

Show-and-Tell Gallery



Ora Lassila's 1:72 scale Curtiss F11C-2 Goshawk (Monogram, 1967 vintage). Ora added a Starfighter Decals resin cockpit set. Paints are Tamiya acrylics with clearcoats consisting of Future and a mix of Testors Dullcote and Glosscote. Ora rigged the plane using monofilament nylon thread. Decals are from a Starfighter sheets for the F11C-2 and BFC-2. Markings are for USN fighter squadron VF-1B aboard USS Saratoga in 1933.

The F11C Goshawk was one in a long line of biplane fighters designed and built for the US military by the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company. An improved derivative of the F6C, it featured a number of major innovations including fabric covered metal construction, single leg cantilevered main landing gear, metal control surfaces, and a Wright 600 hp radial engine. Armament consisted of two .30 inch, fixed, forward-firing machine guns supplemented by a hardpoint under the fuselage for the carriage of a 474 lb. bomb, or an auxiliary fuel tank.

Of the 28 planes ordered by the Navy, most went initially to VF-1B "Top Hatters," the only unit to operate the Goshawk off a carrier. The squadron would continue using the type for five years, mostly with the slightly revised fighter-bomber version designated BFC-2. It was the longest stint of any plane with an individual unit during the entire inter-war period.

