

Caracal Models

Modeler's Notes - F-16C/D in Turkish Air Force Service



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<http://www.caracalmodels.com/cd48006info/turkce>

Turkish Air Force has been an F-16C/D operator since 1987. With the exception of the first 8 aircraft, all Turkish Vipers have been locally manufactured in Turkey by TAI. While the earlier examples have been assembled from kits provided by General Dynamics (later Lockheed-Martin), later examples had a significant percentage of locally manufactured structural parts.

With a total of 240 aircraft delivered, the Turkish Air Force has one of the largest F-16 fleets outside the US and Turkey has been among the first US allies to use some of the newest F-16 related equipment such as the LANTIRN system, AIM-120 AMRAAM, AGM-88 HARM and JDAM. Turkish Vipers have flown hundreds of combat sorties in UN/NATO operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. With the arrival of the latest batch of advanced Block 50+ airframes in 2011 and the advent of new, indigenous Turkish systems like the SOM cruise missile, HGK GPS-guided bomb and ASELFLIR targeting/designation pod; the Turkish F-16 fleet continues to evolve and gain improved capabilities.

Our goal in preparing these modeler's notes is to clarify the differences and equipment of Turkish Vipers from a modeler's point of view. With these decals, you already have everything you need with respect to markings. For everything else, we list sources and modeling ideas so you can build an accurate Turkish Air Force F-16.

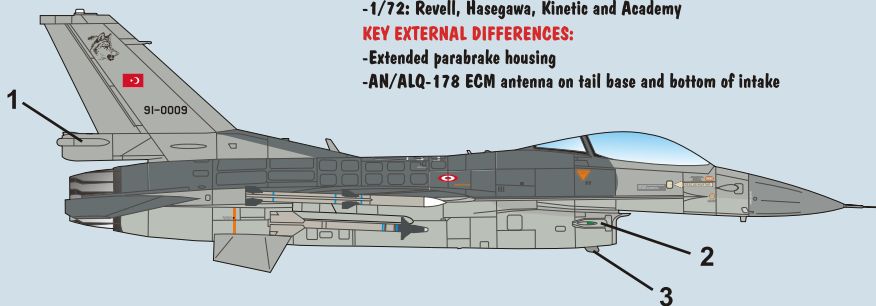
F-16C Block 30/40:

RECOMMENDED KITS:

- 1/48: Tamiya, Hasegawa and Kinetic
- 1/72: Revell, Hasegawa, Kinetic and Academy

KEY EXTERNAL DIFFERENCES:

- Extended parabrake housing
- AN/ALQ-178 ECM antenna on tail base and bottom of intake



Turkish Air Force F-16C Block 30/40 aircraft look very similar externally. Like all Block 30 and Block 40s, they are equipped with the GE F-110 engine. With the exception of a few aircraft, all have the later "big mouth" MCID intake. The aircraft have been delivered with an extended brake parachute (parabrake) housing to facilitate landing on some Turkish air bases with shorter runways. Both blocks have been equipped with the AN/ALQ-178 ECM (electronic countermeasures) suite, which required the addition of two RWR antenna on both sides of the parabrake housing(1), enlarged nav lights (2) and a small antenna under the intake(3).

In 1/48 scale, we recommend the Tamiya F-16CG/CJ as the base kit. Wolfpack makes a resin parabrake housing set (item #48023) which includes the ECM antenna and enlarged nav lights. The Kinetic F-16C/D kits are also a good source as many Kinetic kits have these parts on the sprues: the parabrake housing parts are C14 & C16, the ECM antenna parts are F7 and I9, and enlarged nav lights are I11. These sprues are common to most Kinetic F-16C/D Block 30/40 kits, therefore it is possible to build a Turkish F-16C Block 30/40 "out of the box" with these kits; using no additional items other than this decal sheet.

In 1/72 scale, we recommend the Revell F-16C as the base kit. The Revell kit comes with an extended parabrake housing and enlarged nav lights, but not everything you will need for a Turkish Block 30/40. The newer Academy F-16CG/CJ kit has all the needed parts and can be built out of the box as a Turkish F-16C Block 30/40. You can also use the Academy kit as a source of parts to modify the Revell kit.

F-16D Block 30/40:

Turkish Air Force considers the F-16D as primarily a training asset, therefore F-16D Block 30 and Block 40 are not equipped with the AN/ALQ-178 ECM system. This makes it easier to model a Turkish F-16D Block 30/40. All you will need is a parabrake housing (with no ECM antenna on the sides) on a standard F-16D Block 30/40. In 1/48 scale, the Kinetic F-16DG/DJ kit (kit #48005) can be built as a Turkish F-16D Block 30/40 with no modifications. In 1/72 scale, you can combine parts from the excellent Revell F-16B and F-16C kits; or build a suitable Kinetic F-16D.

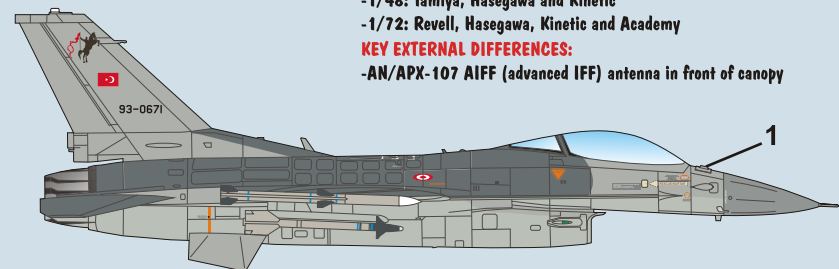
F-16C/D Block 50:

RECOMMENDED KITS:

- 1/48: Tamiya, Hasegawa and Kinetic
- 1/72: Revell, Hasegawa, Kinetic and Academy

KEY EXTERNAL DIFFERENCES:

- AN/APX-107 AIFF (advanced IFF) antenna in front of canopy



Turkish Air Force F-16C/D Block 50 aircraft are externally very similar to USAF F-16CJ. These aircraft were not equipped with the parabrake housing, and have no external ECM antenna either. The only major visual difference is the advanced AIFF antenna ("bird slicers")(1) in front of the windshield.

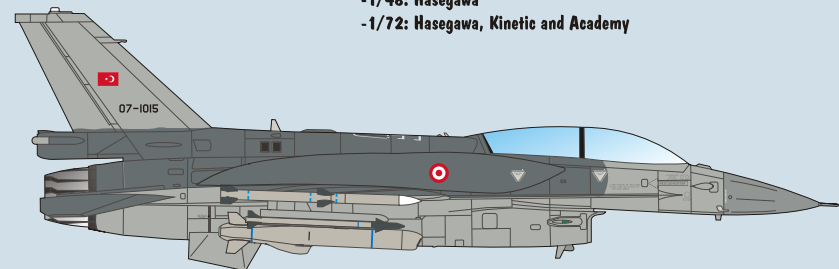
The AIFF antenna on Turkish F-16C/D Block 50 are placed on a raised platform; and are of a different type than the one used on European MLU and USAF F-16 ADF airplanes. This antenna belongs to the AN/APX-107, used only on Korean and Turkish F-16s. It is often confused with the somewhat similar AN/APX-109 antenna used on F-16ADF.

In 1/48 scale, we recommend the Tamiya F-16CG/CJ as the base kit. We are not aware of an aftermarket source for the correct AIFF antenna, but it can be found in all Kinetic F-16 kits as part C25. In 1/72 scale, the AIFF antenna can be found in Academy and Kinetic kits.

F-16C/D Block 50+:

RECOMMENDED KITS:

- 1/48: Hasegawa
- 1/72: Hasegawa, Kinetic and Academy



At the time that these decals were designed (August 2011), the only Turkish F-16C/D Block 50+ delivered was 07-1015, which was equipped with low-profile (CCIP-type) AIFF antenna, an avionic spine and CFTs and looked largely similar to aircraft delivered to Singapore, Poland and Greece earlier. We expect the single-seater Block 50+ to look similar; with a parabrake housing, enlarged nav lights, ECM antenna and low profile AIFF antenna.

Building a CFT-equipped Turkish F-16C Block 50+ will most likely require combining a suitable kit with the parabrake housing and ECM antenna parts necessary for a Block 30/40; along with a low-profile CCIP-type AIFF antenna and CFTs.

In 1/48 scale, we recommend building the excellent Hasegawa "F-16D Block 52 Advanced" kit (# 09906) which includes GE engine parts and can be built as a Turkish F-16D Block 50+ out of the box. In 1/72 scale, you can combine the Kinetic F-16D Block 52 kits and GE engine/nozzle parts from other Kinetic F-16s in the same scale.