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Press release: new products announcement

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Toine moderator
D Posted: Tue 15 May 2001, 09:37 Post subject: Press release: new products announcement [quote](#)

Dear Fellow Modellers,

We have the pleasure to announce three new products: the F-104 scale landing gear, the all new F-16 jet kit and the turbine conversion for the Rafale A.

1. The F-104 scale landing gear

The F-104 scale landing gear has been a very labour intensive exercise, hence the long wait for its release. The set comes complete with all metal parts CNC machined, drilled and tapped. Wood parts are CNC routed. The complete set includes the nose and main gears, the suspension oleos, the wheels, the brakes and the full sequencing gear doors. Attached are some pictures of the kit and the production gear installed in a "Red Indian" F-104.

2. Our all new F-16 jet kit

The prototype of Philip Avonds latest jet model, the F-16, has entered its first flying testphase with a ducted fan (OS 91 and RAMTEC) for power. Although the model is sized and designed for turbine use in the first place, we want to make the kit available for ducted fan as well. This will allow modellers to enter the jet scene on a relatively low budget. Those wishing can then step into turbines with a well known airframe. Test flying has progressed very well, proving the carefully designed intake ducting allows remarkable speed, vertical performance and grass field operation even with the limited power of a ducted fan. The prototype will be converted to turbine power shortly, proving the concept of easy fan-to-turbine conversion (less than one days' work). Turbine versions will have a bypass and double walled tailpipes.

The kit concept is entirely in the line of the highly successfull range of Philip Avonds' kits: easy to build, uncomplicated and most of all requiring very little maintenance. For instance, the landing gear does not require some exotic and expensive rotating retracts. Instead the simple main units retract straight into the fuselage while the intake duct is smoothly routed above the wheel wells: retract maintenance reduced to a minimum! A long fuselage access hatch allows easy removal of fan/turbine, tailpipe and intake duct. This easy access also makes building a frustration-free experience!

Transport is easy because all flying surfaces (wings, stabs and fin) are of the plug-in type. Assembly at the field is then a matter of three minutes and does not require any realignment or trim adjustments!

Fuel tanks of ample capacity are conveniently placed for easy access and negligible in-flight centre-of-gravity shift.

The Philip Avonds' F-16 is patterned after the Block 15 F-16A as flown in the Belgian Air Force. Notable features are the "dragchute housing" under the fin and the large stabs. Other versions may become availbale also. A full range of external stores are in the works: centreline droptank, wing droptanks, missile launchers etc.

The model will be available for ducted fan or turbine power. The deluxe kits will consist of a gelcoated epoxy glass/carbon fuselage, hatch, ventral fins and ducting, tailpipe, carbon fibre reinforced balsa sheeted foam flying surfaces, CNC routed precision fit wood parts, vacformed clear canopy and cockpitdeck, complete fuel tank system, all the necessary hardware to complete the model (no need for seperate "installation kits" or fuel tanks), the full size CAD plans and the photo-illustrated manual. For people tight on budget, basic kits (ducted fan only) will also be available: these will have unsheeted foam flying surfaces, no wood parts and no hardware. We expect to have the first kits available by the end of 2001.

F-16 DATA

Scale 1/6.8
Length 2040 mm (80 in)
Wingspan 1340 mm (53 in)
Weight (DF) 7500 gr (16 1/2 lbs)
Weight (Turbine) 8600 gr (19 lbs) with a typical 90 N (20 lbs) class turbine

The pictures show the first prototype (still in primer for the first flights) jointly built by Philip Avonds and his son Michel.

3. The turbine conversion for the Rafale A

The arrival of the RAM 500 has prompted us to do a conversion for our long proven ducted fan Rafale A. Although it is feasible to install larger turbines (our Rafale tailpipe can actually handle turbines up to 20 lbs of thrust), we believe the RAM 500 turbine to be the ideal choice for our Rafale: small, lightweight, powerfull and low fuel consumption. We have succeeded in creating a highly efficient bifurcated tailpipe for this model: i.e. without measurable thrust loss. In a Rafale A, a ducted fan (OS 91 with RAMTEC) will typically generate around 38 N (8 1/2 lbs) of installed static thrust (*). In the same airframe, the RAM 500 will generate 55N (12 lbs) of installed static thrust (*), which is actually higher than the RAM claimed figure of 11 lbs, and offering an increase of 30 percent compared to the ducted fan! Weight increase due to the conversion is in the order of 200 to 400 gr (1/2 to 1 lb), depending whether you also add wheel brakes or not, so expect some spectacular performance gain. With proper planning, the conversion can be done in one day. At this time a simple conversion kit is offered, containing the following items:

- Bifurcated stainless steel tailpipe
- Aluminium entry bellmouth (for tailpipe)
- Fibreglass intake belly pan
- CNC routed ply parts
- Complete fuel tank system
- Hardware pack
- CAD drawings
- Instructions

(*) Thrust measurements carried out in Koksijde 13 May 2001, Outside Air Temperature: 25°C (77°F)

Be advised that the conversion does not use a bypass, instead it uses a bellmouth at the front of the bifurcated tailpipe. No flame-outs have been experienced with the RAM 500 in this configuration. A picture of the RAM 500 installation is attached below.

Our latest pricelist is available on simple request (please do mention which country you are from). We also like to mention that all our kits for turbine power shipped to the USA will contain a rudder installation kit as standard.

Best regards,

Philip Avonds

Philip Avonds Scale Jets
Doornhofstraat 6
B-8670 Koksijde
Belgium
Ph: +32 58 514451
Fax: +32 58 517253
<http://www.avonds.com>

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Toine moderator
D Posted: Tue 15 May 2001, 10:16 Post subject:

And the pictures



[This message has been edited by Toine (edited 15-05-2001).]

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