch increments) to be noticeable.



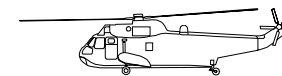
References, etc

1. Personal photos taken at RAF Museum, Spring 2007.
2. Various discussions on Hyperscale, including that of John Adams from Aeroclub.
3. Thanks to Derek Pennington, who didn't let it drop.

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