

Israeli Air Force *Kfirs*

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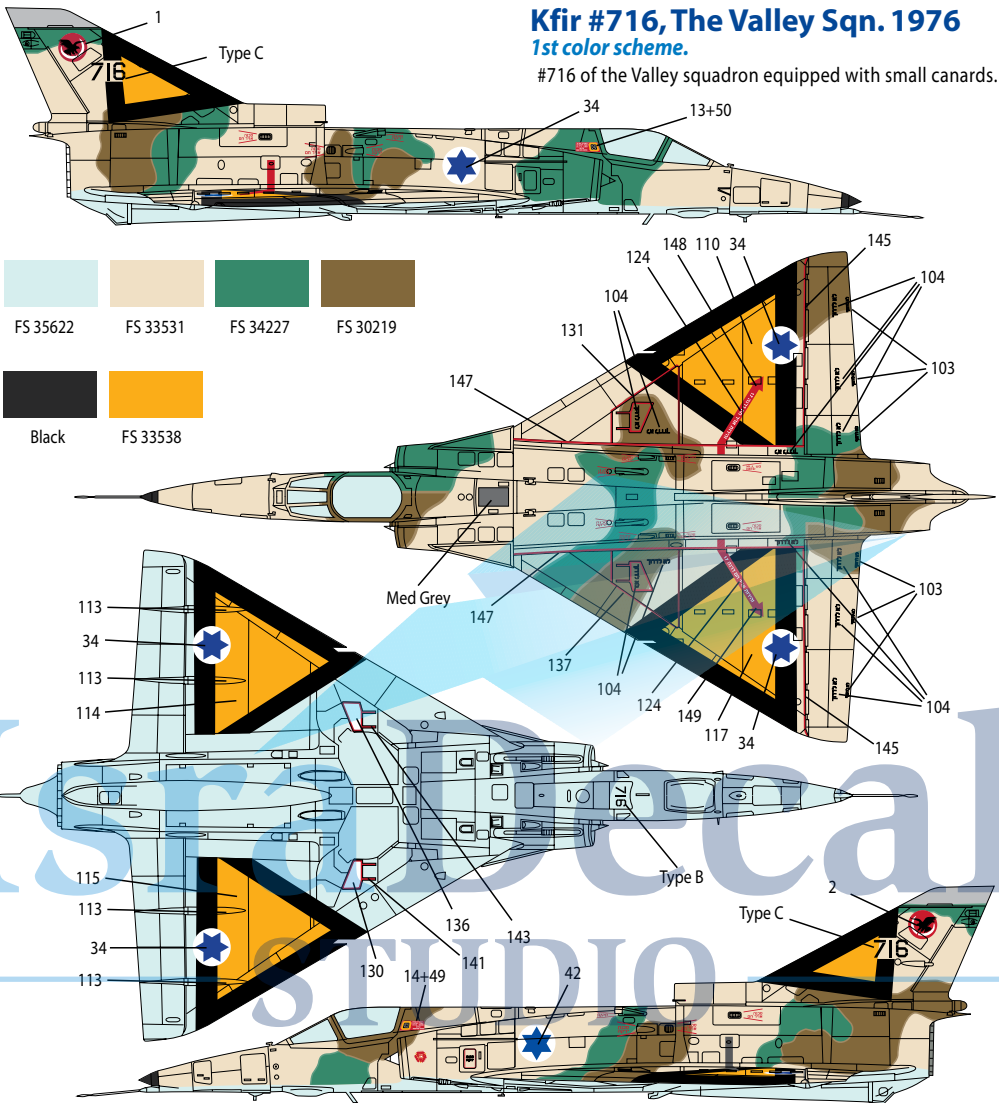

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STUDIO

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Kfir #716, The Valley Sqn. 1976 1st color scheme.

#716 of the Valley squadron equipped with small canards.



Initial production Kfirs

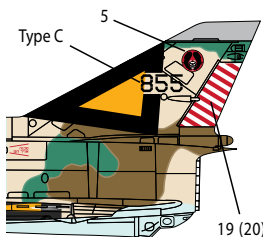
The color scheme applied to the Kfir prior to 1977 was a desert scheme identical to that applied to

the Mirage and Nesher since the 1973 war. Prominent yellow and black identification triangles were applied to the wings and vertical stabilizer.

With the arrival of the F-15 Eagle in late 1976, the Kfirs were repainted in a Ghost Grey camouflage scheme.

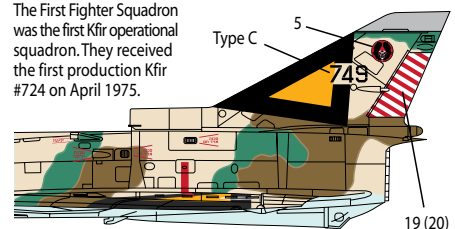
Kfir C2 #855, The 1st Fighter Sqn. 1978 1st color scheme.

The First Fighter squadron was the first to operate the C2 version of the Kfir. This version was initially identified by longer canards than those fitted to earlier versions of the Kfir. Kfir C2's were given individual numbers in the 800 and 900 range. Initial versions of the Kfir C-2 entered service in a desert scheme and after 1977 they were painted in Ghost Grey colors.



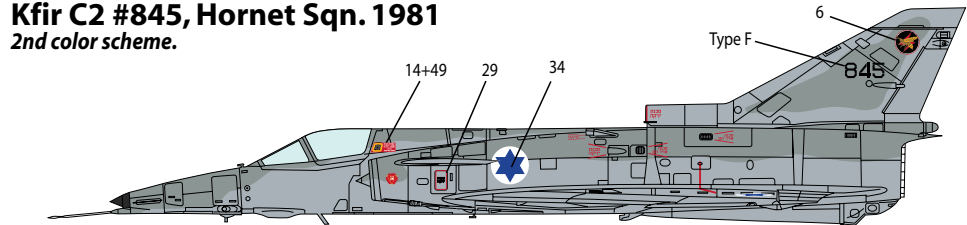
Kfir #749, The First Fighter Sqn. 1976 1st color scheme.

The First Fighter Squadron was the first Kfir operational squadron. They received the first production Kfir #724 on April 1975.

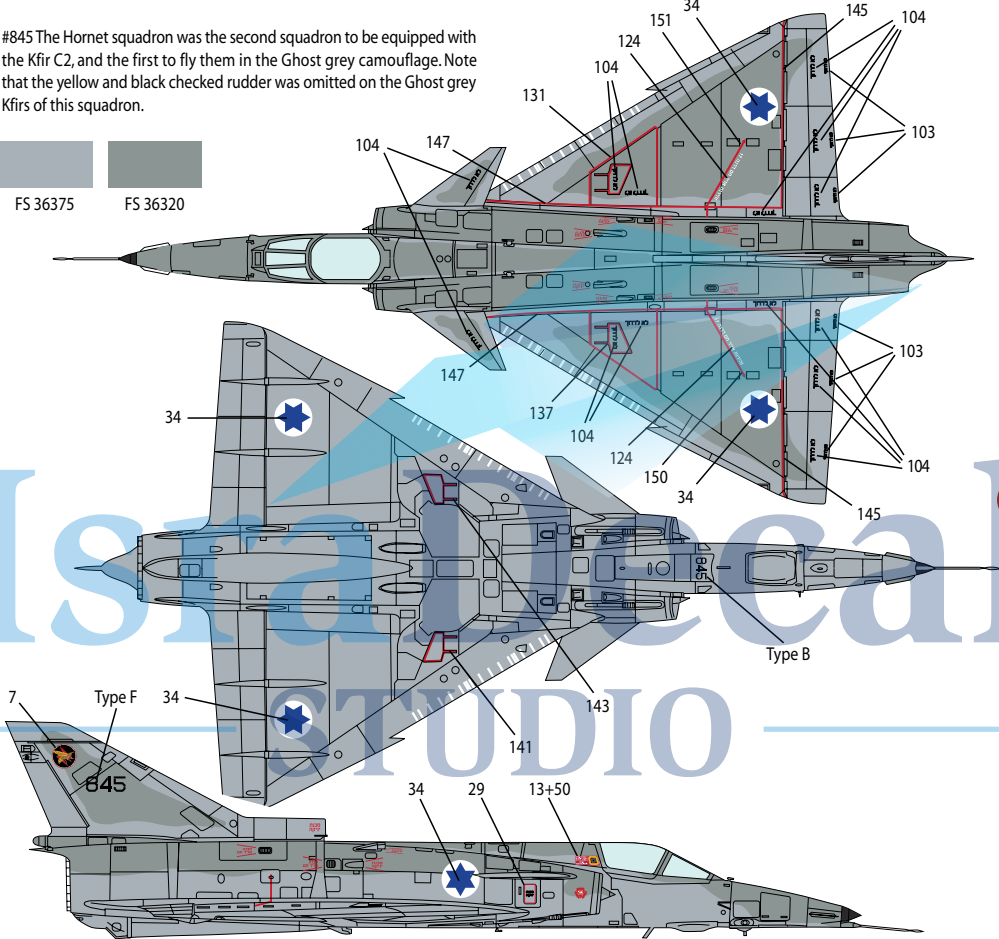
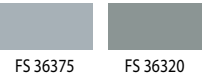


Kfir C2 #845, Hornet Sqn. 1981

2nd color scheme.



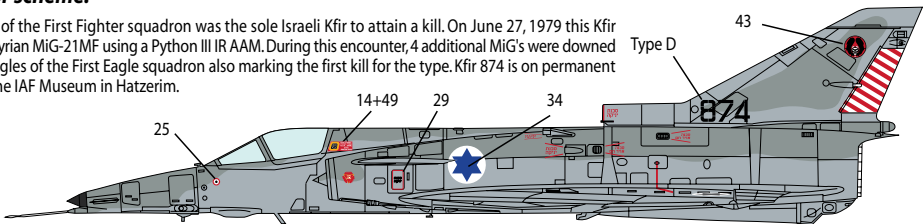
#845 The Hornet squadron was the second squadron to be equipped with the Kfir C2, and the first to fly them in the Ghost grey camouflage. Note that the yellow and black checked rudder was omitted on the Ghost grey Kfirs of this squadron.



Kfir C2 #874, The First Fighters Sqn. 1979

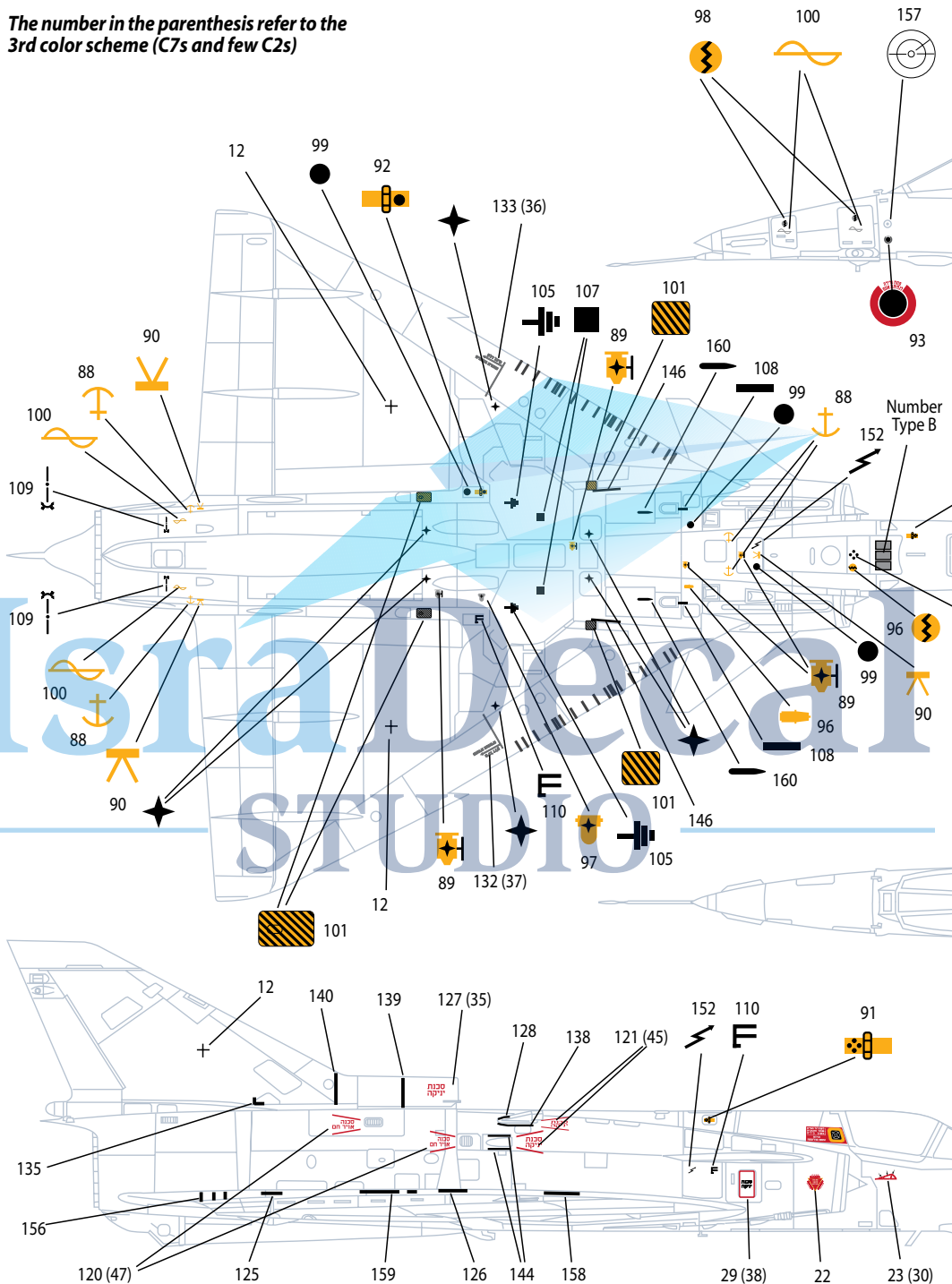
2nd color scheme.

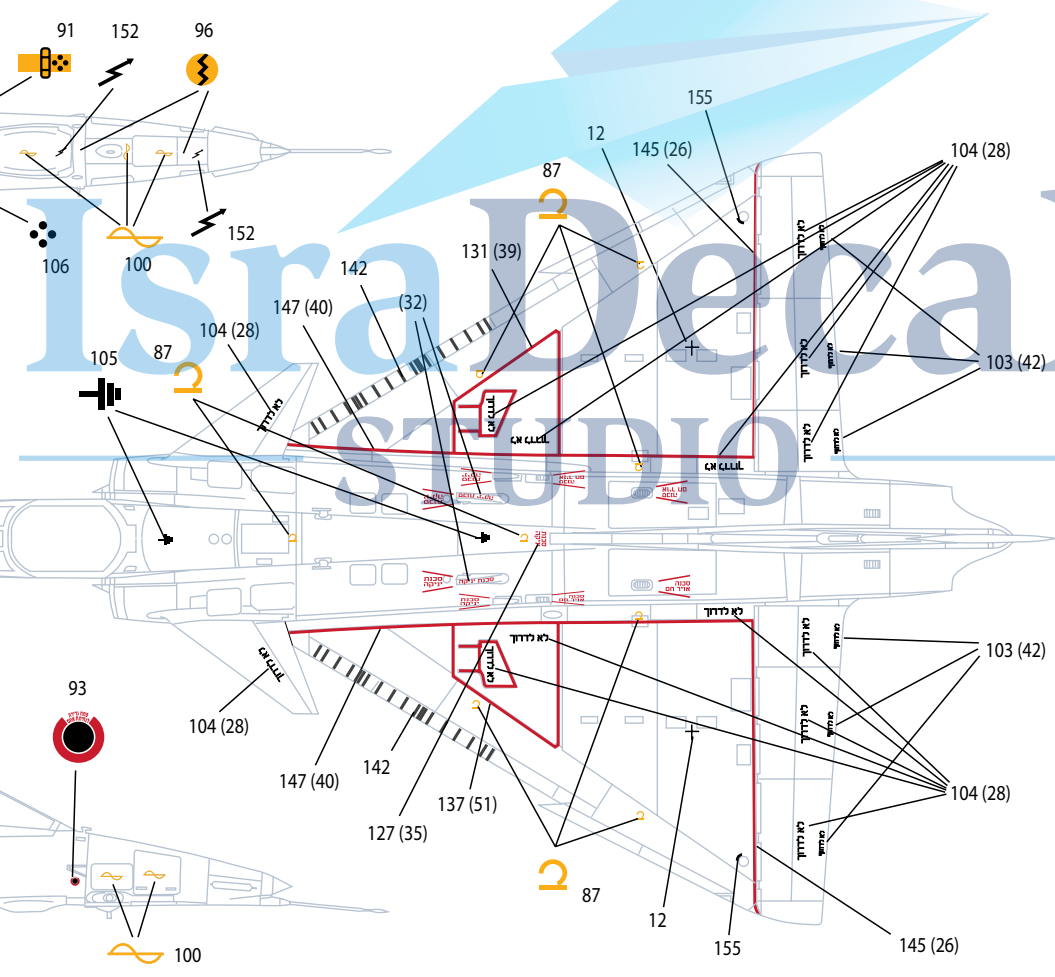
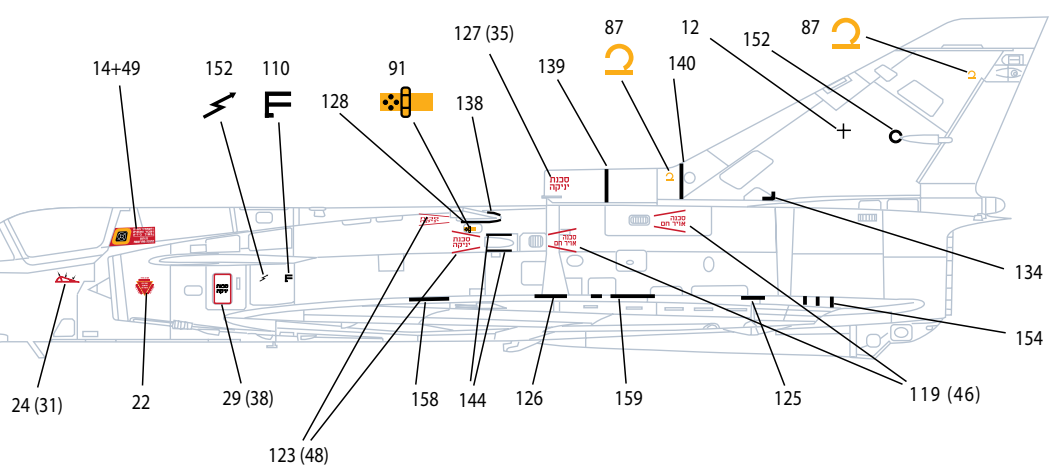
This Kfir C2 of the First Fighter squadron was the sole Israeli Kfir to attain a kill. On June 27, 1979 this Kfir downed a Syrian MiG-21MF using a Python III IR AAM. During this encounter, 4 additional MiG's were downed by F-15A Eagles of the First Eagle squadron also marking the first kill for the type. Kfir 874 is on permanent display at the IAF Museum in Hatzerim.



The number in the parenthesis refer to the 3rd color scheme (C7s and few C2s)

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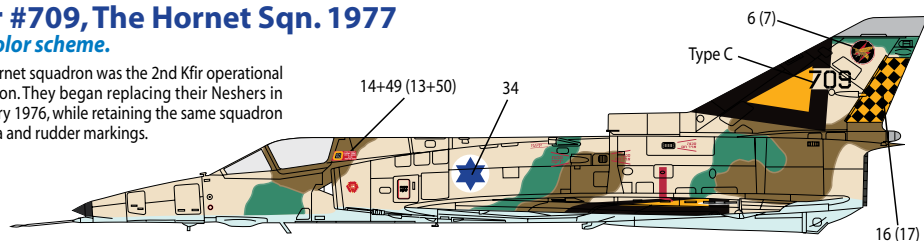




Kfir #709, The Hornet Sqn. 1977

1st color scheme.

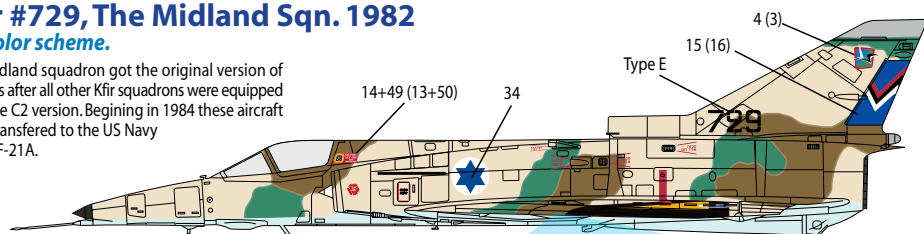
The Hornet squadron was the 2nd Kfir operational squadron. They began replacing their Nesher's in February 1976, while retaining the same squadron insignia and rudder markings.



Kfir #729, The Midland Sqn. 1982

1st color scheme.

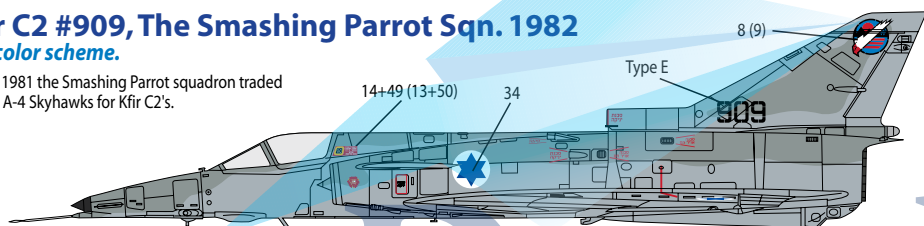
The Midland squadron got the original version of the Kfirs after all other Kfir squadrons were equipped with the C2 version. Beginning in 1984 these aircraft were transferred to the US Navy as the F-21A.



Kfir C2 #909, The Smashing Parrot Sqn. 1982

2nd color scheme.

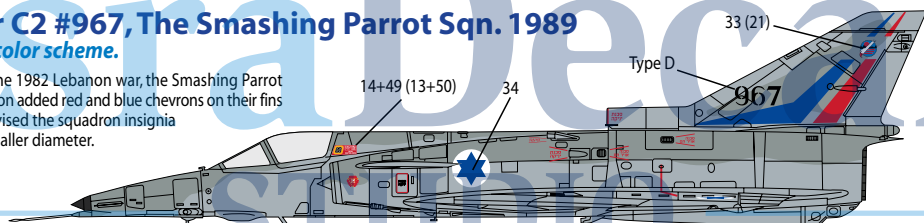
During 1981 the Smashing Parrot squadron traded in their A-4 Skyhawks for Kfir C2's.



Kfir C2 #967, The Smashing Parrot Sqn. 1989

2nd color scheme.

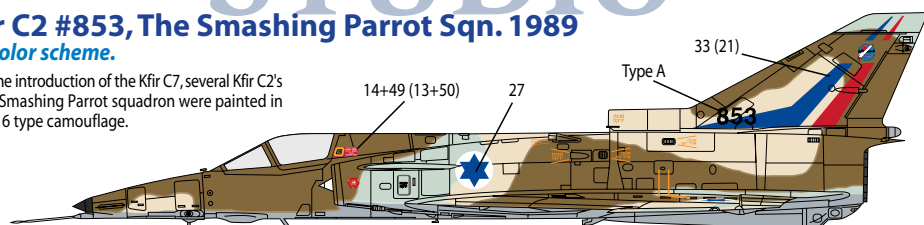
After the 1982 Lebanon war, the Smashing Parrot squadron added red and blue chevrons on their fins and revised the squadron insignia to a smaller diameter.



Kfir C2 #853, The Smashing Parrot Sqn. 1989

3rd color scheme.

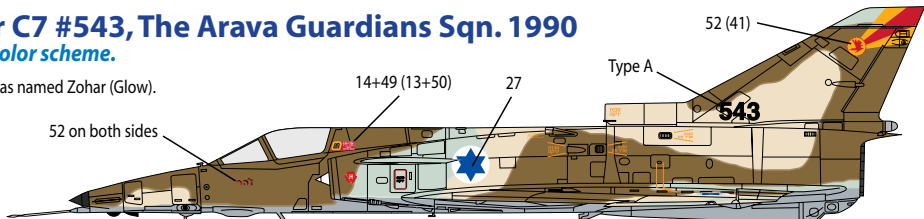
After the introduction of the Kfir C7, several Kfir C2's of the Smashing Parrot squadron were painted in the F-16 type camouflage.



Kfir C7 #543, The Arava Guardians Sqn. 1990

3rd color scheme.

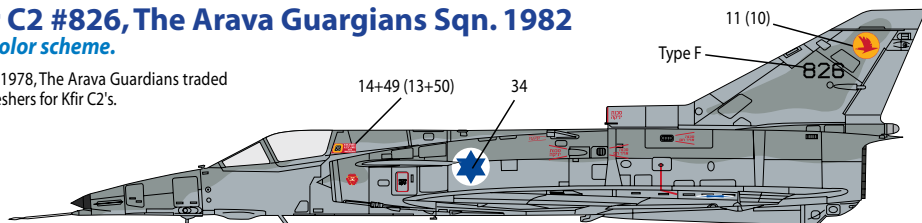
#543 was named Zohar (Glow).



Kfir C2 #826, The Arava Guardians Sqn. 1982

2nd color scheme.

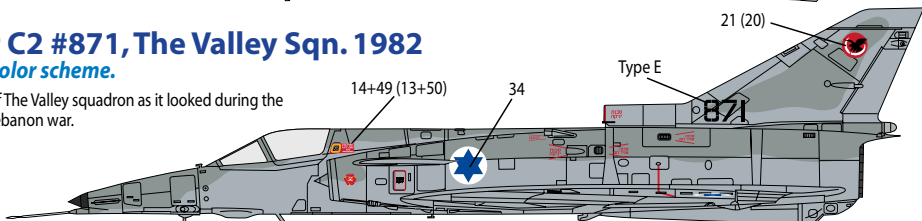
During 1978, The Arava Guardians traded their Nesher's for Kfir C2's.



Kfir C2 #871, The Valley Sqn. 1982

2nd color scheme.

871 of The Valley squadron as it looked during the 1982 Lebanon war.

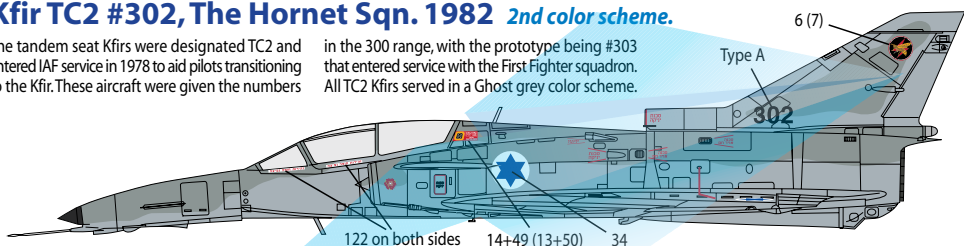


Kfir TC2 #302, The Hornet Sqn. 1982

2nd color scheme.

The tandem seat Kfirs were designated TC2 and entered IAF service in 1978 to aid pilots transitioning to the Kfir. These aircraft were given the numbers

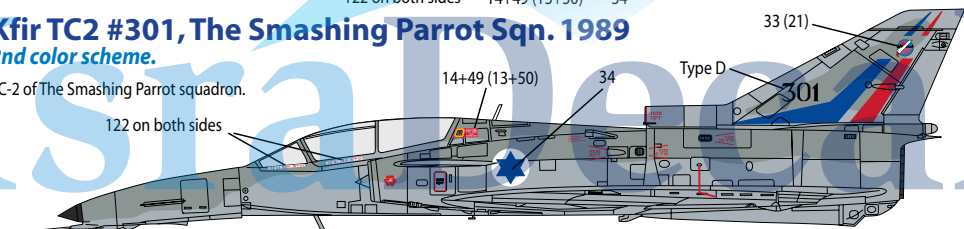
in the 300 range, with the prototype being #303 that entered service with the First Fighter squadron. All TC2 Kfirs served in a Ghost grey color scheme.



Kfir TC2 #301, The Smashing Parrot Sqn. 1989

2nd color scheme.

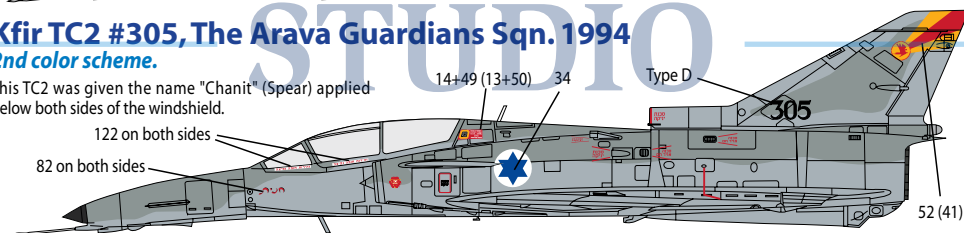
TC-2 of The Smashing Parrot squadron.



Kfir TC2 #305, The Arava Guardians Sqn. 1994

2nd color scheme.

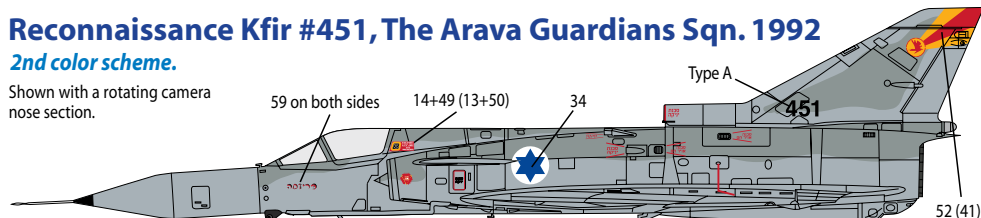
This TC2 was given the name "Chanit" (Spear) applied below both sides of the windshield.



Reconnaissance Kfir #451, The Arava Guardians Sqn. 1992

2nd color scheme.

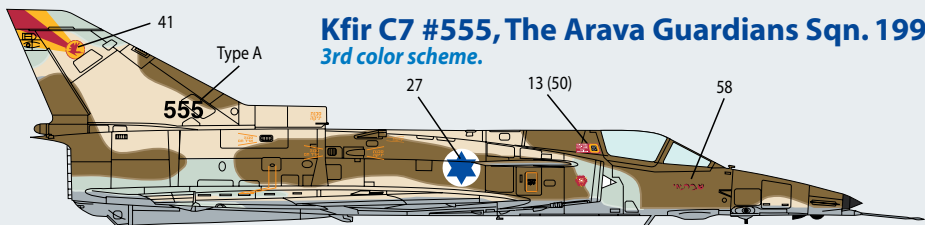
Shown with a rotating camera nose section.



RECON KFIRS - Kfir C2 airframes #815 and #819 were modified for the reconnaissance roll. In order to provide the anti icing and defogging required for the lenses, the cannons were removed and engine

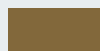
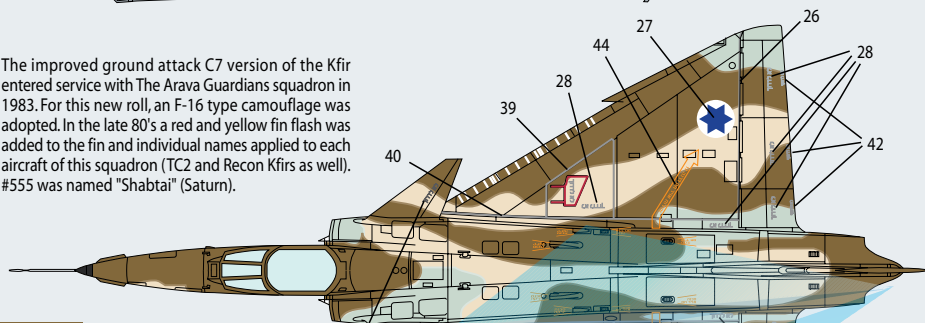
bleed air plumbing installed. After the modification, the first numeral of their individual number was changed to 4. These two aircraft were capable of carrying 4 different nose/camera configurations

depending on the mission profile assigned. As with all C2 aircraft, these a/c were also painted in a Ghost grey scheme. Today Both of them are at the IAF Museum at Hatzerim.

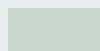


Kfir C7 #555, The Arava Guardians Sqn. 1994 3rd color scheme.

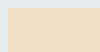
The improved ground attack C7 version of the Kfir entered service with The Arava Guardians squadron in 1983. For this new roll, an F-16 type camouflage was adopted. In the late 80's a red and yellow fin flash was added to the fin and individual names applied to each aircraft of this squadron (TC2 and Recon Kfirs as well). #555 was named "Shabtai" (Saturn).



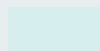
FS 30219



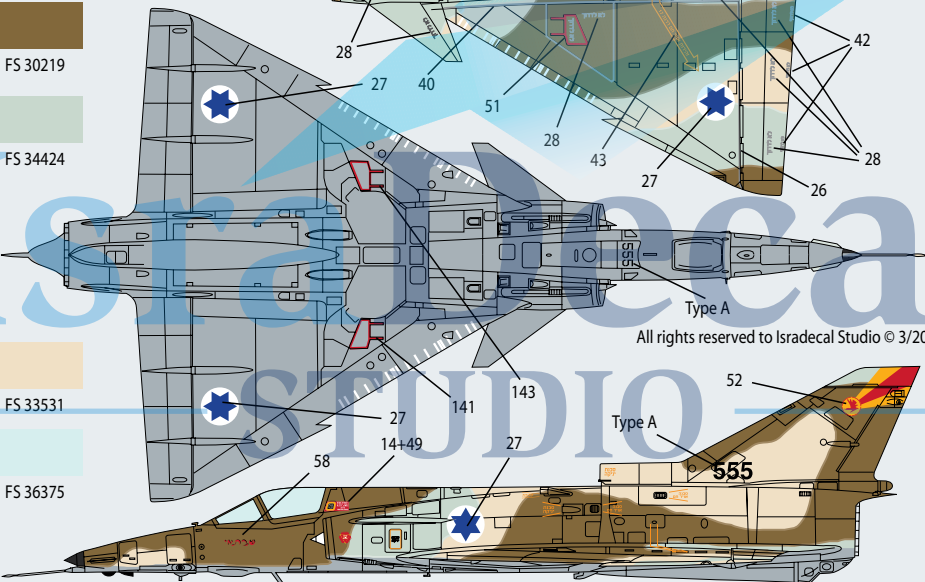
FS 34424



FS 33531



FS 36375



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This the complete list of all the names painted on the C7, TC2 & Reconnaissance Kfirs.

Kfir C7

Plane number	Hebrew name	Decal	Plane number	Hebrew name	Decal	Plane number	Hebrew name	Decal
561	Sa'har (Moon)	53	551	Etzyon (AF Base)	65	519	Yupiter (Jupiter)	78
532	Barak (Lightning)	54	557	Sufa (Storm)	66	561	Sa'ar (Gale)	79
543	Zohar (Glow)	56	539	Noga (Venus)	67	516	Rahat (??)	80
512	Shifron (Snake)	57	565	Ra'am (Thunder)	68	537	Shavit (Comet)	81
555	Shabtay (Saturn)	58	559	Tornado	69	529	Orion	55
570	Vega (??)	60	517	Otsma (Power)	70	547	Neptune	72
573	Sir'us (??)	61	530	Ma'adim (Mars)	86	549	Meteor	83
541	Zedek (Jupiter)	62	566	Shal'hevet (Flame)	75	514	Titan	84
546	Omega	63	526	Mercury	76	534	Horikan (Hurricane)	85
553	Venus	64	521	Pluto	77	523	Hama (Sun)	74

Kfir TC-2

Plane number	Hebrew name	Decal
301	Oskar	71
305	Hanit (Spear)	82
307	Ha'Giben (Hunchback)	73

Reconnaissance Kfir

Plane number	Hebrew name	Decal
451	Prizma	59