

Colours for warbirds

Paint is the bit you see most of on an aircraft. I decided to find out the correct ones for the Mosquito I am building. To my surprise there seem to be no agreed colours.

I think the colours for the Mosquito are:

		Tamiya	Italeri
Dark green	FS:34079	T:XF-61	4723AP
Sky (type S)	FS:34583	T:XF-21	4778AP
Ocean grey	FS:36152	T:XF-54	4775AP

The Tamiya acrylic colour seems closest. However this paint only comes in small pots. Even with airbrushing I will need many pots. The Italeri isn't quite right but perhaps will be close enough. I will experiment. Each time I find a new source of colour advice I get different colours.

Your warbird

You will have the same problem if painting or repairing a different aircraft. One possible route to getting the right paint is to look up the FS number and then use one of the colour charts on the internet. One site to start with is:

<http://www.clubhyper.com/reference/colourcharts/Digital%20RAF%20WW2%20Colours.pdf>

FS number

The FS number is a code called 'Federal Standard 595'. To see the specifications for some of the camouflage colours look at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Standard_595_camouflage_colours. This gives modern definitions for the colours including the hexadecimal triplet (#92989F), the sRGB ((146, 152, 159) and CYMK (50, 40, 40, 0). These are for FS:36300 Aircraft Grey.

The first number is the degree of gloss (1 = gloss, 2 = semigloss, 3 = matt).

The second number is a general colour group:

0 = brown

1 = red

2 = orange

3 = yellow

4 = green

5 = blue

6 = grey

7 = other (white, black, violet, metallic)

8 = fluorescent

The remaining numbers give intensity with a low value giving a darker colour.

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